

Welcome to Medicine

June 2026

We are delighted that you have chosen to study on the Scottish Graduate Entry Medicine (ScotGEM) Programme, and we look forward to both welcoming and meeting with you in September.

We find that students often share the same concerns and ask similar questions when commencing a new programme. Our [Launchpad](#) website addresses these common issues and provides a 'to do list' which will help you plan for your arrival and will ensure that you complete some essential tasks. You should check the Launchpad website periodically as it will be updated throughout the summer. At the beginning of September, you will be given web access to Solas (our online curriculum management system) where you will be able to view your Semester 1 timetable.

Orientation Week for Medical Students

The University, the Students' Association, Student Societies, the Halls of Residence and the Athletic Union organise an extensive programme of social and academic activities for all students during Orientation Week. You will find the details on the [New Undergraduate Students page for Medicine \(ScotGEM\)](#) and this will guide you through what you should do and when to do it. It aims to make the registration process as well as beginning your life as a student of the University of St Andrews run smoothly. The University [Orientation information](#) includes an Orientation App which will detail information for 2026 entrants.

In addition to these University events, the School of Medicine organises a programme during Orientation Week specifically tailored to meet the needs of new medical students. You will meet new colleagues, your clinical skills and GCM groups, you will hear from some key staff and senior students and be given lots of useful advice to help you prepare for the beginning of your course. A tour of the building will also be provided to help you orientate yourself within the School building.

On the ScotGEM Launchpad web site you will find advice relating to:

- **Disclosure and Professionalism** – you will complete an online Disclosure Scotland Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme application when your offer goes unconditional firm. You should send 3 forms of ID to medpvg@st-andrews.ac.uk early summer, details on this are included on Launchpad.
- **Occupational Health Questionnaire** – the questionnaire will be emailed to you by the Admissions Team once your offer becomes unconditional firm.
- **Skin Surveillance:** Read the NHS Tayside Statutory Skin Health Surveillance Record and skin hand advice form prior to completing and return the declaration before 19th August.
- **Recommended Textbooks** - information about the text books that have been selected to support your learning.
- **Stethoscopes, Pocket Masks, Protective Glasses and Laboratory White Coats** - which type to get and how/where to buy them. These are essential items for the course required from Week 1.
- **Clinical skills dress code** - some hints and tips to make sure you have some appropriate clothes and footwear for clinical skills teaching and clinical placements.

- **Computers** - important advice about computers and information about connecting your computer to the University network.
- The UG MBChB (ScotGEM) Student Contract captures the School's expectations of medical students in an agreement form. All students should be familiar with it before they arrive and must agree to follow the guidance and values expressed within it. You will have the opportunity to ask questions during orientation week about the agreement. The 2026-27 version will be uploaded to the School Handbook over the summer.
- **A link to the School's handbook** - this summarises key information about the University of St Andrews, the School of Medicine and the first year modules. This is an important document and you should be familiar with it before coming to St Andrews. It includes relevant policies on:-
 - University [disability advice website](#)
 - The School [policy for pregnancy & maternity / parental leave guidelines](#)
- **St Andrews Medic Freshers' social media** - this will be run by students from the School of Medicine. This is a point of contact with your new peers and a forum for informal chat about life as a medical student. The Bute Medical Society can be found on social media (Butemed Soc on Facebook and Instagram as @ButeMedics).

If your contact email address will change from an education email address over the summer, please ensure you update UCAS, My Application at University of St Andrews and medadmiss@st-andrews.ac.uk accordingly.

General questions relating to the course should be sent to the Curriculum Support Group on md2000@st-andrews.ac.uk. Queries regarding fees, visas etc should be sent via the University's [ask a question](#)

Once again, we are looking forward to meeting and working with you in September and wish you a safe journey to St Andrews.



Dr Rebecca Walmsley
Deputy Head of School (MBChB programmes)