

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS
INFORMATION FOR ENTRANTS – St Andrews MBChB (including BSc Hons)

1. **Service Provider.** Occupational health services are provided for students at the University of St Andrews. The provision includes support to students requiring occupational health advice, treatment or assessment and inoculations and tests for communicable diseases in order to protect students, staff and NHS patients.
2. **Pre entry Questionnaire.** Students who have been made an unconditional offer must complete the pre-entry questionnaire to allow Occupational health to prepare a health record prior to matriculation.
3. **Immunisation History.** Students must research their own immunisation history to establish an immunisation record for their life to date, this probably involves a visit to their GP. Students are strongly encouraged to keep this record to prove their immunisation history through their studies and working life.
4. **Hepatitis B.** Students are strongly encouraged to complete a course of immunisation against the hepatitis B virus by the start of second year in order to fully participate in clinical placements. Students are encouraged to have the first, and if possible the second, Hep B vaccination before arriving in St Andrews.
5. **Occupational Health Clinics.** All students must attend the programmed clinics. Students may discuss their own health with Occupational Health staff. It is vital that students receive the necessary vaccinations in order to be cleared to visit NHS establishments.
6. **Registering with a GP.** Students are recommended to join a GP practice in St Andrews. Students with pre-existing conditions or who are on drug therapy should bring notes with them, particularly overseas students¹
7. **Information Sharing.** In order to provide any necessary adjustments or support to ensure on-going fitness during studies it is necessary for occupational health to share appropriate medical information with a limited number of school support staff on a 'need to know' basis. Such a transfer is covered by the School's data statement and is permissible under the data protection act. Students may be requested to sign a 'consent to share' medical information form.
8. Applicants who have declared a disability or health issue on application are invited to conduct a pre-entry health assessment early for three reasons:
 - a. It allows an applicant who has a health issue an opportunity to explore whether they meet the HEOPS guidelines on being fit to study medicine.
 - b. It allows an applicant to develop insight as to whether their conditions are compatible with a full medical career or if it may be anticipated that their practice may be restricted by health issues.
 - c. It allows the medical school to be ready to provide the right reasonable adjustment at the start of the course.

¹ Students from outside the UK may be prescribed drugs that are not available or are prescribed under a different brand name
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9. Such applicants are invited to complete the pre-entry questionnaire as described in para 2. NHS Fife Occupational Health staff will review the information. They may choose to:

- a. Speak to applicant, in person or by telephone.
- b. Speak to the applicant's GP or other treating physician.
- c. Refer the applicant for more specialist advice.

NHS Fife Occupational Health will then make a report to the applicant and the Medical School.

10. Any questions about the process please email md2000@st-andrews.ac.uk. Any questions about occupational health issues should be addressed to the Medical Student Support team in the first instance via medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk.