

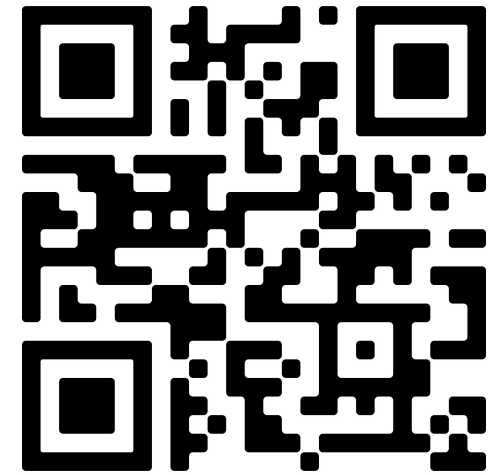
Studying Medicine and Dentistry in the UK and Ireland

A talk by SMSUK, with SMSI



Programme

- 8.15pm** Presentation by SMSUK and SMSI (Part 1)
- 8.35pm** Break (indicate breakout rooms)
- 8.40pm** Presentation by SMSUK and SMSI (Part 2)
- 9.00pm** Main Q&A
- 9.20pm** Q&A in Breakout rooms



Slido link for Q&A

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Introduction

Studying in the UK and Ireland - A brief overview

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Q&A

Small group Q&A

SMSUK - Singapore Medical Society of the United Kingdom

The society of Singaporean and Singapore-educated medical and dental students studying in the UK

Who We Are

- A student-led organisation
- Represents the interests of Singaporean and Singapore educated students studying medicine and dentistry in the UK
- Aims to foster intercollegiate and intercity friendships between our members

What We Do

- Represent the interests of members & alumni
- Education, training & career guidance
- Networking opportunities
- Alumni support: career advice & support integrating into UK or SG healthcare systems
- Social & community outreach



MED(UK)ATED
Orientation Camp



Annual Dinner



Annual Medical
Conference

Our Events



Trips within the UK and Europe

Plus.... workshops,
outings, discounted
musicals, career
guidance and more!

SMSi - Singapore Medical Society Ireland

The society of Singaporeans pursuing medical, dental and allied healthcare degrees in the Ireland

Who We Are

- A student-run non-profit organisation
- Represents the interests of Singaporeans studying abroad in Republic of Ireland

What We Do

- Provide and disseminate relevant up-to-date information to make informed choices
- Networking opportunities
- Outreach



Annual Trip around
Republic of Ireland



Community
Outreach



Annual Freshman
Orientation

SMSi Events



Education Events and Tutorials

Studying in the UK and Ireland

A brief overview

Teaching

- Taught by leading scientists and doctors
- Learning through dissections (most unis)
- Wider range of teaching hospitals

Opportunities

- World class research opportunities
- Easier and wider access to leading medical conferences

Lifestyle

- Multicultural experiences and vast travel opportunities
- Personal growth and independence
- Less taxing schedule

Studying in the UK and Ireland

Negatives to consider

Finances

- Higher tuition fees
- Higher cost of living
- Harder to find funding

Opportunities

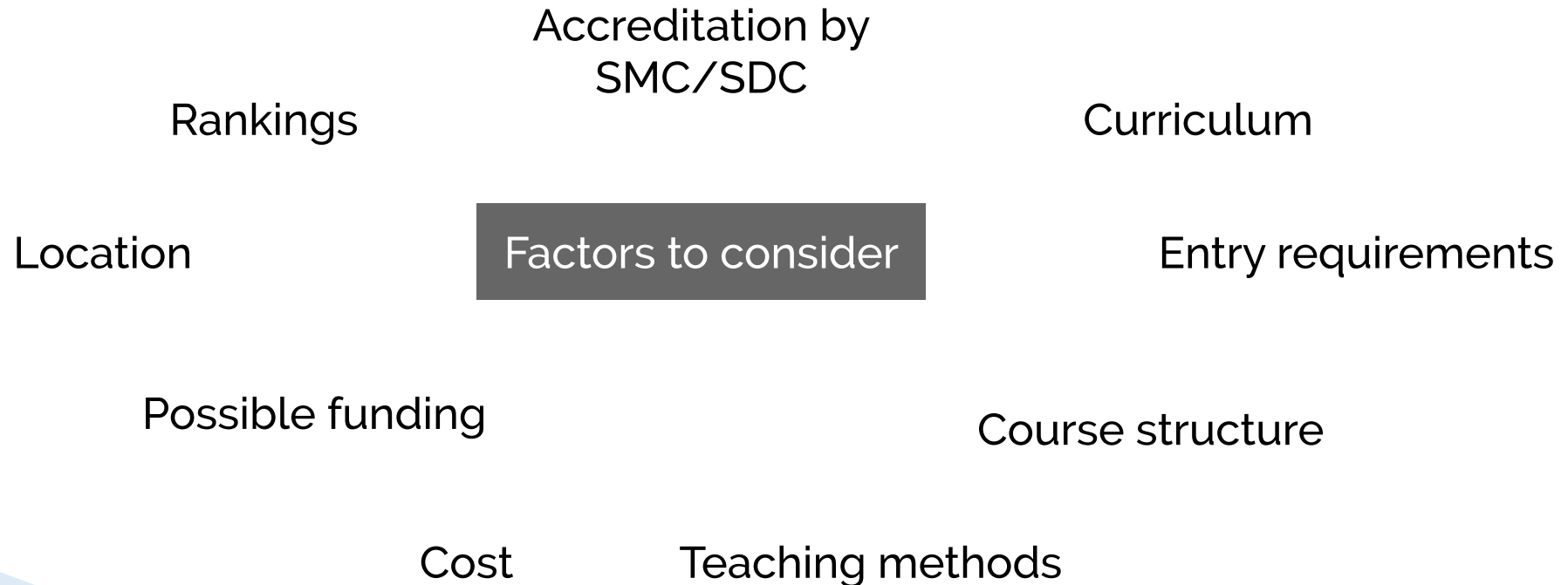
- Fewer networking opportunities with Singaporean healthcare professionals
- Less familiarity with Singapore's healthcare system

