ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION: MEDICINE

The Access to HE Medicine Diploma is a course for adults who need to gain a level 3 qualification for progression to undergraduate medicine. However, successful completion of the Access to HE Medicine Diploma will allow adults to progress to a wide range of health and science themed university courses.

Level 3 · Access to HE · Truro College

TOP COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

EXPERIENCED TUTORS | SPECIALIST WELL EQUIPPED LABORATORIES | EXCELLENT STUDENT SUPPORT | STEPPINGSTONE TO HIGHER EDUCATION

EXPERIENCED TUTORS

You will be taught by staff with extensive experience who will advance your knowledge and skills to meet the expectations of higher education.

SPECIALIST WELL EQUIPPED LABORATORIES

You will conduct extensive laboratory work and become adept at conducting practical work with precision and skill.

EXCELLENT STUDENT SUPPORT

During your tutorial programme, your tutor will help you to complete your UCAS application for the higher education course you wish to progress to. We also have a learning support team that can provide additional help with literacy, numeracy time management and organisational skills, and a student services team available for additional personal support.

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

The Access to HE Medicine Diploma is for students 19 years or older who require a level 3 qualification to study undergraduate medicine or a related degree. Several medical schools accept the Access to HE Medicine Diploma as a valid route of entry to undergraduate medicine, and this course would be accepted as a valid route of entry to a wide range of other health and science themed degrees. The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) have consulted extensively with medical schools and the Medical Schools Council (MSC) to develop a national subject descriptor for Access to HE Medicine Diplomas. The Truro College Access to HE Medicine Diploma complies with the structural requirements of the new subject descriptor. The aim of the subject descriptor is to bring greater standardisation to diplomas titled Access to HE Diploma (Medicine). This will allow the medical schools currently accepting Access to HE students for direct entry to have greater confidence in the content and rigour of assessment, and it may also encourage those medical schools not currently accepting Access to HE students to review their admissions policies.

Learners will develop an understanding of key concepts in biology, chemistry and physics to underpin their future studies. In addition, learners conduct extensive laboratory work and become adept at conducting practical work with precision and skill. A big emphasis is also placed on professional behaviours, study skills and IT giving learners the tools to s\ucceed at college and in a higher education setting.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The course is comprised of 60 credits worth of study at level 3. Units are worth 3, 6 or 9 credits. **Ungraded Units**

- HE Study Skills (Level 3, 3 credits)
- Professional Behaviours (Level 3, 3 credits)
- Use and Comprehension of Numerical Data (Level 3, 3 credits)
- Patterns of Human Disease (Level 3, 3 credits)
- Disease - fundamentals (Level 3, 3 credits)

Graded Units

- Introduction to Biology (Level 3, 3 credits)
- Cell Biology and Genetics (Level 3, 6 credits)
- Human Physiology (Level 3, 6 credits)
- Introduction to Chemistry (Level 3, 3 credits)
- Organic and Inorganic Chemistry (Level 3, 6 credits)
- Physical Chemistry (Level 3, 6 credits)
- Medical Physics - waves, vision and hearing (Level 3, 3 credits)
- Medical Physics – energy, pressure and electricity (Level 3, 3 credits)
- Medical Physics - radioactivity and X-rays (Level 3, 3 credits)
- Research Project (Level 3, 6 credits)

WHERE WILL IT TAKE ME?

Progression: Upon successful completion of this course students have progressed to undergraduate medicine. However, students could progress to a wide range of health and science themed higher education courses. Examples include Biomedical Science, Biological and Medical Sciences, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Conservation and Ecology, Dietetics, Dental Therapy and Hygiene, Geology, Forensic Science, Marine Biology, Nutrition, Optometry, Paramedic Science, Pharmacology, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Radiography and Zoology. **Careers:** This course is very much a steppingstone to higher education. Upon successful completion of this course learners typically complete a higher education course that will allow them to enter into a specific career e.g. medicine, biomedical scientist, dietitian, radiographer or paramedic. However, some learners can study broader degree programmes and choose a career path later down the line or remain in academia to study a masters and/or PHD. Find this Diploma on QAA's course search

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You must be aged 19 years or over and you will need 5 GCSEs at grade C/4 or above, including English, maths (higher tier) and science (double or single) at grade B/6. If you have a C/4 in English and/or maths, you may be required to retake and achieve a higher grade. NB: Some medical schools stipulate all GCSE grades must have been achieved in one sitting, therefore resisting GCSEs could impact consideration of your application. Please confirm the GCSE requirements directly with each medical school. If you have completed a level 3 course (e.g. A Levels or Baccalaureates) within the last three years your application may not be considered, some medical schools stipulate a gap of 3 to 5 years is necessary. If you have A Levels, medical schools may stipulate you need BBB. Applicants who have previously studied A Levels and received grades below a C will need to check whether this impacts their consideration by the medical schools. Please be aware, the Medical School Council has advised that Access to HE Medicine courses should not be a substitute for underperforming at A Levels, particularly in science subjects. If you have underperformed in biology and/or chemistry when completing A Levels or the IB you cannot directly progress to the Access to HE Medicine course. However, if you have had a gap of 3 to 5 years since completing A Levels or IB you should contact the medical school to confirm the Access to HE Medicine qualification will be acceptable as a substitute. If you already hold a degree, then acceptance will be dependent on degree classification. Medical schools do not usually consider applications from students with a recent degree below grade 2:1. **Qualifications not achieved in the UK and overseas applicants** If your qualifications were gained overseas you will need to confirm what your qualifications are equivalent to for the UK. The UK national agency for

international qualifications and skills is the designated United Kingdom national agency for the recognition and comparison of international qualifications and skills. It performs this official function on behalf of the UK Government: https://www.enic.org.uk/ If English is not your first language, we will require you to have an IELTS score of 6 (or equivalent) to join the course. You should also check the requirements of individual university medical schools - some require an IELTS score of 7. Work experience - Applicants will be expected to provide evidence of work experience, ideally in health care, and must also be willing to undertake this alongside the Access course. There are several online work experience opportunities, more information is available on the Medical Schools Council website. These virtual courses have been recognised by medical schools as a suitable element of relevant experience to help prepare an application to medicine.

- BSMS Virtual Work Experience
- Observe GP Virtual Work Experience
- Birmingham Universities Hospitals Trust, this Virtual Work Experience

Applicants should use the 'Medical Schools Council' and 'General Medical Council' websites to thoroughly research the profession. NB: You must consult medical schools to confirm the nature and duration of the required work experience. Entrance Exams - you may have to complete the UCAT (https://www.ucat.ac.uk/about-us/) for some medical schools. Please ensure these exams are completed before you start the Diploma. Acceptance onto the Access to HE Medicine Diploma will be dependent on achieving a UCAT score that is acceptable to medical schools. It is an applicant's responsibility to contact medical schools directly to ascertain the entry requirements and additional stipulations that could impact consideration. NB: Applicants are expected to undergo an interview and participate in a three-day induction prior to starting the course. This helps us to assess your academic ability before we prepare your UCAS reference. During the induction you will take part in a series of biology, chemistry and physics lessons, along with a study skills and medics academy session. You will complete a closed book test for biology, chemistry and physics on the final day. Acceptance on to the Access Medicine Diploma course will be dependent on prior qualifications, performance during induction and the UCAT score. NB: Completion of the Access to HE Medicine Diploma does not guarantee an invite for interview or an offer for undergraduate medicine.

IMPORTANT

Course information can change. Please use the QR code below for the current assessment arrangements, entry requirements and start dates.