

**This letter will be sent to students holding an offer to start the Scottish Graduate Entry Medicine (ScotGEM) Programme (MB ChB) in September 2021.**

Dear student,

You are holding an offer to study the ScotGEM Programme at St Andrews. Either your offer is unconditional or you are waiting to hear about qualification results in order to meet the conditions we have set. 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, found here: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/offer-holders>

**Orientation week.** The University and School's programme of induction will commence on Monday 6th September.

Due to the current Covid-19 situation and the uncertainty regarding social distancing measures and travel restrictions, we are preparing to be able to deliver teaching under a dual-delivery model but aim to deliver as much in-person teaching as possible. The University updates their coronavirus information regularly here: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/coronavirus/>. Please note that remote online learning for medical students will not routinely be approved due to the requirement for practical teaching. 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.

#### Covid-19 students at increased risk

Most medical students fall into a low risk category in terms of experiencing severe symptoms of Covid-19. Medical Schools also recognise that they owe you a duty of care and will therefore carry out full risk assessments for all placements they ask you to undertake. There will be some students who are concerned due to their underlying health conditions, vulnerable dependents or increased caring responsibilities. A questionnaire will be sent to you over the summer to inform the School if you fall into an increased risk category. If you are concerned please email [medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk) to discuss.

**Immunisations:** If you can organise the requisite immunisations before starting the course that would be helpful, especially if you believe your initial weeks of study may be remote to St Andrews. Guidance is that all healthcare workers with patient contact should provide evidence to show immunity to Pertussis (whooping cough), TB, Measles, Rubella (german measles), Varicella (chicken pox) and Hepatitis B. *In addition, Covid-19 immunisation is encouraged if available.* Please remember to take copies of any documentation related to your past vaccination. If you have missed any scheduled immunisations and your situation allows please catch up with these.

**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 practise, 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 [School's advice](#), the HEOPS standards and complete the certificate by 2nd August. If you have any queries about this declaration, these can be emailed to [medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk) prior to signing the form.

**Occupational Health questionnaire.** All applicants must complete and return the NHS Tayside Occupational Health Pre-Placement Health Questionnaire that is attached to this email. Please read the covering letter which contains all the relevant advice and instructions and return the forms as soon as possible to:

NHS Tayside  
Occupational Health Service  
Wedderburn House  
1 Edward Street  
Dundee  
DD1 5NS

**Tayside Employee Skin Surveillance Declaration (ESSD).** Please complete the attached Skin surveillance declaration and return to: [scotgem-admin@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:scotgem-admin@st-andrews.ac.uk).

Please do not return the forms if you have declined, or intend to decline our offer.

**Other relevant policies:**

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

University [disability advice](#) website

We will write to you again in July 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 [scotgem-admin@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:scotgem-admin@st-andrews.ac.uk).



DC MASSON  
School Manager