Lifestyle

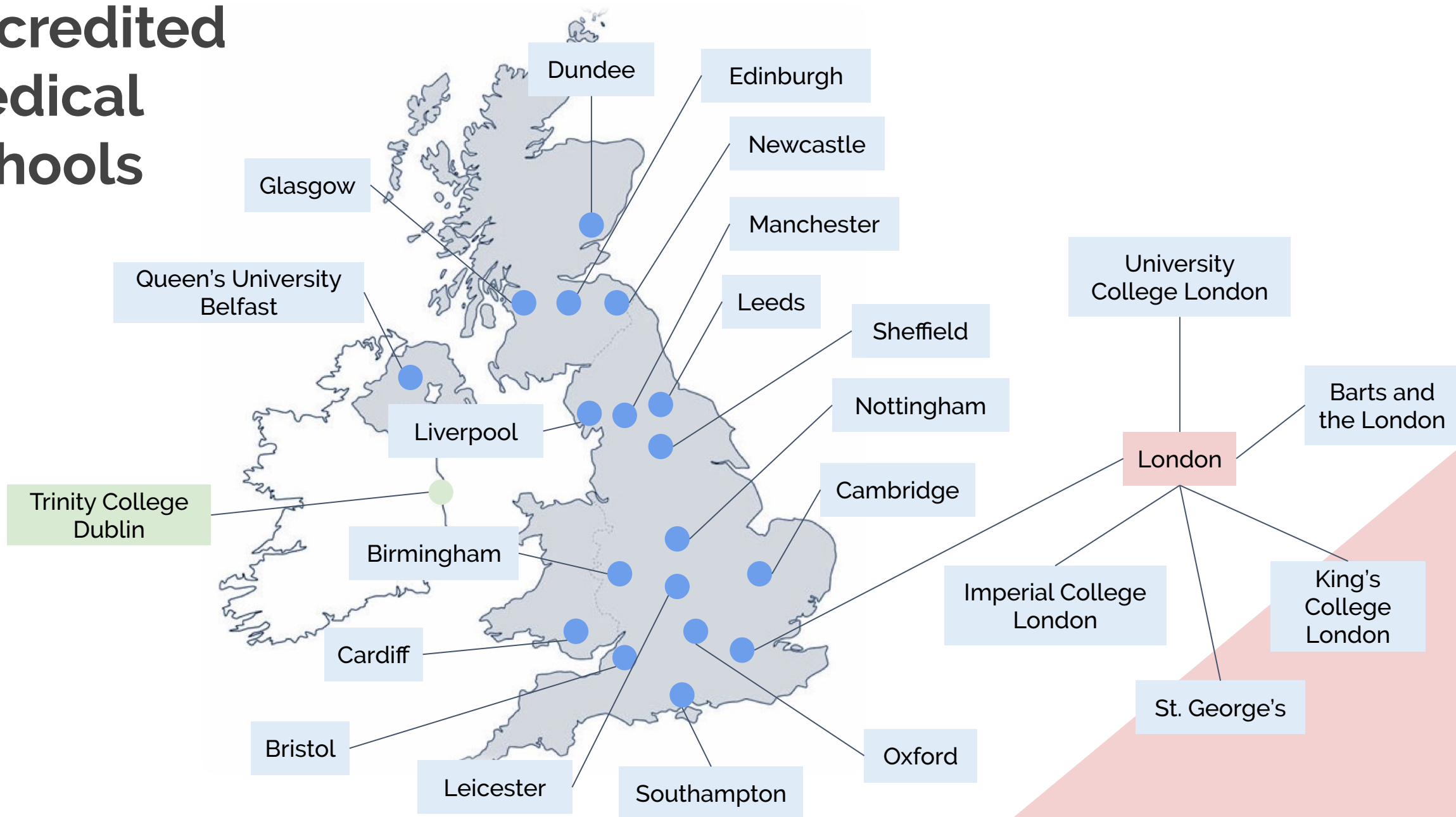
- Different culture - may be hard to adapt
- Far from home and family, with large time zone difference

