

School of Medicine

Undergraduate
Degree Programmes 2026



CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD

100%

of Medical Pharmacology students say the course is intellectually stimulating, that the course introduces subjects and skills in a way that builds on what you have already learned, and develops the knowledge and skills you think you will need for the future.

(Medical Pharmacology, NSS 2024)

Optional Professional Placement Year (PPY) between second and final year, developing your career prospects and employability skills.

(Medical Pharmacology)

Everything you learn prepares you for your career: Case Based Learning, spiral curriculum, Harmonisation Year and more.

(Medicine)

Learn about medicine in complex inner cities, rural villages and everything in between.

(Medicine)

Patient contact from early in year one.

(Medicine)

Tailor your course to your interests, with options to travel abroad.

(Medicine)

94%
of students say the
course introduces
subjects and skills
in a way that builds
on what you've
already learned.

(Medicine, NSS 2024)

Preparing you to become the very best doctor you can be

With over 130 years' experience in medical education, we'll prepare you for an exciting and rewarding medical career – so you'll be confident treating patients from your first day as a junior doctor.

Join our vibrant medical student community at our Heath Park Campus, located at the University Hospital of Wales, one of the biggest teaching hospitals in the UK. Here you'll be close to all the action of a busy hospital setting – learning in our purpose-built teaching facilities and Clinical Skills and Simulation centres; with both independent and group learning in the Cochrane Building; and catching up with friends at the Student Union Hub (nicknamed the IV Lounge by our students).

You're unique, and we are too. Our flexible curriculum isn't one-size-fits-all – you have the power to shape different aspects of your degree through student selected components, certain placements in the UK or abroad, or even intercalating in a specialist subject. Thanks to our commitment to innovation and technology-assisted learning, you'll hone your knowledge and skills using the very latest resources, including virtual reality.

cardiff.ac.uk/medicine



Coming to Cardiff has opened up a limitless number of doors.

I've been able to get involved with so much that has grown my character and enriched me as a person.

Luke Morgan, Medical student

We can't wait for you to join us, and to see where our medical training will take you. Whether you're already passionate about an area of medicine or just know that you want to help people live healthier lives, together we can achieve amazing things.

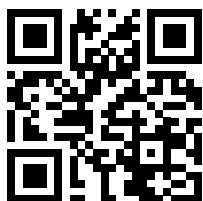


C21: Our MBBCh Medicine programme

Performing emergency surgery, helping to cure diseases, treating mental health issues - being a doctor means changing lives in little and big ways, every day.

Studying medicine is the first step on a life-long learning journey, as treatment is constantly developing in partnership with scientific discoveries.

We offer two MBBCh programmes, which will fully prepare you for your career as a doctor. We also offer a BSc course in Medical Pharmacology.



To fully explore what each programme offers, review their entry criteria, and dig deeper into the topics you'll study, visit our website.





Medicine (MBBCh)

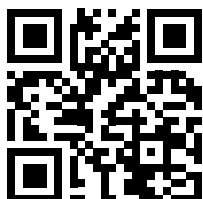
UCAS code: A100

Our medical degree aims to produce confident, knowledgeable and skilled doctors, who are ready to deliver quality patient care from their first day on the job.

Our MBBCh programme is structured over five years, allowing you to build your knowledge, clinical skills and professional attitude within our integrated spiral curriculum. (This means you repeatedly build upon what you have already learned in the classroom, practical classes, lectures, in the virtual learning environment and at the patient bedside.)

We firmly believe that patients should be at the heart of medical education, which is why you'll have patient contact from early on in your first year. Our varied curriculum uses the whole of Wales as your classroom, and you'll gain clinical experience in rural GP surgeries and cottage hospitals, inner city A&E departments, surgical specialties and more.

Paediatrics, cardiology, general practice, neurosurgery – whatever your passion is, we can help you take the first steps in your dream career. Your first two years will focus mainly on clinical science, Case Based Learning and the normal workings of the human body, with clinical placements to see it all in context. You'll build on this in years three and four, increasing your patient experience through extended placements in clinical settings across Wales. In year five, your Harmonisation year, we'll make sure you are ready for a smooth transition into your role as a Foundation Doctor (F1), building your confidence through placements and electives, and helping you to feel part of your next team.



Find out more about this course
on our website.

Graduate Entry Medicine (MBBCh)

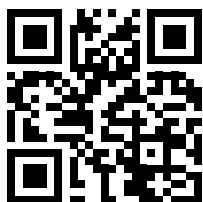
UCAS code: A101

To join us on year two of the Medicine MBBCh programme you may wish to consider taking up a place on one of our validated feeder courses.

