

Your Guide to Applying to Medical School – *Part 1: Why medicine?*

If you are reading this, you are probably thinking about applying to medical school! Congratulations. Before you dive in deeper into the application process it is extremely important you clear up **YOUR** reasons for choosing a career in medicine. It’s not your parents or your best friend who will be going through medical school. It will be you who will have to put the hard work in. Many people come in with very different expectations of what medical school will be like and are surprised when they start! We would argue that a common mistake made by applicants in this crucial early stage is to think too superficially about the decision. Make sure you have spent time arguing with yourself whether you see yourself doing medicine – *Will you enjoy it? Are you willing to put the hard work in? Will you be able to deal with failure? Consider whether your reasons for wanting to do medicine will get you through any tough times you have.*

Most medical students would agree that they did not know what a career in medicine really involved until quite late into medical school. Yet, we all had done “work experience”. Most of us are just excited to be in a hospital environment so we watch everything with rose tinted spectacles. It means we don't necessarily discover why we want to be doctors. So it is really important to thoroughly think about it before applying. Why is this important to you? Because it is YOU who wants to do medicine. It’s not your parents or your best friend who will be going through medical school so this decision should not be taken lightly. You'll also be asked at interview and don't want to look as though you haven't properly considered it.