Choosing your school

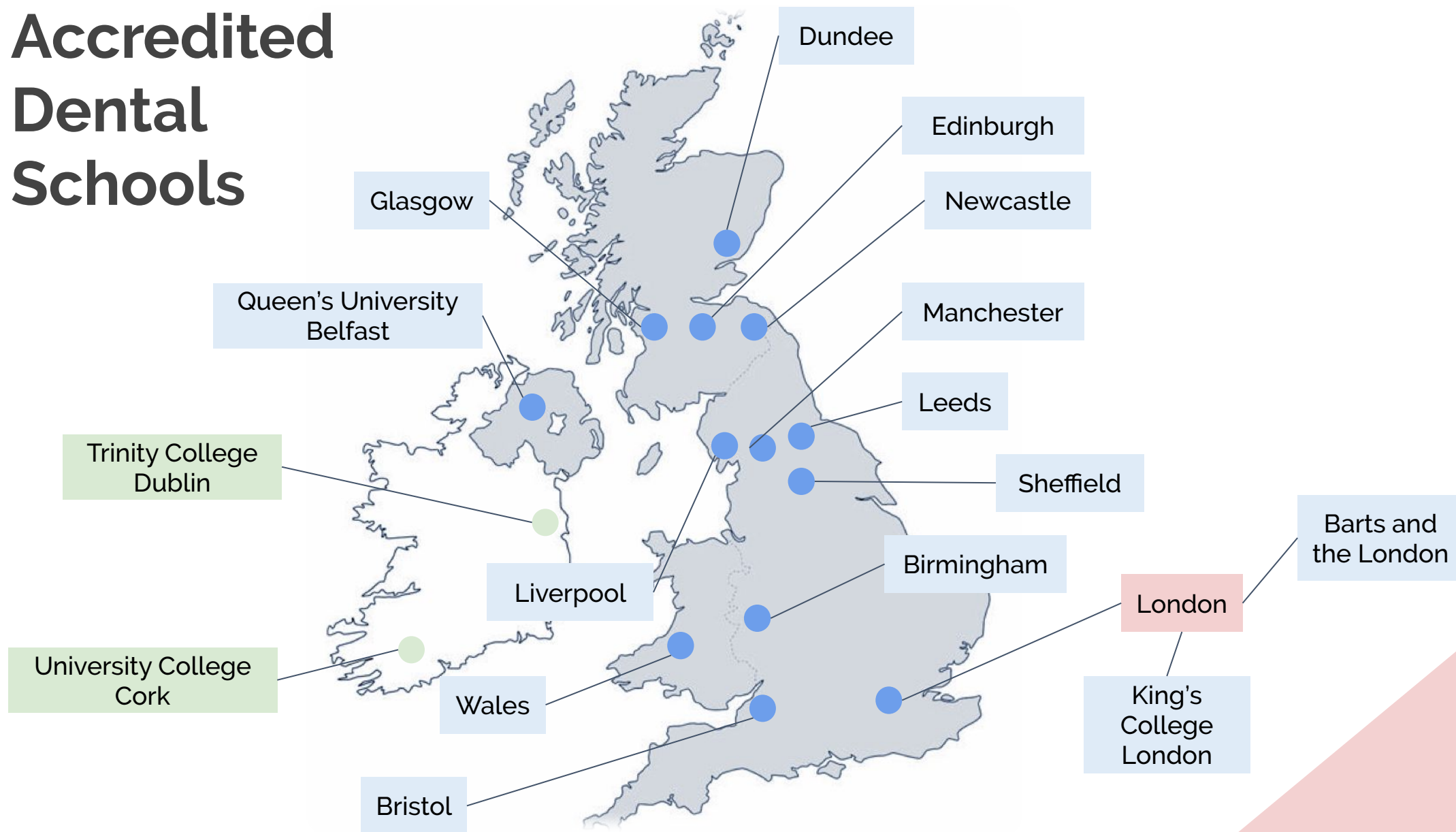
Choosing your school



Accredited Medical Schools



Accredited Dental Schools



Entry requirements

- Different universities have different requirements
 - Subjects required
 - Grades required
 - Admissions tests required (will be covered later)

Entry requirements

Subjects required

- All universities have different requirements
- Some do not require biology or chemistry
- H2 Knowledge and Inquiry is usually not recognised

Grades required

- A levels: usually, only 3 H2s looked at
- Usually require As for Sciences ie Bio/Chem/Math

Entry requirements

Some examples:

University	Course	Subjects required	A level grades	IB score
University of Cambridge	Medicine	Chemistry with 1 other science ie Math/Bio/Phy	AAA	40-42
Imperial College London	Medicine	Bio and Chem with 1 other subject	AAA	38
King's College London	Dentistry	Chem/Bio with 1 other science	AAA	35
University of Sheffield	Medicine	Chem/Bio with 1 other science	AAA	36
Trinity College Dublin	Medicine & Dentistry	Chem with 1 other science	AAA	40

Course structure

Medicine - 5 or 6 years
MBBS, MBChB, BMBS, MBBChir, MBCh

Pre Clinical (2 years)

Intercalated BSc/MSc (1 year)
Compulsory for: Oxbridge, ICL, UCL, Edinburgh
Optional for all other schools

Clinical (3 years)

Dentistry - 5 years
BDS, BChD

Pre Clinical (2 years)

Clinical (3 years)

Teaching methods

- Traditional
- Problem based learning
- Integrated

Traditional

Schools - Cambridge, Oxford

- Subject-based in contrast to systems-based
 - 1st year: anatomy, physiology, biochemistry etc.
 - 2nd year: pharmacology, pathology, neuroscience, human reproduction etc.
 - 3rd year: intercalated year (BA or Bsc)
 - 4th to 6th year: clinicals
- Subjects make the course more research-focused and less emphasis on clinical studies until later years.
- Lecture, supervision system, low student to teacher ratio

Problem based learning

Schools - Glasgow, Manchester, St. George's

- Systems-based
- PBL discussions + Lectures + Clinical experience
- Emphasis on critical thinking, active self-directed learning and small group work
- Basic structure for PBL
 - Presented with a case study or 'problem'
 - Brainstorm possible hypotheses and solutions
 - Decide and identify the learning objectives to solve the problem at hand
 - Gather information through private study, lectures, clinical experience... etc.
 - Present findings to the group and facilitator

Integrated

Schools - UCL, Bristol, Edinburgh, Trinity College Dublin and many more

- Systems-based that may or may not involve PBL learning
- Integrates clinical exposure from day 1 into teaching rather than a traditional setting that involves exposure only in clinical years.
- Teaches material, and you learn to then apply your knowledge in a clinical setting.

Teaching style - Dentistry

- Pre-clinical content similar to medicine: physiology, biochemistry, pharmacology, neuroscience, with focus on the anatomy of the head and neck
- Lectures, tutorials, seminars, PBLs, e-learning, labs, clinics, hospital attachments, outreach clinics are all possible forms of teaching
- Early exposure to clinical setting from year 1
- Much smaller cohort size: most below 100 except King's

Tuition fees

- Generally around £30,000-£40,000 per year
- For some universities, fees are different for pre-clinical and clinical
- Exchange rates
- Slight annual increases for some universities
- NHS Scotland - Additional cost of Clinical Teaching (ACT) levy for Overseas Medical Students
 - Additional £10,000 per year
 - Sometimes included in advertised tuition fees

Medicine Tuition Fees (2020/2021 Entry)

University	Pre-clinical fees, per year (2 years)	Intercalated BSc fees (1 year)	Clinical fees, per year (3 years)	Total	Total, in SGD 1GBP = 1.8SGD
University of Cambridge	£58,038	£58,038	£58,038	£348,228	\$626,810.4
Imperial College London	£44,000	£44,000	£44,000	£264,000	\$475,200
Barts & The London	£38,000	£38,000 (Optional)	£38,000	£190,000	\$342,000
University of Manchester	£24,000	NA	£44,000	£180,000	\$324,000
University of Edinburgh	£32,100	£32,100	£49,900	£246,000	\$442,800
University of Bristol	£33,500	£33,500 (Optional)	£33,500	£167,500	\$301,500
Trinity College Dublin	€39,000	(Optional)	€39,000	€195,000	\$305,250

Dental Tuition Fees (2020/2021 Entry)

University	Pre-clinical fees, per year (2 years)	Clinical fees, per year (3 years)	Total	Total, in SGD 1GBP = 1.8SGD
King's College London	£43,500	£43,500	£217,500	\$391,500
University of Sheffield	£35,880	£35,880	£179,400	\$322,920
Barts & The London	£38,000	£38,000	£190,000	\$342,000
University of Manchester	£24,000 (Year 1)	£44,000 (Years 2-5)	£200,000	\$360,000
University College Cork	€39,000	€39,000	€195,000	\$305,250
Trinity College Dublin	€39,000	€39,000	€195,000	\$305,250

Cost of living

- Rent, food, travel and lifestyle expenses differ across cities.
- Major factors:
 - Location
 - Lifestyle
- Average cost of living per year for students
 - In London: S\$26,000
 - Rest of UK: S\$21,000
 - Ireland: S\$19,000

