



IS MEDICINE FOR YOU?

Your pathway into healthcare

Preparing you for university success | www.catseducation.com



“I was encouraged to enter competitions to support my university application. I took a masterclass in Biochemistry and Genetics.”

Name: Wylan Wong | **Nationality:** Hong Kong Chinese
Studied: International Baccalaureate at CATS Canterbury
Destination: Imperial College, London | **Course:** Biotechnology

Wylan Wong scored 43 points in the IB Diploma, placing him in the top 1% of students in the world.

HELPING YOU INTO HEALTHCARE

Working in healthcare is varied, exciting and rewarding. There is a range of career paths, which include being a doctor, a biomedical scientist, a nurse or a psychologist. Whatever profession you choose, CATS Education will support you on your journey.

We will help you improve your academic knowledge and understanding, develop your English language skills and prepare a compelling university application so that you can apply for a healthcare course.

In addition to core tuition, you receive an additional package of support designed to improve your chances of university success.



HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT AND ADVICE

As well as regular one to one tutorials, you receive weekly classes looking at all aspects of applying to university to study a healthcare-related degree.

They cover:

- Intensive UCAS application support
- Interview preparation
- Mock interviews
- Support throughout the application process
- Seminars on topics such as ethics, current issues in healthcare and the medical school entrance tests: UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) and Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT).



HEALTHCARE INSIGHTS

We offer a programme of in-school lectures from leading healthcare researchers and medics. Recent lectures include:

- **Innovations in Pain Management:** Dr Ewan St. John Smith, Pharmacology at Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge
- **Polymer Chemistry:** Dr Stuart Clarke, Chemistry Research Fellow at Jesus College, University of Cambridge
- **Population Health:** Dr Stephen Jivraj, Institute of Epidemiology & Health, University College London
- **Living Positively:** Emma Cole, HIV education and awareness campaigner.



VOLUNTEERING SUPPORT

Volunteering is a way to gain and demonstrate practical skills. It also shows your commitment to a chosen career. We help you organise placements.

Recent CATS healthcare students have gained experience with:

- Hospitals, including a local head injuries unit which collaborates with the NHS
- Care homes
- Biology labs
- International charities such as the British Red Cross.



VISITS TO AND FROM MEDICAL SCHOOLS

Regular visits to and from medical schools give you an understanding of the demands of a healthcare degree. You will participate in lectures, talk with current undergraduates and meet with admissions tutors.

