University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine





The Cambridge Medicine Course







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1. Course Aims





Teaching You to Be Exceptional Doctors







GMC guidance http://www.gmc-uk.org/education



School of

Clinical Medicine



Cambridge Medicine Mission Statement

Evidence-based education in a research – rich environment

The University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine aims to provide leadership in education, discovery and healthcare. The School will achieve this through: inspirational teaching and training, outstanding basic and clinical research and integration of these to improve medical practice for both individual patients and the population. The School will:

through inspirational teaching and training, educate individuals who

- will become exceptional doctors or biomedical scientists
- combine a depth of scientific understanding with outstanding clinical and communication skills
- demonstrate a caring, compassionate and professional approach to patients and the public

and

• are equipped to become future international leaders of their profession.

Doctor as scientist, scholar, practitioner and professional







Medical education in Cambridge

Evidence-based education in a research – rich environment

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2. Course Structure





Year 1	PRE-CLINICAL
Year 2	PRE-CLINICAL
Year 3	PART 2 (CHOICE)
Year 4	CLINICAL
Year 5	
Year 6	





Pre-Clinical

- Rigorous grounding in medical sciences
 - Eg Anatomy, pharmacology, pathology
 - \circ Eg Medical sociology
 - Eg Psychology
 - Eg Epidemiology, evidence-based medicine
- Introduction to clinical work

 Preparing for patients





Pre-Clinical Teaching

- Heavily-timetabled
- Lectures
- Practicals

 Includes dissection
- Seminars
- Small group supervision





Pre-Clinical Course Review

- Changing balance of course

 More focus on clinically-relevant sciences
- Use of more clinical examples to illustrate preclinical science





The Part 2

- Choose a subject to study in depth
- Research project or dissertation
- Often in a traditional biomedical subject
- Or a more social science, eg anthropology, sociology
- Or a subject not related to medicine, eg engineering, language





The Part 2 – Teaching Style

• Less timetabled

• In-depth reading

• Research

More appraisal, analysis, thinking around subject
 Very useful transferable skills





The Clinical Course

- Well-prepared
 - Excellent scientific skills
 - \circ Excellent analytic skills
- Use this basis to become exceptional doctors





We'll teach you to be exceptional doctors







What is an exceptional doctor?





Exceptional Scientists

 Application of your scientific knowledge to real patients

Medical disorders

 The underlying pathology
 How to diagnose them
 How to investigate them
 How to treat them





Exceptional Clinicians

Exceptional communication skills

• Exceptional examination skills

• Exceptional practical skills





Exceptional Professionalism

Professional attitudes

• Patient safety

• Teamwork

• Leadership

• Ethical understanding





Exceptional Learners

Medicine involves life-long learning

 Cambridge graduates do very well at postgraduate exams

- We'll help you transition to being postgraduate learners
 - \odot Better self-directed learning skills





Caring Doctors

• By example

Not just saving lives

Improving the quality of life

• Palliative care

• Compassion, empathy, listening, biopsychosocial





Culturally-Competent Doctors

Able to serve all the population we work with
 More than decolonising the curriculum

- Understanding of how discrimination and disadvantage affect health

 And health seeking
- Health for All / Doctors for All





The Spiral Curriculum

- Year 4: Core Clinical Practice
 - History taking and clinical examination
 - Learn the basics about common disorders
 - One student selected component
- Year 5: Clinical Specialties
 - $\circ~$ In-depth knowledge about the main specialties
 - Three student-selected blocks, including elective
- Year 6: Preparing for Clinical Practice
 - Four senior blocks
 - Apprenticeship





Teaching

- Lectures
- Small group tutorials
- Very small group clinical supervisions
- Online learning resources

 Blended with interactive in-person teaching
- Peer-peer learning

CLINICAL PLACEMENTS





Clinical Placements

• In hospitals / GP practices / community trusts

- Learn how to be a doctor

 See how clinicians and clinical teams work
 Spend time with patients
- Gradual shift in what you'll do:

 \odot Start with learning basics of history and examination

- \circ Develop practical skills
- Ends with an apprenticeship





Themes through the Three Years

• Clinical communication skills

• Practical skills

• Professionalism, ethics and law

• Public health

• Palliative care





Health for All

- Medicine is not just for people like me

 Doctors
 - Patients
- At Cambridge Clinical School we are committed to fighting discrimination and injustice





Health for All

- Teaching needs to be relevant to all our patients
- We teach our doctors about discrimination, harassment and its effects
- We think about all types of inequality
 More than decolonising the curriculum
- International justice
 - Including climate justice
- Justice and safety for our students
 - And potential students





Student Welfare

- Medical school (or any university course) can be stressful
- This is a time of peak onset of mental health problems
- Our doctors need to be healthy to be exceptional
- Well-developed multi-tiered welfare support:

○ Colleges

Sub-Dean for Welfare

Clinical School Mental Health Service





The Clinical Course - Conclusions

• Modern, state-of-the art teaching

- To produce exceptional doctors:

 Scientific knowledge and research skills
 Communication skills
 - Clinical skills
 - \odot Care and compassion





3. Being a Doctor





Lots of Variety

• Specialist vs general vs population-level

• Medicine vs surgery

• Different age groups

• Holistic/communication experts (psych, GP)

Lab experts (pathology)





Lots of Variety – Non-Clinical

- Research
- Teaching
- Leadership and management
- Medical engineering
- Entrepreneurialism
- Any combination





Clear & Fair Training Pathway

• Foundation Years (2 years)

Core training (2-3 years)
 O Usually exams

• Higher specialist training (3-7 years)

• Consultant (GP)





Research Training Pathway

• Take time out for research

• Specific jobs at each training stage with protected research time





Out of Programme Experiences

Teaching fellowships

• Super-specialist fellowships

• Working abroad

• Career breaks





Job Benefits / Sacrifices

- Good job security
- Good income
- Respect from the public
- Good opportunities to work less than full-time
- Hard work

 Like any professional job



Being a Doctor - Conclusions

• Lots of flexibility

• Clear training pathways

Good terms and conditions





4. Why Cambridge?





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Why NOT Cambridge?

- ?Posh, elitist and white
 o Very diverse
- ?Old-fashioned teaching

 State-of-the art, trend-setting teaching
- ?Focused on pure science

 $\,\circ\,$ Large focus on communication and being caring

• ?An uncaring exam factory

Excellent pastoral support, eg colleges

• ?6 year course too expensive

Extra year's bursary, College support





The Best Things about Cambridge Medicine

1. Excellent scientific grounding

2. Amazing research opportunities

- 3. The extra tier of support from colleges:
 - Teaching
 - Pastoral

4. The drive to be the best course in every way





• THANK YOU