Cost of living

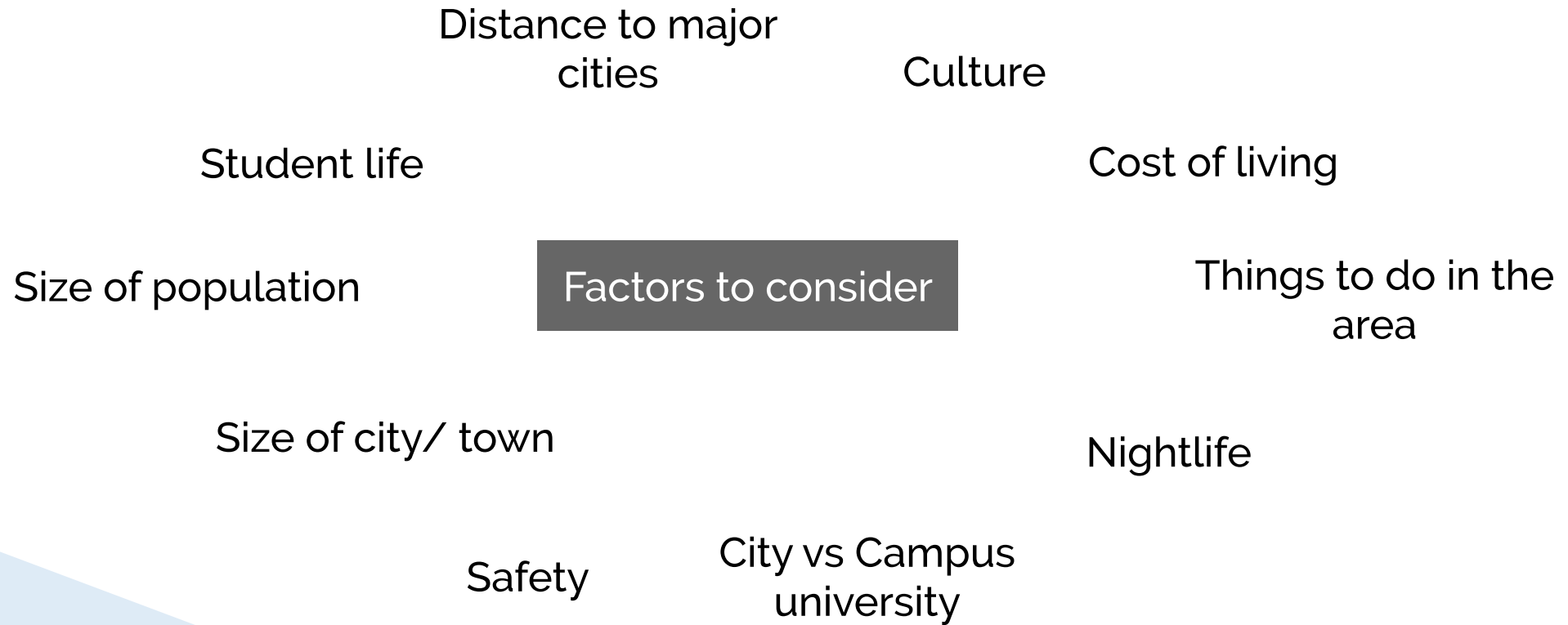
Food

- Eating out is generally more expensive than Singapore, while groceries are cheaper

Transport

- Public transport is generally more expensive than Singapore

Location



Medical school rankings

QS 2020

1. University of Oxford
2. University of Cambridge
3. University College London
4. Imperial College London
5. King's College London

Times Higher Education 2020

1. University of Oxford
2. University of Cambridge
3. Imperial College London
4. University College London
5. King's College London

Guardian 2020

1. University of Oxford
2. University of Aberdeen
3. Keele University
4. University of Swansea
5. University of Cambridge

International Medical University (IMU)

- Twinning Programme
 - Alternative means for studying medicine in the UK.
 - If unable to gain admission to UK universities for any reason, serves as an alternative pathway
- Students study Medical Sciences for the first 2.5 years (in Malaysia) before proceeding to undertake Clinical Training either at IMU's Clinical Campuses in the southern part of Malaysia or at a Partner Medical School (PMS) overseas.
- Some PMS are SMC accredited medical schools.
 - e.g. University of Glasgow

Admission and Credibility

- Some PMS are SMC accredited medical schools.
- Admission to PMS dependent on professional exams taken at IMU.
- 2 Intakes in Feb and Aug, Dateline is 2 months prior.
- Need to take a further english test (IELTS) along with personal statement and interview.
- As long as graduated from a SMC accredited school, elligible to work in Singapore. Various alumni in Singapore from IMU currently working.
- However future uncertain as dental twinning programmes no longer accredited.