These are Medical Pharmacology (Cardiff University); Biomedical Science (Cardiff University) and Medical Sciences (Bangor University and University of South Wales).

You'll build on the skills you developed during your first degree alongside students from the A100 course, and gain the knowledge, clinical skills and professional attitude to become a confident and competent junior doctor.

To give you a smooth start, we'll teach you basic clinical skills and Case Based Learning before the start of your first academic year, which means an earlier start than other medical students (usually just after the August Bank Holiday).



Find out more about this course
on our website.



Medical Pharmacology (BSc)

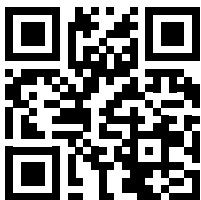
UCAS code: B210

How are medicines discovered and developed? Why do we need them, and how do they work?

Drugs and medicines underpin healthcare - as a Medical Pharmacology student we'll build on your natural curiosity to get to the heart of how and why drugs and medicines can help improve patient lives.

You'll learn from expert pharmacologists, gaining the transferable skills that future employers will be looking for in areas such as data analysis, problem solving and research techniques. You have the choice to complete the course in three years, or four years with an optional placement year after year two of the degree.

As a graduate from a leading Russell Group research institution, your skills and experience will give you the tools you need for a rewarding and challenging career in the pharmaceutical industry, academia (for research and teaching), governmental regulatory bodies, the healthcare sector and a range of other professional career pathways.



Find out more about this course on our website.



“ Studying Medical Pharmacology here at Cardiff has been the most rewarding 4 years of education I’ve ever had, and I feel incredibly lucky to have been here.

The degree scheme offers a unique opportunity for students who wish to launch a career in either science or medicine, whilst maintaining an intimate cohort size so you really feel supported by members of staff.

Frank Frayne
Medical Pharmacology student

Developing skills for life

Case Based Learning (CBL)

Cardiff University was an early adopter of CBL, a small group approach to learning and teaching. It keeps the patient at the centre of your studies, providing clear learning outcomes and structured activities and resources. This helps you relate what you are learning about the case to the relevant science, clinical skills and background knowledge you will need as a qualified doctor. In your first two years with us, you'll study a series of clinical cases, one every fortnight or so. Let's say the case involves an athlete with a knee injury – you'll have supporting lectures and presentations on the mechanisms of inflammation and anti-inflammatory medications, in the anatomy centre, through dissection and other techniques, you'll explore the knee joint and musculature, on placement you may be in a clinic dealing with sporting injuries, and you'll learn how to examine a knee during clinical skills sessions.

In addition, small group CBL sessions will help you develop important academic and professional skills such as research, teamworking, communication and critical appraisal. Patient needs are more complex than simply bandaging wounds, though – we will help you to understand psychosocial and economic issues, and lifestyle factors, that make each of your patients unique.

Consultation skills

Being able to communicate well is one of the first things patients notice. You will constantly develop and improve your communication skills through frequent clinical placements but also back at the university. Our highly rated workshops will help you to gather information, explain diseases and treatments, provide support when patients are distressed, and deal with more complex skills, like breaking bad news, in a safe space. You'll attend workshops throughout the course, consulting with actors trained to behave as patients, and with real patient volunteers too, receiving feedback and sometimes being filmed to review your own performance.



Watch a Case Based Learning group session in action here.





Your course, your choice

Every medical student is unique, and many of our students start their training with an interest in a particular area or topic. Perhaps you or someone you know has been affected by a condition like cancer, you love working with children, or feel that surgery is where you'd like to specialise. Our approach is to help our students follow their passions, explore their interests and develop into the best doctor they can be - which is why our MBBCh course has plenty of opportunities to make it your own.



Student Selected Components (SSCs)

SSCs offer a range of project opportunities that enable you to explore an area of medicine in depth. We offer SSCs across all five years of the course, from clinical research through to basic science, plus connections between the arts and health. You'll have an opportunity to choose from tutor-proposed SSCs or design your own bespoke project – this is your chance to be extra creative, tailoring your degree to your own interests and career aspirations.

Elective

The final year SSC, your elective, is often a highlight of medical school. You'll design an experience that focuses on a topic that interests you, at a location (almost) anywhere, from Aberystwyth to Zambia. You'll fund your own trip, but we have staff to help, well organised programmes and can direct you towards helpful financial bursaries.



