Medicine and Dentistry Interviews Guide

Overview of Interview Types

Traditional Interviews
The format of a traditional interview involves being asked questions by either one person or a panel like a regular job interview. You will be asked questions about your application and why you wish to study medicine/dentistry.

Mini Multiple Interviews (MMIs)
MMIs require candidates to face a series of ‘stations’, usually around 8-12 stations and 2 rest stations, each testing for different competencies. The stations might consist of normal questions, role play/scenario, manual dexterity and a maths test. Most UK medical/dental schools use this format now.

Find out more at https://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/a100/

Top Tips

1. Be Aware:
Be informed and aware of current health news. Resources to use include:
- New Scientist
- British Medical Journal
- British Dental Journal
- BBC News
- The Guardian

2. Appearance
Looking professional can often help you feel professional. See some tips below:
- Firm handshake
- Good body posture
- Warm smile
- Smartly dressed
- Neat haircut/hairstyle

3. Ethics
Be sure to revise the 4 ethical principles for any ethics related questions.
- Autonomy
- Beneficence
- Non-maleficence
- Justice

4. General Tips
- Always tell the truth
- Make sure you can back up what you say.
- If you have said you wish to specialise in an area of medicine/dentistry make sure you know the route.
- Research the type of teaching at the institution you are being interviewed at e.g. traditional/integrated/problem based.
Structuring your answer
It is important to structure your answer so that you fully answer the question, and to show off what you have learnt. Practise structuring your answer with the technique below!

Give and example of when you have worked as part of a team

S: **Situation** set the scene, provide a context. Where when? E.g. Throughout University I played netball as a team sport and within my third year I was elected as captain.

T: **Task** describe the purpose: what needed to be done and why? E.g. This gave me the opportunity to develop my leadership, organisational and team-working skills as I was given a lot more responsibility due to being in charge of the team.

A: **Action** how did you do it? What skills did you use? E.g. I had to use team working skills to get the team to play to the best of their ability. In order to win the difficult matches, encouraging and communicating efficiently was essential.

R: **Result** explain the result, accomplishments, recognition and savings. E.g. My team won every match during the season apart from one which highlighted how proficient our team working skills had become.

Ethical Scenarios
Medical/dental interviews often assess your ability to deal with various ethical scenarios, focusing on key areas highlighted below. Have a go at assessing the scenarios below!

- You diagnose a patient’s Down syndrome as genetic – the patient’s mother does not want to disclose to her sister that there is a genetic mutation in the family as she has suffered multiple miscarriages. How would you deal with this?

- You have identified a drug that may block the progression of lung cancer. To research the drug you need to induce this type of cancer and observe the effects. What would you do?

- A patient has been enrolled on a stop smoking scheme and has been given replacement therapies. Before your follow up review, the patient, outside smoking. The patient then asks you for higher doses of nicotine replacement – what would you do?

- A 37 year old man has been diagnosed with HIV and discloses to your (their doctor) that they have not told their partner. What do you do?

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- A man has suffered a brain injury from a car crash, which prevents him from using the part of the brain that controls emotion and aggression. He kills an elderly person because they got in his way. Is he responsible for the crime?

- Harry, (15) has been diagnosed with leukaemia and needs a life saving blood transfusion. His parents refuse to give consent for this as it is against their religion. Harry says he is scared of dying and would like the blood transfusion. As is oncologist, what would you do?

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Example Interview Questions

- ‘So, why do you want to be a doctor/dentist?
- Give an example of when you have worked as part of a team.
- What did you learn from your work experience?

Example Ethical Dilemma Questions

Gladys is an 82 year old woman with life threatening kidney failure. She has refused a kidney transplant which could save her life and cure her illness. Her family want her to have the transplant and ask

A 25 year old woman comes to your dental practice because she is unhappy with the appearance of her teeth as she feels they look crooked. On examination, there is no clinical indication that she needs braces so she does not fit the criteria for braces on the NHS. The woman explains to you that her teeth make her self-conscious and is causing her to feel depressed.

A 37 year old man has been diagnosed with HIV and discloses to you, their doctor, that they have not revealed that information to their partner.

Facilities

24 Hour Access to Clinical Skills- we have our own clinical skills lab that our Medicine students are able to access 24 hours, to help aid their learning. Teaching also takes place here so that our students can learn key clinical skills such as taking a patient’s history, and how to take a patient’s blood. We also have our Dissection Room that aids our students in learning the anatomy of the human body.

Walton Library- Our very own Medical Sciences library. Any books that you would need during your degree can be found here, as well as group study rooms, collaborative study areas as well as quiet and silent study areas. One of the best things about the Walton is that you can see out over the whole of Newcastle! Have a look around our library with the following link! https://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/contact/library-locations#walton

8 week student elective- A fantastic opportunity for you to explore an area of Medicine that you really enjoy in the 4th year of our MBBS programme. This can be anywhere in the world doing any type of medicine (in accordance with FCO advice), from working in plastic surgery at Sunderland Royal Hospital, to working in tropical medicine in Brazil. This is something our students say is the highlight of their degree!

Student selected components- With our 5 year MBBS course, you are able to choose your own study topics, such as care of newborn babies, medical law, complimentary medicine, tropical disease, or even working with our paramedics and air ambulance crew.

What our students say

‘I love how the course feels like one big community- older students and lecturers are always willing to help! I also love the case based teaching with integrated clinical skills during the course.’

- Ananya, 3rd year Medicine Student

PARTNERs

PARTNERs is a supported entry route that we offer here at Newcastle University. This reduces your entry requirements after you complete a summer school with us. To find out more, including eligibility criteria, have a look on the PARTNERs website (https://www.ncl.ac.uk/schools/partners/#whatispartners?).

Chat to our students on Unibuddy! https://www.ncl.ac.uk/study/contact/unibuddy/

Keep in touch with us on Instagram @nclmedicalsciences

Find out more at https://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/a100/