Small Group Q&A

Scheduled to happen later

Please rename your profile now with the number of the room you want to join in front

SMSUK 2020

e.g. if you are Jason from RI year 1 and want to be in Room 2, rename yourself to **2 - Jason (J1, RI)**

*You can switch rooms after the session has started

Rename by clicking the 3 dots in the top right corner of your video tile

Room 1

Volunteer 1

Year 2 Medicine
University of Cambridge
ACJC

Volunteer 2

Year 1 Medicine
College
JC

Volunteer 3

Year 1 Medicine
College
JC

Room 2

Volunteer 1

Year 1 Medicine
College
JC

Volunteer 2

Year 1 Medicine
College
JC

Volunteer 3

Year 1 Medicine
College
JC

Room 3

Volunteer 1

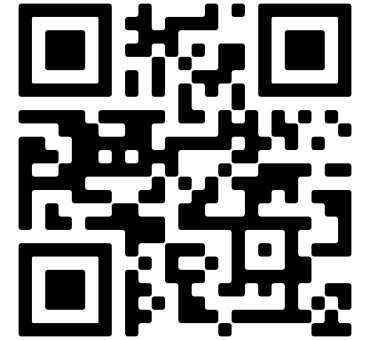
Year 1 Medicine
College
JC

Volunteer 2

Year 1 Medicine
College
JC

Volunteer 3

Year 1 Medicine
College
JC



Slido link for Q&A

Applying to medical school

UK

Choose your schools

Admissions tests:
BMAT (4 Nov)
UCAT (by 1 Oct)

Application via UCAS (by 15 Oct)

Interviews and offers (Dec - Mar)

Visa application and paperwork

Off to university! (Sept - Oct)

Application Timeline

Application via IUMC opens all year long before intake and closes March

IUMC Open House (early March in year of intake)

2 Rounds of Interview (College Dean and Dr Stanley Quek of IUMC) (Mar - May)

Ireland

Application components

- University choices
 - Admissions tests
 - Personal statement
- } via application portal
- Interview

Admissions portal - UCAS



- For all UK universities
- Closing date is **15 October**
- You can only choose a maximum of 4 schools for medicine/dentistry although there are 5 choices given
- Can only apply to either Oxford or Cambridge
- Please check if your school has an internal deadline
 - RI - 2 October

Cambridge Applications – **20 September**

Deadline for UCAS applications from students wishing to be considered for interview in Singapore

Admissions test - BMAT

Biomedical Admissions Test

Required for

- Medicine: Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial, UCL, Leeds
- Dentistry: Leeds

Test structure

- 2h Written Paper
- No Calculators Allowed
- Divided into 3 Sections
 - Thinking Skills
 - Scientific Knowledge and Applications
 - Writing Task

Section	Items	Time
Thinking Skills	32 MCQ	60 min
Scientific Knowledge and Applications	27 MCQ	30 min
Writing Task	3 choose 1	30 min

Key dates

September

1 September
Registration opens

30 September
Last day to request
modified question papers

October

1 October, 1700BST
Standard entry fee closing
date

15 October, 1800BST
Registration closes

November

4 November
Test day

Late November
Release of results

Resources

- Exercise books and online courses available
- Official past year papers available at www.admissionstesting.org

Tips

- Revise O level content for sciences and math
- Start early as BMAT occurs during your exam period

Admissions test - UCAT

University Clinical Aptitude Test

- Previously known as the UKCAT
- Required for Medicine and Dentistry
 - For most schools (except those that require BMAT)
- Multiple test dates
- Cannot carry results from one year to the next
- Allowed to take once in each test cycle
- Immediate access to test results

Test structure

- Computerised 2h MCQ Test taken at testing centre
- No scientific knowledge required
- Divided into 5 sections
 - Verbal reasoning
 - Decision making
 - Quantitative reasoning
 - Abstract reasoning
 - Situational judgement

Section	Questions	Time
Verbal reasoning	44	21 min
Decision making	29	31 min
Quantitative reasoning	36	24 min
Abstract reasoning	55	13 min
Situational judgement	69	26 min

Key dates

1 July 2020

Registration opens

Booking opens

Bursary Scheme opens

Access Arrangements / UCATSEN applications open

1 August 2020

Testing begins

17 September 2020

Registration closes

Web booking closes

Access Arrangements / UCATSEN application deadline

30 September 2020

Final booking deadline (for registered candidates)

1 October 2020

Last testing date

Bursary application deadline (4pm)

15 October 2020

UCAS application deadline

Early November 2020

Results delivered to universities

Resources

- Official website - www.ucat.ac.uk
- Has practice tests, question guides, tutorials
- Exercise books available

Tips

- Familiarise yourself with test format and online interface, especially the calculator tool given
- Do practice questions
- Practice under timed conditions

Personal statement

- UCAS - 1 common personal statement for all schools applied to
 - Cannot exceed 4,000 characters or 47 lines of text (including blank lines), whichever is reached first
- Ireland (IUMC) - 500 words reflecting your interest and your experiences

What to include in your personal statement

Introduction

- Why are you applying?
- Why medicine?
- Academic and/or professional interest?

Other achievements

- What sets you apart?
- Any soft skills?
- Formative experiences?
- Desirable attributes?

About the course

- How can you contribute to the school?
- Enthusiasm for the subject? How can you show this?
- How are you a good fit for this course?