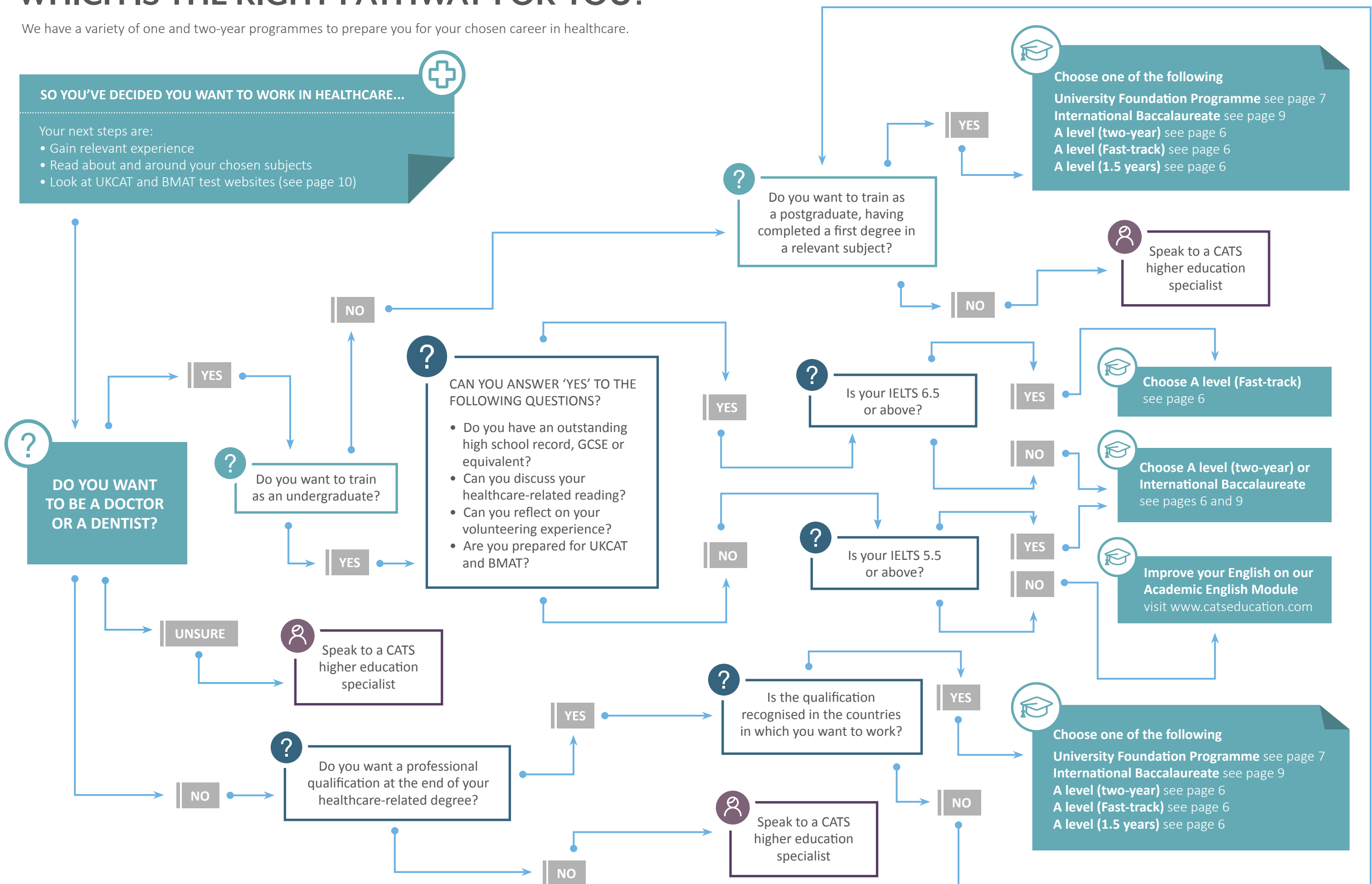
HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS

Some healthcare professions that past CATS students have entered include:

- Biomedical scientist
- Counsellor
- Dentist
- Dietician
- Doctor
- Radiographer
- Health advisor
- Psychologist
- Mental health nurse
- Midwife
- Nurse
- Occupational therapist
- Paramedic
- Pharmacist
- Physiotherapist

WHICH IS THE RIGHT PATHWAY FOR YOU?

We have a variety of one and two-year programmes to prepare you for your chosen career in healthcare.



A LEVEL PROGRAMME

A levels are the most common route for entry to higher education in the UK. To meet the minimum requirements for medicine or health-related degrees, you must take at least three A level subjects.

	Two-year	1.5-year	Fast-track (one-year)
Overview	A classic A level programme gives you the opportunity to develop in preparation for your degree.	If you show particular aptitude in your studies, this is for you.	For high achievers who can manage an intense and rigorous study programme.
Age	15.5+	15.5+	17+
Academic achievements	Good grades at GCSE (or equivalent qualifications). At least five A*/A.	Very good grades at GCSE (or equivalent qualifications). More than five A*/A.	Excellent grades at GCSE (or equivalent qualifications). All A*/A.
Language level	At least IELTS 5.5 or above	At least IELTS 6.5 or above	At least IELTS 6.5 or above
University application preparation progress	You are ready to start the process of completing your university application and take expert advice on relevant reading and volunteering (ideally some volunteering will already have been completed).	You are ready to start the process of completing your university application.	You are ready to complete your university application in the first month of the course.
		You have relevant volunteering experience and have read topical material.	You have relevant volunteering experience and have read topical material.
		You have started to prepare for UKCAT or BMAT.	You have already prepared for UKCAT or BMAT and gained a top decile UKCAT score.
Start date	September (six terms)	January (five terms)	September (three terms)
Weekly tuition in hours	25+	25+	30+
Availability	Cambridge Canterbury London	Cambridge Canterbury London	London
Class size	6		

SUBJECTS

All medical schools require Chemistry, some also require Biology. We recommend that anyone applying for healthcare-related courses take Chemistry and Biology. Mathematics and Physics are often recommended as a third option. Successful applicants have also taken Physics, Psychology, Sociology and Government & Politics. For subject summaries see page 8.

