

**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 mental 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 ScotGEM Programme 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, Hep B, Hep C and HIV infection and necessary immunisations performed. All entrants are required to complete a course of immunisation against Hep B virus. Students who have had an infection with Hep B, Hep C or HIV are not precluded from training to be a doctor but should ensure that they are fully informed about any limits that this may place on their practice in the future. Students who wish to discuss further before making a decision should contact: [medsupport@scotgem.ac.uk](mailto:medsupport@scotgem.ac.uk) or [medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk), who will be able to provide advice on current policy. Please reference ScotGEM in the subject heading of all correspondence.
4. Acceptance onto the ScotGEM Programme is not a guarantee of acceptance onto clinical training if reasonable adjustments are not possible for clinical training or student's health conditions change.
5. **Confirmation.** Students must sign the confirmation slip below and return to School of Medicine; University of St Andrews back by 2nd August.

*I confirm that I have read the standards defined in the HEOPS policy and that I will alert the School of Medicine; University of St Andrews 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

Send to: ScotGEM Programme Support Administrator, School of Medicine Admin Office (HEOPS statement), MBSB, North Haugh, St Andrews, Fife. KY16 9TF. United Kingdom

## University of St Andrews - School of Medicine Handbook

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### Version Control Record *(expand table as required)*

Date	Revision Description	Major Changes
10/06/2021	Published version	