Work or other experiences

- Did any experience inspire you?
- Work experience? Volunteering?
- What did you learn?

Writing tips

- Genuine engagement and enthusiasm
- Admission tutors may be sceptical about exaggerated descriptions of a revelatory moment or a lifelong desire to become a doctor
- If difficult to pinpoint a defining moment, write about what you have done or experienced to sustain your interest

Writing tips

- Avoid cliches and overused statements
- Some examples:
 - From a young age I have always been interested in...
 - For as long as I can remember I have been interested in...
 - I was born to be a doctor
 - Biology is my life
 - It has always been my dream to be a doctor

Writing tips

- Show that you have carefully considered the demanding nature of a career in medicine/dentistry and have a realistic view of it
- Demonstrate the qualities expected of a medical professional through relevant experiences
 - Dental applicants should include skills that demonstrate manual dexterity, e.g. musical instruments, cross-stitching, jewellery making
- Show a life outside of studying
- Don't simply describe and list out your experiences but reflect on them - what have you learnt?

Admissions for Ireland - IUMC



- Irish Universities & Medical Schools Consortium (**IUMC**)
 - For Medicine and Dentistry schools in Ireland
 - Application open all year long
 - Closes around **March** every year
 - 2 rounds of interview (between **March-May**) with college dean and Dr Stanley Quek of IUMC
 - No entry test
-
- More info on IUMC website: <http://www.iumc.com.sg/index.php>

Interviews

Different formats:

1. Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI) - many short independent assessments in a timed circuit
2. Panel interview - a traditional interview
3. Academic interview - used by Oxbridge

Interviews

Logistical requirements, depending on university:

- May require you to fly to the UK
- May send an interview team to Singapore/South East Asia
- May allow for video interview

Academic Interviews - Oxbridge

- Asked a range of questions including scientific and ethical problems
- Does not focus on 'why medicine'
- Mimics a tutorial

'It is the ability to see both sides of an argument, think on your feet, explain your views to others, present information and cope with pressure'

Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI)

- Number of stations vary
- Evaluates various aspects
 - Medical ethics
 - Communication skills
 - Personal statement
 - Data interpretation
 - Scientific questions
 - Standard interview questions

Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI)

- Examples of stations
 - Station 1: Write a short essay on a medical ethics question, discuss it with the interviewer
 - Station 2: Read a short ethical situation and tell the interviewer what you would do as a doctor
 - Station 3: Talk about yourself

Panel interview

- Common questions
 - Why medicine?
 - Why study here (this country, this university)?
 - What makes you a good fit for this school?
 - What can you contribute to this university?

Interviews - Dentistry

- MMI or panel
- Standard questions similar to medicine
- Usually no specific dental questions
- Manual dexterity

Interview preparation

- Prepare and practice standard questions
- Anything in your personal statement can be asked, so be very familiar with it!
- Do prior research on your school and course
 - Course structure
 - Clubs and societies
- Be updated on recent medical research, healthcare and social issues
- Exercise books available as reference