Most medical school offers are based on A*AA or higher. However, university entrance requirements vary.

ASSESSMENT

In some subjects, there is a small amount of assessment during the course, but mainly formal exams will be taken at the end of the course. These exams are set by government-approved examination boards.

A level results are published nationally in August every year. Your tutor will be available to discuss your results and next steps.



UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION PROGRAMME

Our outstanding one-year **University Foundation Programme: Science Pathway** is designed for international students. It acts as bridge from students’ high school education in their own country to a range of healthcare and life sciences degrees at UK universities.



Overview	Students wishing to improve their knowledge and grades in the sciences and develop their English language skills.
Age	16+
Academic achievements	Good grades at GCSE (or equivalent qualifications). At least five A*/A.
Language level	At least IELTS 5.5 or above
University application preparation progress	You are ready to apply for your chosen degree programme in November.
	If you are going to progress to a degree course in the next two years.
Start date	September (three terms)
Weekly tuition in hours	20+
Availability	Cambridge Canterbury London
Average class size	10

SUBJECTS

You will take a compulsory English module to develop your language skills in preparation for life at university in the UK. In addition, you choose three subjects in preparation for your chosen undergraduate programme.

Our higher education specialists will advise on subject combinations. For subject summaries refer to page 8.

For students wishing to study Medicine or Dentistry, you must follow either A level or International Baccalaureate.

ASSESSMENT

You take examinations in each subject at the end of the year. To ensure that you are well prepared you will also take mock exams mid-year. Most subjects have 30% coursework (written or practical work) which counts towards the overall grade.

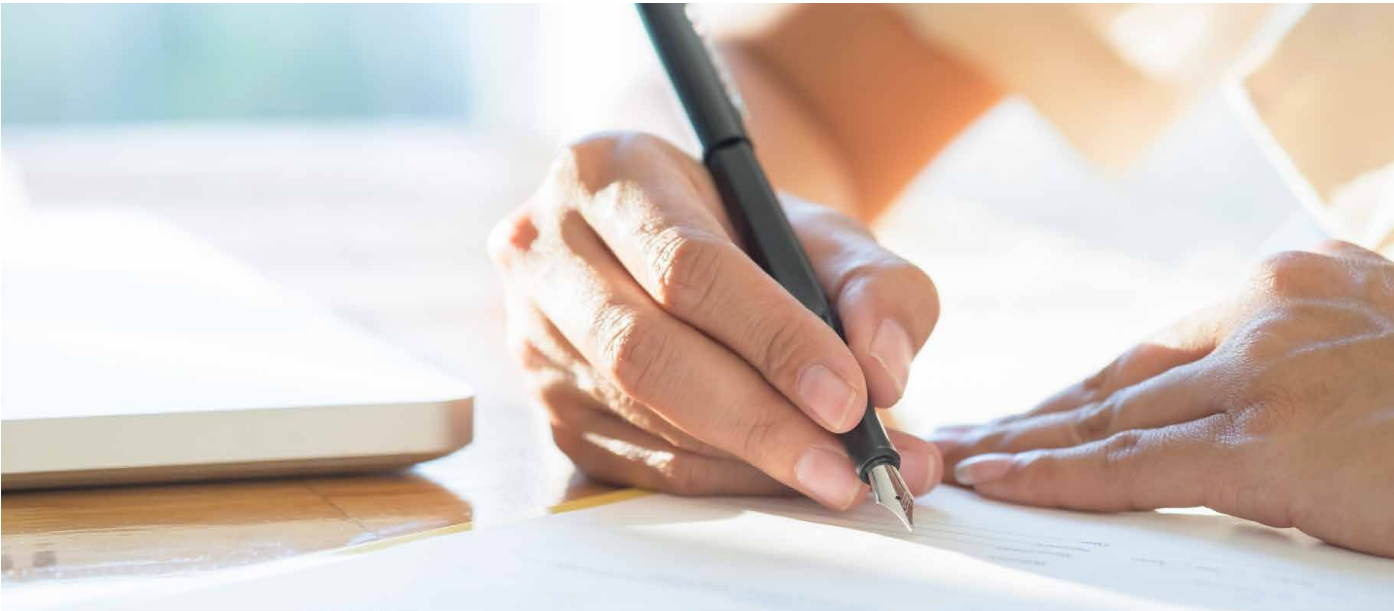
English is tested through an IELTS examination or one of the Cambridge Suite exams. You will take the test at the end of your course and results will form part of your university application.

