

Medicine Applicant Advice

Below is some advice from Jacob who is currently studying medicine at St Hugh's, we hope you find it helpful!

BMAT Test Advice

For the BMAT try to work at a relatively lower intensity for a longer time in the build-up to it to prepare, it's not a memory test so cramming won't help. From experience, given so much of your result depends on being prepared and ready on the day of the test, you're better off not working massively hard the day or two before and just trying to be rested up. It's obviously hard to force yourself to do that because all your instincts tell you otherwise but in hindsight I think if I'd done it more, I could've got a better result.

(Also look at the advice for Biomedical Sciences, as they also sit the BMAT)

Personal Statement Advice

A personal statement is less important for us than anyone else and you should remember that. Naturally you'll still want to make it as good as possible but try not to stress.

In terms of mentioning books you've read I'd say it's better to include less of a list and instead make sure you actually know a few inside out, rather than mentioning a bunch to seem impressive. It's just not worth trying to wing your way through by not reading a book properly. What I did (and would advise) was to focus on a bit of extra reading around a certain subject in your personal statement (eg. Neurology) – that way they can ask you to expand a little bit on what you read around that topic in your interview and you can't go too far wrong if you have focused on a subject you are interested in and have knowledge on. Besides, they really don't care too much about what books you have read, as long as you can demonstrate a passion for the course.

Interview Advice

All the standard tips about being yourself, acting confident but not cocky etc apply. Remember that they're not necessarily looking for a complete doctor or someone that knows everything there is to possibly know at the interview stage, so don't worry about the fact that others may have an advantage in this sense depending on the type of school they attended. Rather, they're looking for someone they can teach and someone they can mould into a complete doctor over the next six years. So try to be interested in their line of questioning (it will almost certainly be related in some way to their area of specialty) and look the tutors up beforehand to get a basic idea of who these people are – they're all probably going to have Wikipedia pages.

Also remember that with a lot of the questions they're asking they don't actually care what answer you give (and there isn't necessarily even a right answer). They care more about how your brain works, so tell them what your thought process is as you're thinking it through logically to arrive at an answer. If you're really stuck between two options tell them that and tell them why you're stuck, that's probably the best thing you can possibly do to show them that you're really thinking about both arguments and then they'll point you in a certain direction from there.

Good Luck!