Read about some of our students' experiences on elective here.

Language skills

Language skills can open doors throughout your career, and confidently treating patients who speak another language is a valuable transferable skill. We'll support you to do this well, with bilingual Wales as your classroom and a wide range of optional and free courses, including intensive courses and advisors who can help you learn or improve upon existing languages.



Find out more about the Languages for All scheme here.

Opportunities for Welsh speakers

We offer Welsh and bilingual admissions interviews and some student residences have been allocated for Welsh speakers and learners. Our Medicine students can choose to work in Welsh in parts of the course, and where this adds up to at least 33% of your studies, you may also be eligible for a scholarship through the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.



Find out more about being a Welsh speaking medical student.

Intercalation

If you want to explore a particular area of medicine in more detail during your undergraduate medical degree, choosing to intercalate may be for you. Intercalating students pause their MBChB for an extra year of study in a different medically related area, either after year three or year four of their MBChB course, graduating with both a medical degree and an iBSc (or MSc). We offer a wide range of intercalated degrees, all of which provide valuable transferable research skills to enhance a CV. Our website contains up to date information about the specific courses available.



Find out more about Intercalation here.

Not your conventional classroom

We believe that studying in Wales offers medical students a breathtaking variety of clinical experiences that adds incredible value to your medical career.

We give you early clinical exposure with patients and clinicians from your first year, gradually going further afield for longer placements, with increasing responsibility as part of a medical team.

By your third year you will be spending more time with your patients than on campus and will have experienced first-hand what it means to provide medical care across the spectrum - from GP practices in farming communities or small hospitals in popular seaside resorts and post-industrial towns, through to tertiary specialties in large, urban teaching hospitals.



Want the option of a different year three?

You might want to consider spending the academic year as a valued member of a GP practice undertaking a longitudinal integrated clerkship (LIC). You will learn in a clinical team, fully supported by Cardiff University, the GP you are attached to and your local district general hospital.



Find out more about this great experience here.

Simulated Road Traffic Collision Training

This yearly activity brings together our year two students with local multi-agency emergency service personnel. You will interact with the emergency services to manage the scene of a major incident involving multiple casualties. A variety of clinical and communication skills are practised during this stimulating day, giving you a rewarding glimpse into yet another option available for you in clinical practice.



Watch our Simulated Road Traffic Collision video here.



Where you'll learn

Clinical Skills Centre

The Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre is a safe and fully equipped space for you to learn clinical skills and gain valuable experience. Your learning focuses on the key practical skills set out by the GMC. After timetabled sessions are over, you can practise the skills in our fully equipped Self-Directed Learning area, gaining experience and confidence in your abilities in a reassuring, protected environment.

Simulation Centre

The Simulation Centre provides a supportive environment to explore clinical scenarios, so you know how to safely and calmly handle any situation that arises. Our facility has four simulation rooms, with adult patient manikins in what looks, and feels, like a clinical setting. Strategically placed cameras allow live play and video playback, enabling you and your friends to learn as both participants and observers.

Anatomy Centre

Ask our students and you'll discover that dissection is often one of the highlights of their medical school career. You'll study anatomy in our impressive Cathays Campus Anatomy Centre, through small group teaching led by clinical anatomists, academics and clinical demonstrators from the School of Biosciences. Our range of teaching methods, including dissection, prosection, body painting, e-learning and video tutorials, is designed to ensure that your anatomy learning complements each case or system as you explore it in your placements, lectures and tutorials.



Take a look around our facilities through our Virtual Tour.

World-class research

We're a member of the Russell Group, Britain's foremost research-intensive universities.

Our School of Medicine is the oldest in Wales, and one of the largest in the UK. We're proud of our record of internationally renowned research, and we're also proud of the fact that our medical students learn from researchers whose work is making a real impact on society. Tests to predict the prognosis of breast cancer, the roll-out of the HPV vaccine, techniques to use immune cells to kill blood cancer and many more started right here at our School of Medicine.

Our research is organised into divisions: Cancer & Genetics; Infection & Immunity; Population Medicine; and Psychological Medicine & Clinical Neurosciences. The School of Medicine also hosts two University Research Institutes: the Neuroscience & Mental Health Research Institute and the Systems Immunity Research Institute.

Doctors need to feel comfortable with research; both using it to inform decisions and carrying it out. We'll help you with this, and you'll have multiple opportunities to learn from our expert researchers across our research divisions, developing skills that will stand you in good stead throughout your career. If you want to go further in research, you'll have access to world-class opportunities, as well as the student-led Cardiff University Research Society (CUREs).