Results are published in June. Grades range from A* (the highest possible grade) to U (ungraded).

SUBJECT SUMMARIES

If you choose A level or University Foundation Programme you take three subjects. For careers in healthcare you must usually select Chemistry and Biology. Many students then select Mathematics or Physics. However, CATS Education offers a wide range of other subjects too including Psychology, Sociology, Government and Politics. For a full list of subjects visit www.catseducation.com

In addition, you will take English. It is essential that you demonstrate high level English language skills to gain entry to university.



ENGLISH

In addition to improving general English in the areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking, you develop skills to cope with the language demands of your chosen subjects, through extensive grammar and vocabulary practice.

Depending on your selected programme of study, you prepare for the IELTS or Cambridge Suite of exams and take it as part of your programme. For more details on the exams, refer to page 11.



BIOLOGY

You learn about living organisms, their physiology, anatomy, behaviour and origin. You develop investigative, analytical and critical skills, as well as essential study skills such as communication and problem solving.



CHEMISTRY

You conduct practical laboratory work, combined with the study of topics such as mechanics, materials, electricity, magnetic fields, waves and quantum physics. You learn about this branch of science which is concerned with the nature and properties of matter and energy.



MATHEMATICS

You develop an understanding of the mathematics and mathematical processes commonly used in the scientific, technological and financial worlds, to interpret, explain, and evaluate the results of mathematical arguments in a range of different situations.

You learn to communicate this information clearly and logically in appropriate form using graphs, tables and specialist notation.



PHYSICS

You have supervised laboratory experiments in order to develop practical skills and encourage critical thinking and problem solving. You also develop investigative, analytical and leadership skills.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma is an internationally-recognised programme obtained after two years of studying (6 terms). The programme is demanding but rewarding and encourages independent thinking and creativity.

Overview	Suited to students who want to explore a broad subject range and enjoy independent research.
Age	16+
Academic achievements	Good grades at GCSE (or equivalent qualifications). At least five A*/A.
Language level	At least IELTS 5.5 or above
University application preparation progress	You are ready to start the process of completing your university application, and to take expert advice on relevant reading and volunteering (ideally some volunteering will already have been completed).
Start date	September (6 terms)
Weekly tuition in hours	32+
Availability	Canterbury
Average class size	8



SUBJECTS

Students study six subjects, choosing three at higher level and three at standard level. Students choose one subject from each of the six groups. For a pathway to Medicine or a Life Sciences degree we recommend:

- **Group 1-3: Optional subjects**
- **Group 4: Biology or Physics**
- **Group 5: Mathematics**
- **Group 6: Chemistry**

In addition to the six subjects, you also study three core areas to broaden your education.

Theory of Knowledge (ToK): An introduction to the critical evaluation of all knowledge. The core modules encourage students to question, explore theory and use critical thinking.

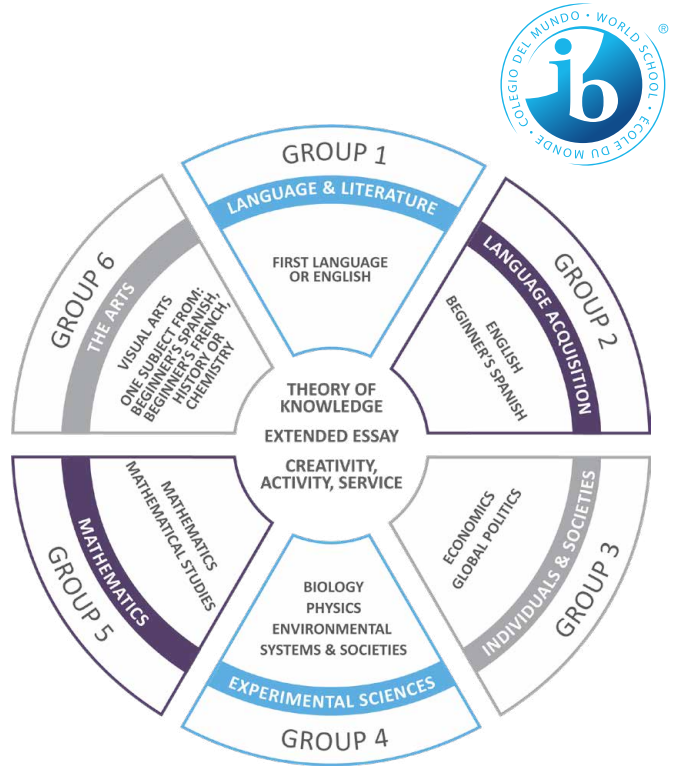
Extended Essay (EE): You undertake a research project and write a 4,000-word essay based on a personal theme. We recommend that students seeking a career in healthcare choose a topic specific to their area of intended study.

Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS): A programme of arts, sports and community service that helps you become a reflective, open-minded individual. Community service activity will be designed to support your university application and could include work with a charity, a care home or hospital.

ASSESSMENT

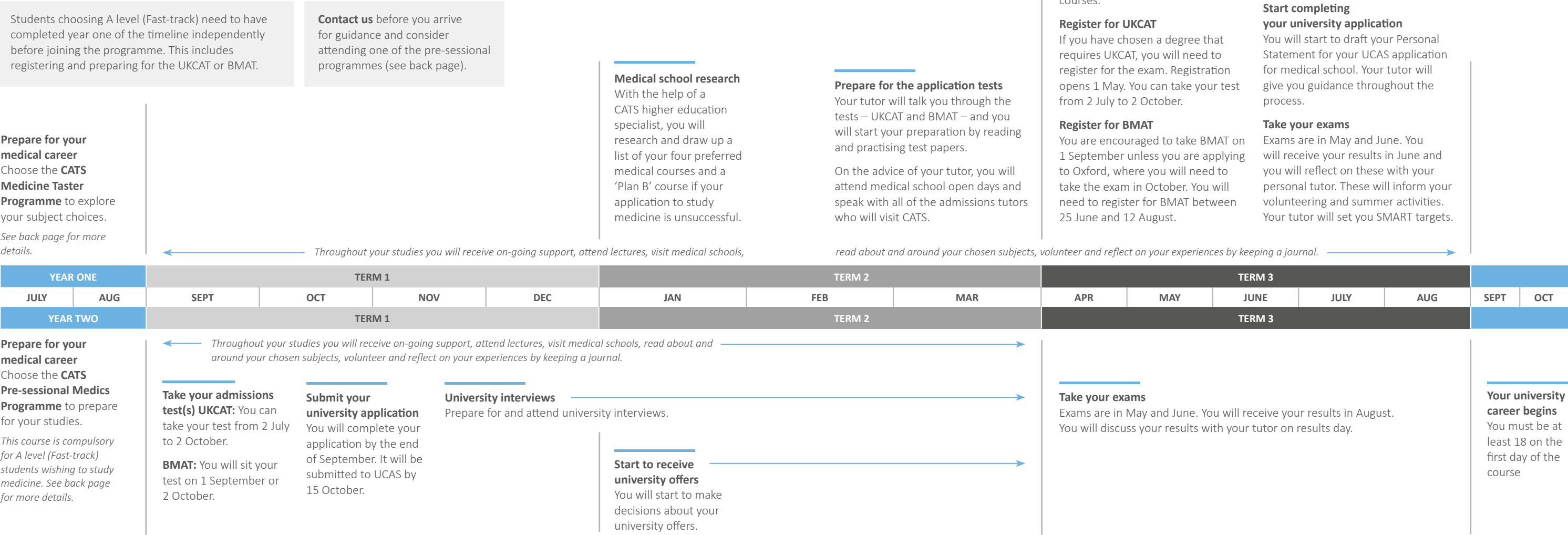
Subjects are assessed through coursework. This counts towards your overall grade. You also take examinations at the end of the second year (May and June).

IB results are published every July. The IB Diploma is marked on a numbered scale. Each of the six subjects taken is marked out of seven, and there are an extra three points available for the Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge parts. To gain the Diploma, you need at least 24 points, and the maximum score available for the most academically gifted students is 45 points.



APPLYING TO MEDICAL SCHOOL

A timeline for students choosing a two-year study programme.



