

**STANDARDS OF FITNESS FOR ENTRY TO AND STUDYING MEDICINE ON
THE BSc (HONS) MEDICINE COURSE AT ST ANDREWS**

1. The standards of health required for entry to and study on medicine courses in the UK are defined by the General Medical Council (GMC) and the Department of Health (DH). As advised by the Medical Schools Council this university applies the [HEOPS Policy on medical students' fitness standards](#) as provided by the Higher Education Occupational Physicians / Practitioners. These standards meet the criteria in the Equality Act in that they are a proportionate means of achieving the legitimate aim of ensuring patient safety. A summary of the medical fitness to train criteria are:-

- a. Students should protect patients, colleagues and themselves by being immunised against serious communicable diseases when vaccines are available. Testing for immunity and infection should be in accordance with current DH guidance or an equivalent evidence based standard. This will change over time.
- b. Students must have a full awareness of their own mental health, when to seek help and from whom.
- c. By graduation, all undergraduates must be able to perform full physical and mental state examination and communicate effectively with patients and colleagues using spoken, written, electronic and non-verbal methods.

2. In order to enter the University of St Andrews BSc (Hons) course students must conform to the [minimum standards described in the HEOPS policy](#). There is an obligation on the Medical School to make reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities where the disability would not prevent the applicant from meeting the outcome for graduates. Reasonable adjustments cannot be made to competence standards themselves.

3. At the time of entry to Medical School students will be screened for tuberculosis, Hep B, Hep C and HIV infection and any necessary immunisations and antibody tests will be performed. All entrants are required to complete a course of immunisation against Hep B virus. Applicant students who have had an infection with Hep B, Hep C or HIV are not precluded from training to be a doctor but it is important to consider whether or not this is the career option that can be pursued. Note that any entrant student who is found to be a carrier of Hep B, Hep C or HIV will require counselling as such a situation may place restrictions on the student's clinical training and limit his or her medical practice following qualification. Students who have had an infection of this nature and wish to discuss this further before making a decision should contact the Occupational Health Services, via the Pro Dean, who will be able to advise on current policy. Applicants or students who are infected with any of these diseases should consider their position carefully. They should discuss this with an Occupational Health Advisor via the Admissions Team who can arrange advice.

4. Acceptance onto the BSc (Hons) course is not a guarantee of acceptance onto clinical training if reasonable adjustments are not possible for clinical training or student's health conditions change.

5. **Confirmation.** Student must sign the confirmation below and send back to the School by 3rd August.

I confirm that I have read the standards defined in the HEOPS policy and that I will alert the Medical School if I have concerns regarding my health which may require early referral for Occupational Health assessment or if my health condition changes:

_____ signed _____ date _____ print name

Send to: School of Medicine Teaching Office (HEOPS statement), MBSB, North Haugh, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9TF. United Kingdom