



University of
St Andrews

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THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA



Scottish-Canadian Medical Programme

Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery

What you will study

This exciting six-year programme allows applicants wishing to practise medicine in Canada the opportunity to study at two of Scotland's oldest and most prestigious universities and to qualify earlier than if they had studied in the US or Canada.

[Discover the most up-to-date and detailed information about our medical programmes.](#)

Overview

The medical programme is six years long; students study for the first three years in the School of Medicine at St Andrews, followed by three years in the Medical School at the University of Edinburgh.

At St Andrews, students will cover clinical sciences and core clinical skills and graduate with an Honours Bachelor's degree (BSc (Honours) Medicine). Following graduation from St Andrews, students will automatically transfer to the Medical School in Edinburgh, without further interview or application, to complete the final three years of the programme. Students will join Year 4 of the Edinburgh MBChB and will follow Years 4, 5 and 6 of the curriculum. During the Edinburgh phase, students will spend time on attachment to the University of Alberta Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FoMD). On completion of the six years, students will graduate as Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB). Guidance and assistance is offered to students applying for residency programmes in Canada. This includes preparation and fees for relevant exams.

Degree awards recognised in Canada

The programme will offer two degree awards: BSc (Honours) in Medicine from St Andrews and MBChB from Edinburgh. The MBChB is the primary undergraduate medical qualification that is recognised for medical practice around the world, including in Canada, and is equivalent to the Canadian MD degree. Graduates of the programme will be considered as International Medical Graduates (IMGs) by the Canadian authorities. The two medical schools are accredited by the UK General Medical Council (GMC). The GMC accreditation is acceptable to US and Canadian authorities who have endorsed these two medical schools as being on a par with those within Canada.

Option for study at Masters level

It is possible for students to apply to an intercalated one-year degree at Masters level between the St Andrews and Edinburgh components.

Medical qualification in six years

At the end of six years, successful students will have degrees from two of the UK's most prestigious universities. Unlike those who study in Canada, students may start the six-year programme direct from high school if they have studied appropriate subjects and obtained the necessary grades. Once accepted, students are guaranteed progression to Edinburgh's Medical School provided they successfully complete the Honours degree at St Andrews. At the end of six years in Scotland, students will be ready to start their medical career with an unrivalled foundation in clinical medical science.

Financial benefits

While there are costs associated with studying in the UK, students on the six-year programme can be practicing medicine two years ahead of their peers.

Up-to-date information about tuition fees and scholarships can be found online:

[University of St Andrews Medicine A990 BSc](#)

[University of Edinburgh undergraduate tuition fees](#)

Residency

Students on this programme will be responsible for their own applications to a Canadian residency position but will be assisted by the University of Alberta in the process. All residency places in Canada are managed by the Postgraduate Medical Education Deaneries at each university and are funded by provincial government ministries. Canadian Medical Students Studying Abroad (CMSAs) are classified as International Medical Graduates (IMGs) and compete for residency positions in the same way as other international students who studied outside Canada or the US. Students apply to the Canadian Residency Matching Service (CaRMS) residency placement scheme.

The FoMD Alberta is accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS).

Although the A990 Programme is primarily for applicants who want to return to Canada to practice medicine, A990 students will also be eligible to apply to Foundation Training in the UK.



Institutions of excellence

The Scottish-Canadian Medical Programme (Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery) provides a unique experience both educationally and socially. Competition is particularly fierce for the undergraduate medical schools at St Andrews and Edinburgh, so you are guaranteed to be studying with some of the brightest scholars from around the world. Between both institutions, students are offered a rich and fully rounded experience as part of our internationally Scottish community.

Overview

Students benefit from award-winning teaching in a safe and friendly environment. From world-leading research to the rich history and dramatic natural beauty, both institutions take great pleasure in welcoming students from Canada. As well as the world-rated academia, there are fantastic opportunities for sport and arts through local and university clubs and societies at both St Andrews and Edinburgh. This can all be done whilst enjoying beautiful beaches, superb restaurants, vibrant live music and world-renowned festivals.

St Andrews

The Medical School at St Andrews provides state-of-the-art facilities for teaching, research and learning. The School features a 300-seat lecture theatre, a dissection room suitable for 100 students to conduct whole-body dissection, a 68-bed clinical skills centre and a medical, anatomy and pathology resource centre open until late every evening. The University was ranked top in the UK for student satisfaction and fourth in the UK overall by the Complete University Guide 2024.