APTITUDE TESTS

Most universities require one of two tests – BMAT or UKCAT. These tests are used in collaboration with the UCAS application and interviews.

THE BIOMEDICAL ADMISSIONS TEST (BMAT)

An admissions test for Medicine, Biomedical Science and Dentistry courses at certain universities such as: University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, Imperial College London and University College London.

TEST FORMAT

There are three sections to the test:

1. Aptitude and Skills: 1 hour (35 multiple-choice questions)
2. Scientific Knowledge and Applications: 30 minutes
3. Writing Task: 30 minutes

RESULTS

There is no pass/fail threshold for the test. Results are issued to you via an online system approximately eight weeks after the test has been taken. Results also go to any BMAT institution you have applied to. There is some variation in how different institutions make use of the results.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/bmat/

THE UK CLINICAL APTITUDE TEST (UKCAT)

An admissions test used by a consortium of UK universities for their medical and dental degree programmes. The UKCAT does not contain any curriculum or science content. It helps UK universities select applicants with the most appropriate mental abilities, attitudes and professional behaviours required for new doctors and dentists to be successful in their clinical careers.

TEST FORMAT

The UKCAT is a two-hour computer-based test which assesses a range of mental abilities identified by university medical and dental schools as important. It consists of five separately timed subtests which each contain a number of questions in a multiple-choice format.

RESULTS

You will get the results when you exit the testing room on the day of your test.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.ukcat.ac.uk/ukcat-test

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTS

At CATS, we provide five hours of English language tuition each week to develop your language skills and help prepare for an English language exam, either the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or Cambridge English suite of exams.

THE INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM (IELTS)

IELTS measures the language proficiency of people who want to study or work where English is used as a language of communication. Typically 7.5 is the minimum IELTS score for those wishing to study a healthcare-related subject at a UK university, although each institution has their own criteria.

TEST FORMAT

The IELTS test assesses your abilities in listening (30 mins), reading (60 mins), writing (60 mins) and speaking (11-14 mins). The listening, reading and writing components of IELTS are completed on the same day. The speaking component is completed up to a week before or after the other tests.

RESULTS

IELTS results will be available 13 days after the test is taken and can be previewed online.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

www.ielts.org/

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH

The Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) and Proficiency (CPE) are exams aimed at test takers with advanced English. They are thorough and challenging exams that are well respected worldwide and are accepted by all UK universities. The test can be completed on paper or online.

TEST FORMAT

The CAE and CPE test English across four skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. As part of the reading test there is a 'use of English' section which drills down into grammatical and word-use knowledge.

RESULTS

The computer-based test results are available within two weeks, while the paper-based test takes six weeks. Results are reported in grades A, B and C, and the certificate gives a detailed breakdown of the various component test scores on the Cambridge Scale of English.

FURTHER INFORMATION

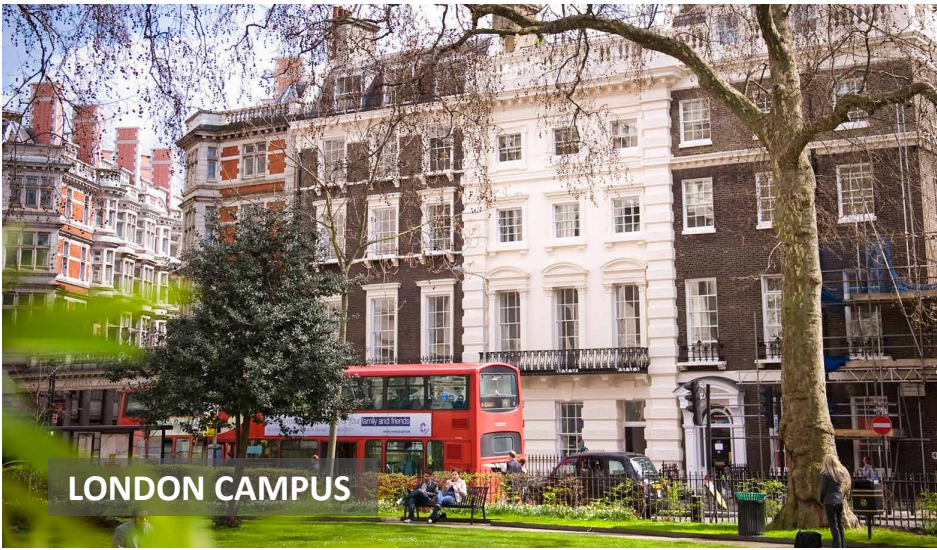
www.cambridgeenglish.org/

OUR CAMPUSES

CATS Education has three international boarding schools located in the UK – Cambridge, Canterbury and London. All schools offer state-of-the-art facilities from science labs to art studios and fully catered modern en-suite accommodation. You will have the opportunity to make friends from over 80 countries around the world. Pastoral and boarding staff are experts in helping you settle in and gain the most from these stunning locations.



EN-SUITE
BOARDING
AT EVERY CAMPUS



STUDENT DESTINATIONS

From 2012 to 2017, 173 CATS students progressed to study medicine or health-related degrees. 163 students went to UK universities, 10 students went to universities in other countries including the USA, Spain and Japan.

76%

of all Medicine and health-related pathway students progressed to a Russell Group university.

Russell Group universities taught 80% of doctors and dentists trained in the UK in 2015-16.

THE RUSSELL GROUP

The Russell Group represents 24 leading UK universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the public sector.

POPULAR LIFE SCIENCES SUBJECTS

CATS students chose the following subject degrees.



BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

42%



MEDICINE

15%



PHARMACY

13%



NEUROSCIENCE

4%

OTHER DEGREES

Nursing
Biology
Chemistry
Natural Sciences
Veterinary Medicine

26%

CATS medicine and health-related pathway students have progressed to

19 OF THE 24

following Russell Group universities:

- Cardiff University
- Durham University
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- Newcastle University
- Queen Mary, University of London
- Queen's University Belfast
- University College London
- University of Birmingham
- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Leeds
- University of Liverpool
- University of Manchester
- University of Nottingham
- University of Sheffield
- University of Warwick
- University of York

OTHER DESTINATIONS INCLUDE:

- Exeter University
- Keele University
- University of Bath
- University of Surrey
- Royal Holloway University of London

STUDENT PROGRESSIONS

All of the UK's top 40 universities have accepted CATS UK students.



FAVOUR'S STORY

"For an international student to get into Nursing it is very hard. The Higher Education officer really helped in my application. She found universities I could apply to as a foundation programme student. She was extremely helpful throughout and is still very happy to help. She is very proud of me."

Name: Favour Osahioria Adoghe
Nationality: Nigerian
Studied: University Foundation Programme at CATS Cambridge
Destination: Keele University
Course: Nursing



Name: Vladislav Murzakov
Nationality: Cypriot
Studied: A level at CATS Cambridge
Destination: St George's University, London
Course: Medicine



Name: Ana-Alina Haiduc
Nationality: Romanian
Studied: A level at CATS Cambridge
Destination: St George's University, London
Course: Medicine



Name: Natasha Low
Nationality: Singaporean
Studied: A level at CATS London
Destination: University College, Dublin
Course: Chemistry

OUR SUMMER PROGRAMMES

Try one of our exciting medic short courses. After completing one of these courses, if you enrol on one of our one or two-year healthcare pathway programmes the following year, we will refund your summer school fees.

FREE
SUMMER COURSE*
subject to terms and conditions

MEDICINE TASTER PROGRAMME

CANTERBURY, REGISTER NOW FOR JULY



You will learn about the world of medicine, gain a headstart in your university applications, discover different medical career options and understand what is required in your UKCAT and BMAT preparation. This course will also help you to define which subjects to commit to at A level, International Baccalaureate or Foundation.

Meet with industry professionals

Introduction to Oxbridge, Russell Group universities and medical schools

Mock interviews

University open days and tours

Academic study

Skills workshops

Social programmes

Kett House, Station Road
Cambridge, CB1 2JH
United Kingdom
T: +44 (0)1223 345 698
F: +44 (0)1223 346 181
E: admissions@catseducation.com
www.catseducation.com



CATS Education is part of
Cambridge Education Group

FOR SPECIALIST ADVICE CONTACT:

CAMBRIDGE
studentservices@catscambridge.com

CANTERBURY
studentservices@catscanterbury.com

LONDON
studentservices@catslondon.com

*If you enrol on one of our full-time pathway programmes the following year.

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