

GMC Accreditation for the Medical School FAQs

1. Buckingham's MB ChB degree has received the GMC accreditation – what does this mean for me if I enrol to study Buckingham in January 2020?

Students who will graduate from the University of Buckingham's MB ChB programme will graduate with a GMC-accredited qualification.

2. Where will I work when I graduate – will I be treated the same as other medical school students and graduates?

Graduates from the University of Buckingham Medical School will be eligible to apply for provisional registration to practice during the Foundation Programme Year 1 and Year 2 anywhere in the UK in line with all other UK graduates.

3. Will my degree be recognised in my country in the same way as other UK universities' degrees?

The University of Buckingham is listed on the World Directory of Medical Schools and offers a qualifying MB ChB degree to all UK and international students; recognition and access to practice outside of the UK is subject to the local Medical Councils and Medical Regulatory Authorities, which in some cases may require sitting a qualifying examination (subject to individual country requirements). For more information, please contact the local Medical Council.

4. I am considering an English-based Medicine degree overseas, including one with the GMC accreditation – why should I choose Buckingham instead?

Buckingham Medical School MB ChB programme is supported by small-size teaching, early clinical exposure and state of the art facilities. Student support, personal tutor scheme and pastoral care are at the heart of our support system. Our guiding philosophy is to produce highly ethical, honest and compassionate doctors who will put the patient first.

5. When I graduate, how long will I have to be able to work in the UK and what support will I be given in finding a junior doctor post and/or professional graduate post in my home country?

After graduating from the University of Buckingham Medical School, all our international students will be eligible to proceed onto the UK Foundation Programme, which takes two years to complete. All our graduates will receive the full support of the University when applying for the Foundation Programme.

6. The University of Buckingham has launched the MB ChB programme using the Leicester University curriculum under licence – will this change now that Buckingham has a GMC accreditation?

Our curriculum is derived from the University of Leicester MB ChB programme that has been refined over 20 years to provide optimum learning experience. Every aspect of it has been engineered to fully equip our students with the skills necessary to start their journey as medical practitioners. The GMC accreditation will not affect the University of Buckingham MB ChB curriculum.

7. There are other new medical schools in the UK including Aston, UCLAN, Sunderland and Anglia Ruskin – are those courses accredited by the GMC?

These new medical schools are not currently GMC-accredited, as they are going through the process of accreditation.

8. Will Buckingham MB ChB graduates be working in Milton Keynes and the local area?

Buckingham MB ChB graduates will be able to select Milton Keynes University Hospital and other local hospitals for their Foundation Programme Year 1 and 2.

9. Where do Buckingham students go on clinical placements?

Our students have clinical placements in local, high quality General Practices and Hospitals, including Milton Keynes University Hospital, St. Andrew's Mental Health Hospital, Stoke Mandeville Hospital and the South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust.

10. Are there intercalation opportunities?

Yes. If a student wishes to take a year out of their MB ChB studies to go and study a subject related to medicine, they can request to do so and decisions will be made by the Medical School on a case by case basis.

11. What teaching method is used?

UBMS uses a form of Problem Based Learning called 'Guided discovery'. This is where selected information is presented and then problems are considered by the students working in facilitated small groups.

12. I am in my 1st-4th year at Buckingham Medical School – what does the GMC accreditation mean for me?

This means that when you graduate, you will graduate with a fully recognised, GMC-accredited MB ChB degree.

13. Can I transfer to Buckingham into the 2nd year from another GMC-accredited Medical School?

Transfers from other undergraduate science or medicine programmes cannot be accepted. We will also not consider students who were previously enrolled in or studied an undergraduate medicine programme.

14. Buckingham's degree has a January start and lasts 4.5 years – why is this and how does this affect my graduate prospects compared to universities with traditional September start and the duration of 5 years?

The University of Buckingham has been offering 2-year Bachelor degrees in other subject areas for over 40 years. In line with this tradition, the Medical School has been able to condense the tuition of a full 5-year MB ChB programme into 4.5 years by simply frontloading and reducing the vacation time rather than the content. However, this does not affect our graduates' prospects as they will all be completing their studies at the same time as all UK medical students.

15. Now that the MB ChB programme is GMC-accredited – are you capped on how many international students you can take at Buckingham, as is the case with other UK universities?

No, here at the University of Buckingham we do not have a cap on the amount of international students we can accept.

16. How does the GMC accreditation affect current tuition fees?

Our tuition fees will remain the same. The University can only increase the tuition fees in line with inflation on the annual basis.

17. What will the tuition fee be for the clinical placement period?

At the University of Buckingham Medical School, we do not charge an additional amount for clinical placements.

18. What is the fee for the final 6 months of the 4.5-year MB ChB programme?

Tuition fees for the final 6 months of the MB ChB programme are a half of the final year's tuition fees at that time. For more information – please see below.

19. What is the breakdown of the tuition fee structure for the whole of the 4.5-year programme?

Tuition fees for the 2020 intake will be £37,000 per annum for both home and overseas students.

*All fees are subject to annual increase in line with inflation

Keeping this amount as a sample for all 4.5 years, we will have the following to be paid:

2020 entry: Year 1

1st instalment (non-refundable deposit to secure a place on the programme after an offer has been made within a specified time of the year 2018): £10,000

2nd instalment to be paid before January 2020: £8,500

3rd instalment to be paid before May 2020: £18,500

2021: Year 2

1st instalment to be paid before January 2021: £18,500

2nd instalment to be paid before May 2021: £18,500

2022: Year 3

1st instalment to be paid before January 2022: £18,500

2nd instalment to be paid before May 2022: £18,500

2023: Year 4

1st instalment to be paid before January 2023: £18,500

2nd instalment to be paid before May 2023: £18,500

2024: Final 6 months

One instalment to be paid before January 2024: £18,500

TOTAL for 4.5 years: £166,500

20. From 2022 GMC is introducing UKMLA for all medical graduates. Will Buckingham Medical School incorporate the UKMLA licencing examination in its curriculum, in line with other UK Universities?

Yes, the University of Buckingham Medical School is actively involved in the formulation of the UKMLA with the GMC. The curriculum has already been mapped to the source document 'Outcomes for graduates 2018'. We are confident that current and future students will be well placed to pass UKMLA.