See more about our research excellence here.

Supporting you every step of the way

Medicine is a demanding career – physically, mentally and emotionally. We're here to support you on a personal level, as well as on your academic journey.

As a Cardiff University student, you have access to advice, guidance and help on a wide range of topics through the Student Life team, and you can also access specific support from the School of Medicine too.

When you join us, you'll be allocated a personal tutor, who'll meet you regularly and can signpost you to further support if you need it. If you're experiencing personal issues, our MyMedic support team are great people to reach out to – they can help with personal and health concerns and link you in with wider University support services. Making sure you're well looked after when you're away on placement is also important to us, and we have support staff based at each district hospital in Wales, so there's always someone to speak to if you need to.

A medical school that keeps pace with the wider world, graduates doctors who understand it. We're actively building equality, diversity and inclusivity, and their impacts, into your curriculum, as well as sustainability and environmental issues.



Find out more on our website.



Life outside of studying

Medical students work hard, but it's a common misconception that you won't have time for anything else.

At Cardiff there's a wide range of societies and sports team available to join, some of which are just for medical students like you, and others open to anyone across the University. Whatever your interests, you're sure to find one (or more!) for you.

Medicine-related student societies and charities include:

- African Caribbean Medical Association (ACMA)
- Cardiff Anaesthetics, Perioperative and Intensive Care Society (CAPS)
- Cardiff Healthcare International Perspectives (CHIPS)
- Cardiff Medicals Rugby
- Cardiff Medics First Responders
- Cardiff Muslim Medics
- Cardiff Student Psychiatry Society
- Cardiff University Ophthalmology Society
- Cardiff University Rare Disease Society
- Cardiff University Research Society
- Cardiff University Women in Surgery Society
- Christian Medical Fellowship
- Clinical Neuroscience Society
- Clwb y Mynydd Bychan
- Drug Science Cardiff
- GP Society
- HEAL Society (Healthcare Equality and Advocacy for LGBTQ+)
- Healthcare Drama Society
- Healthcare Music Society
- Make a Smile
- Medics Basketball Club
- Medics Football Club
- Medics Ladies Hockey Club
- Medics Men's Hockey Club
- Medics Netball Club
- Medics Squash Club
- MedSoc
- MedTech and Innovation Society
- Nutraceuticals and Nutritional Medicine Society
- Oncology Society (CUOS)
- OSCEazy
- Paediatric Society (CUPS)
- Pharmacology Society
- Radiotherapy and Oncology Society (RandO Society)
- Sports and Exercise Medicine
- Students for Global Health Society
- Cardiff University Surgical Society (CUSS)
- Teddy Bear Hospital
- Welsh Hearts Society
- Widening Access to Medicine Mentoring Scheme
- Wilderness and Expedition Medicine Society
- Women's Health, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society






Find out more about the full range of societies and sports teams you can join here.



How to find us

Key

-  School of Medicine
-  University and NHS buildings
-  Student residences

Important Legal Information

The contents of this brochure relate to the Entry 2026 admissions cycle and are correct at the time of going to press in October 2024. However, there is a lengthy period of time between printing this brochure and applications being made to, and processed by us, so please check our website at: www.cardiff.ac.uk before making an application in case there are any changes to the course you are interested in or to other facilities and services described here.

Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence and represent the basis on which we intend to deliver our services to you.

Your degree: Students admitted to Cardiff University study for a Cardiff University degree.

This brochure is printed on paper obtained from well managed sources using vegetable-based inks. Both the paper used in the production of this prospectus and the manufacturing process are FSC® certified.

The printers are also accredited to ISO14001, the internationally recognised environmental standard.

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

Cardiff University is a registered charity, no. 1136855

This prospectus can be made available in alternative formats, including large print (text), Braille and on audio tape/CD.

To request an alternative format please contact Laura Roberts: Tel: 029 2087 4455 Email: RobertsL9@cardiff.ac.uk

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We're here to help

Call our Admissions Team on **029 2068 8113**
or email on **medadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk**



Like what you've read?

Take a look at our range of Admissions information online. Our Admissions page has everything you need to know about applying for medicine – our academic and non-academic entry requirements, UCAT, interviews and more.



Have a question not covered by the above?

Our FAQ document can help.



Parents and other people supporting an applicant to medical school

Find more helpful information on our Parents and Supporters page.