

Dear offer holder

June 2025

You are holding an offer to study the ScotGEM programme at St Andrews. The offer is either unconditional or you are waiting for qualification results to meet the conditions we have set. You may have also decided to set us as your insurance option. If you have accepted, or are going to accept our offer, there are a number of preparatory activities we would like you to complete over the summer. Please ensure you have also visited the [University's pages for offer-holders](#)

Orientation week. The University and School's programme of induction will commence on Monday 8th September 2025. Orientation week comprises 5 full days of both University and course activity to which all students are expected to be present in St Andrews for. The first session will be held in the School Booth Lecture Theatre on Monday 8th September 2025 at 9.00am.

Learning Environment

Due to the practical nature of the medical courses, students cannot study remotely. Students will find it essential to have access to a laptop or mobile device to enable them to engage flexibly with teaching and supplementary learning resources as required throughout their studies. We recommend laptop devices capable of running Windows (10 or 11) or Apple devices (minimum MacOS 11). If you already own an alternative device and there is any software required to be used for teaching or assessment that cannot be installed on your device, a loan device will be available.

The GMC information on '[Welcome to Medicine](#)' includes information on support, guidance, tips, tools and resources for medical students.

Immunisations

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. 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.

Please remember to bring copies of any documentation related to your past vaccinations. If you have missed any scheduled immunisations and your situation allows please catch up with these prior to starting at St Andrews. In addition, students are strongly recommended to demonstrate evidence of or take vaccination for BCG, Hepatitis B, Varicella, Influenza and Covid.

Where a student cannot evidence to OH that they have had a BCG (TB) immunisation or have had a negative Mantoux or IGRA blood test done in the last 5 years they must be

screened and found non infectious prior to commencing clinical work, this includes placement activity.

Health

The personal health of a medical student is important for a range of reasons:

- a. Students must be fit to enter the course; be able to participate in the rigorous academic and practical programme and live independent lives.
- b. Students must be fit to study; able to learn, revise and sit exams.
- c. Students must be fit for practice; they should not pose a risk to patients nor be at risk from patients.
- d. Students must be fit to practice, that is they are likely to be fit to be registered as a doctor by the General Medical Council. To be registrable they must pose no risk to patients and must not damage the reputation of the medical profession.

HEOPS standards

The School of Medicine uses the standards defined by the Higher Education Occupational Health Physicians (HEOPS) to decide if a student is Fit to Enter the course. All applicants must read the HEOPS standards contained within the [School's health advice](#) and then complete the [MS Form](#). The MS form should be completed by 18th August. If you have any queries about this declaration, these can be emailed to medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk prior to completing the form.

Occupational Health questionnaire and Tayside Employee Skin Surveillance Declaration (ESSD)

All applicants will complete and return an Occupational Health Questionnaire which was sent previously by the Admissions Team. Information on Skin Surveillance declaration will be included in the next correspondence.

Declaring a Disability

As an offer holder the University can start the process of putting arrangements in place before you start your studies, and we recommend that you contact the disability team as soon as you have made an application to study here. Access the University page on [how to declare a disability](#).

Other relevant policies

School policy for [pregnancy & maternity / parental leave guidelines](#)

We will write to you again towards the end of June with advice on Freshers' Week, advice on textbooks and things to buy. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact us by emailing md2000@st-andrews.ac.uk.



Caroline Forbes
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