

Applicants with a disability

What if I have a disability or health problems?

The Medical School would only refuse entry to the MB ChB programme if a disability or health problem was an impediment to 'fitness to practise' or if an alternative pattern of training could not be agreed with the GMC for any student who could not complete the training normally required for full registration as a doctor.

Fitness to practise

The term 'fitness to practise' covers a wide range of issues but generally speaking it means that a student:

- is physically, psychologically and emotionally able to carry out the full duties of a doctor, eg giving treatment, giving an injection, communicating effectively with patients
- does not pose a threat to the health of patients.

Factors that might affect this include mental health problems, problems with drugs and alcohol, a physical disability that restricts mobility, or carrying an infectious disease.

Occupational health clearance

Before contact with patients, you will be screened in the first week by occupational health for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, tuberculosis and HIV in accordance with Department of Health guidelines. Medical students are required to complete a health questionnaire and all offers made for a place on the programme will be subject to obtaining occupational health clearance.

All applicants with health problems or disabilities will be considered by the Faculty disability and health panel on their individual merits if an applicant is selected for interview. More information about this process can be found in our [undergraduate admissions statement \(PDF, 233kB\)](#) [<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/media/undergraduate/admissions-statements/2016/medicine.pdf>].

Extra time for some exams

The MBChB is a professional programme and therefore 25% extra time may be granted for exams comprising of written papers or examinations under timed conditions where the assessment is not testing competency in a practical skill.

For example, in an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), written stations (such as the production of a discharge summary) would normally attract extra time. However, stations requiring the students to perform a clinical examination or procedural skill would not attract extra time. An objective long case would not attract extra time since this is predominantly a test of practical skills.

Further information

- The [General Medical Council](#) [<http://www.gmc-uk.org/>] provides further information on fitness to practise

- [Disability Services](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/disability-services/) [http://www.bristol.ac.uk/disability-services/] at Bristol offers support services for students with disabilities
- [FAQs for undergraduates](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/medical-school/) [http://www.bristol.ac.uk/medical-school/]
- [FAQs for graduates](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/clinical-sciences/) [http://www.bristol.ac.uk/clinical-sciences/]