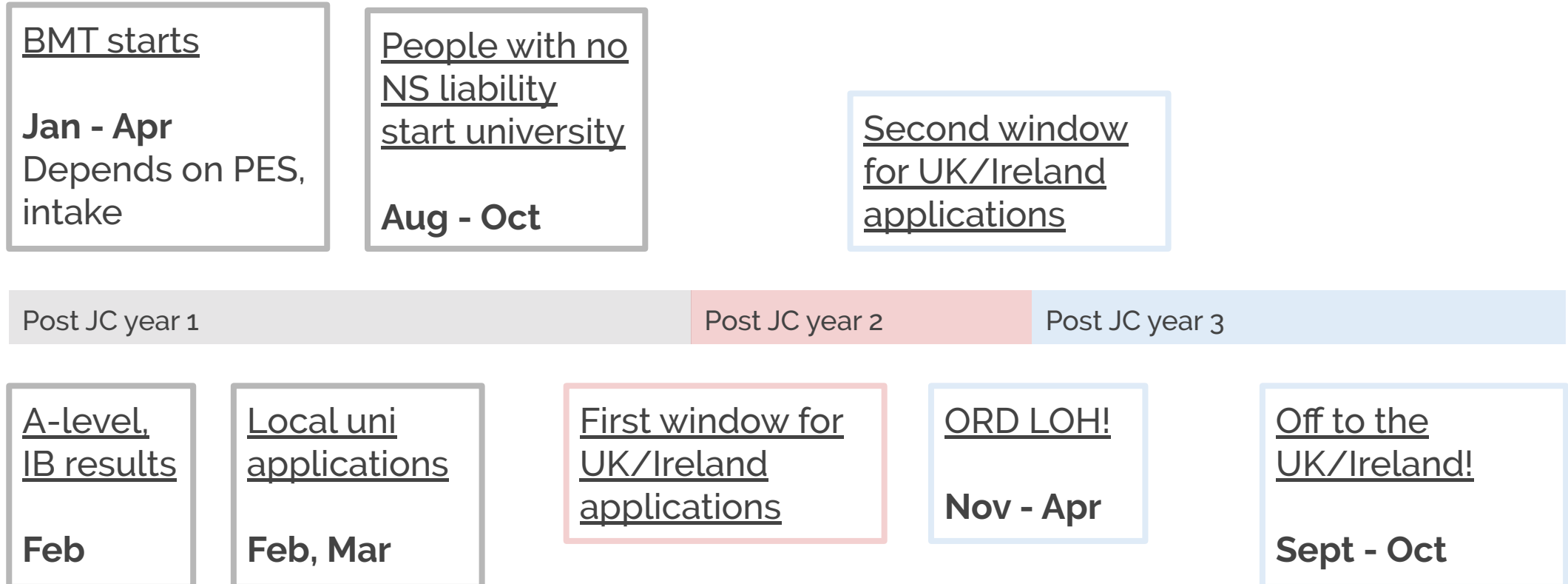
After the interview

- Most universities will convey their decisions within a few weeks
- You may request for feedback from the admissions team if rejected
- For the UK, offers will show up in UCAS
 - You will accept or reject them in the portal
- Get the visa application process started as soon as your university provides you with the necessary documentation

Applying during NS

- 2 windows to apply in 2 years of NS
- Apply for deferred entry in the first window
- Apply for regular entry in the second window
- If you have a deferred offer, reapplying in the second window will mean you reject the deferred offer from the first window

Applying during NS (for JC and IB)



Applying during NS

- Save your leave in case you have to fly for interviews
- Have a good working relationship with your bosses to facilitate easier leave taking
- Ability to take leave for window 1 depends on your NS situation - hard to take leave in command school
- If you receive a deferred offer in window 1 but reject it in order to re-apply in window 2, it is less likely that the school you rejected will offer you a place again

Applying during NS

A common scenario

- January intake, combat fit (PES A/B1), healthy BMI, passed IPPT → NS liability is 1 year 10 months
- ORD date is early November, second year post JC
- Uni start dates range from early September to early October

Will I be able to defer my last 1 or 2 months of NS to start university?

→ No

Does this mean I will have to wait 10 or 11 months to start university?

→ Unfortunately, yes, except for very rare cases in which the university allows you to miss the first 1 or 2 months of your course

Funding

Possible sources of funding

- Father-mother scholarship :(
- A*STAR
- Pre-employment grant
- Others

A*STAR National Science Scholarship (MBBS-PhD)

Eligibility

- Excellent A level/IB results
- Apply and gain admission into YLLSoM or LKCSOM
- Must gain an offer from UK universities offering the intercalated MBBS-PhD programme
- Strong interest in pursuing a career as clinician-scientists

Coverage and Bond

- Financial support for up to 9 years
- 6 year bond



Pre-Employment Grant



Eligibility

- Apply before entering or during clinical years
- Not available for dental students

Coverage and Bond

- Either a 1, 2 or 3 year grant can be offered
- Covers up to 60% of the annual tuition fees for remaining years of study, up to a cap of S\$50,000 per annum
- 3-4 year bond with MOHH

Other funding

- Loke Cheng Kim Scholarship
 - Full overseas scholarship with no bond
 - Prefer other degrees to Medicine
- The Lee Foundation Overseas Medical Bursary Education Fund
 - Eligibility: gross monthly per capita household income S\$1,900 or less
 - Receive S\$30,000 for only one year (either Year 2 or 3)
 - Bond-free bursary

What's next?

What you can do now

- Clinical attachments
- Volunteering
- Individual research on courses and universities
 - Recommended websites: BrightSparks, The Student Room, The Medic Portal
 - Talk to current students at various universities (feel free to reach out!)
- Plan your study schedule wisely to balance A levels, admissions and admissions tests

Life after graduation?

Medicine

Singapore

PGY1
1 Year

Residency (Specialities)
3 - 7 Years

UK

FY1
GMC registration
1 Year

FY2
1 Year

Specialist Training
3 - 7 Years

Life after graduation?

Dentistry

Singapore

- Conditional registration (2+ years)
 - Can only work under supervision
 - Work in either public or private sector
 - Need to be supervised by at least 2 fully registered dentists for at least 2 years

UK

- Dental Foundation Training (1+ years)
 - At least one year of foundation training required to work in the NHS

Q&A

Small Group Q&A

Rooms will be open until 10pm

SMSUK 2020

If you want to change room, exit the breakout room and enter the main room to inform the moderator of your room choice

Room 1

Volunteer 1
Year 1 Medicine
College
JC

Volunteer 2
Year 1 Medicine
College
JC

Volunteer 3
Year 1 Medicine
College
JC

Room 2

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Year 1 Medicine
College
JC

Volunteer 3
Year 1 Medicine
College
JC