

## STANDARDS OF FITNESS FOR ENTRY TO AND STUDYING MEDICINE ON THE SCOTTISH GRADUATE ENTRY MEDICINE (ScotGEM) PROGRAMME (MB ChB)

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 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 ScotGEM 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, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV infection and any necessary immunisations and antibody tests will be performed. It is strongly recommended that all entrants complete a course of immunisation against Hepatitis B virus in order to fully participate in clinical placements. However, it is not mandatory and students can opt not to have the vaccination and have regular antibody testing instead. Applicant students who have/had an infection with Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C or HIV are not precluded from training to be a doctor. This may place restrictions on the student's clinical training and limit their 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 ([medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk)), who will be able to advise on current policy. Applicants or students who are affected by any of these diseases should consider their position as it may have implications on their future career choices.
4. Guidance is that all healthcare workers, which includes medical students, should be up to date with their routine immunisations, eg tetanus, diphtheria, polio and MMR. The MMR vaccine is especially important in the context of the ability of healthcare workers/medical students to transmit measles or rubella infections to vulnerable groups. While healthcare workers/medical students may need MMR vaccination for their own benefit, they should also be immune to measles and rubella in order to assist in protecting patients. Satisfactory evidence of protection would include documentation of having received two doses of MMR or having had positive antibody tests for measles and rubella. Students are strongly recommended to demonstrate evidence of or take vaccination for BCG, Hepatitis B, Varicella, Influenza and Covid.
5. Acceptance onto the ScotGEM 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.

6. **Confirmation.** Student must sign the confirmation below and send back to the School by 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

Email to [scotgem-admin@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:scotgem-admin@st-andrews.ac.uk) subject title HEOPS statement - name