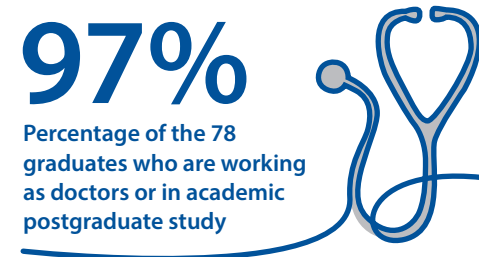
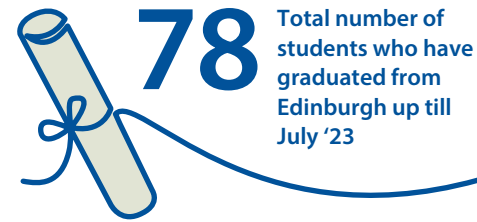
Edinburgh

The MBChB medical degree programme at Edinburgh recognises the talents, skills and diversity of its students and their vocational commitment to a career in medicine.

The aim is to develop students to their full potential so that they graduate as caring, competent, reflective and confident medical practitioners who can work at the highest level in a diverse range of scientific, clinical, hospital-based and community environments. Clinical teaching takes place in several locations around the south east of Scotland, providing a breadth of hospital- and community-based experience. Students studying at Edinburgh Medical School also benefit from its internationally regarded research programmes – the University was ranked first in Scotland and fourth in the UK in Times Higher Education's 2022 Research Excellence Framework (REF) power ratings.

Alberta

The FoMD Alberta is located in Edmonton, Alberta and is a highly respected, research intensive faculty and one of the oldest in Western Canada. Students will spend up to four months in Alberta during the six-year programme. This will include: a period of clinical training in disciplines expected to enhance the students' learning, an enhanced orientation to the Canadian healthcare system, an opportunity to train for the MCCQE (Part 1) and NAC OSCE, an opportunity to attend a four- to six-week placement in a discipline and province of the students' choice and guidance on the process of application for a residency place.



Comments from students

"Making the decision to join the unique Scottish-Canadian Medical Programme at St Andrews has changed my life. The programme integrates the development of a strong foundational knowledge with learning practical skills; by the end of second year I have already had many opportunities to apply my learning while meeting real patients in the community.

A major benefit of being on the programme is having a dedicated mentor from the University of Alberta who works closely with us to provide invaluable guidance for all six years and helps to facilitate our CaRMS applications. I am positive that my experiences at St Andrews have established a strong base on which I will be able to build my future life as a doctor."

Lindsey
Graduate of Dr EP Scarlett High School,
Calgary, AB



How to apply

Entrants will be Canadian citizens or domiciled with permanent residence rights. There are places for 20 students per year. Entry to Medicine at St Andrews is highly competitive and our entry requirements reflect this. We are looking for well-rounded, caring, responsive students who are high academic achievers and show the potential to become excellent medical practitioners.

Entry requirements

Detailed information on entry requirements can be found online:

[University of St Andrews Medicine A990 BSc](#)

All entrants must have sat the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) in the summer prior to entry the following year. The test booking deadline and final testing day are in mid- to late September; see UCAT website for details: [University Clinical Aptitude Test \(UCAT\)](#)

Application

Application deadlines will be displayed on the programme web pages.

Canadian students wishing to apply for this programme can apply directly to the University of St Andrews provided they are not applying to any other UK university. They may not apply for A100 at St Andrews and the A990 Programme concurrently:

[Find out about direct application](#)

Canadian students applying to more than one UK institution must use UCAS:

[Apply through UCAS](#)

Personal Statement

Students are encouraged to describe the background and reasoning that led to their choice of medicine as an academic subject and as a professional career. Applicants should ideally have gained experience in medical or healthcare settings and be able to demonstrate that they have a good understanding of what a medical career involves.

Reference

One academic reference is required and should include comments on personal qualities and suitability for a medical career.

Interviews

Those applicants who have a very strong academic record, meet our UCAT requirement and obtain a positive assessment of their non-academic qualities will be called for interview.

Conditions for clinical placements

Students are required to comply with the University and NHS standards of dress, behaviour and immunisation. Students will be subject to the standard UK Fitness to Practise regulations while studying.

Accommodation

All first-year students are guaranteed university-managed accommodation provided that they apply by the accommodation deadlines. There are various options and meal plans to suit individual tastes and requirements.

[University of St Andrews accommodation](#)

[University of Edinburgh accommodation](#)



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