OpenLearn



Studying medicine bilingually







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Studying medicine bilingually

Are you interested in studying medicine at university? If so, this resource is for you. It introduces a number of the factors that you need to think about when applying to study medicine, and outlines some of the particular advantages of studying medicine bilingually at university.

How do I apply for medicine?



There are several paths to studying medicine at Cardiff University. Cardiff is the only university where you can study medicine bilingually at an undergraduate level. You can also apply for the graduate medicine degree at Swansea University where some material is offered bilingually. You can:

- apply straight from A-Levels
- apply with another degree
- start with a feeder degree, for example biomedical sciences.

Don't give up if you don't have the necessary GCSEs. With a bit of perseverance, you can still follow your dream of studying medicine.

For the most up to date details of the academic requirements for admission, make sure you check online or contact Cardiff Medical School at: medadmissions@cf.ac.uk to have a chat about your situation.

You will be accepted to study medicine on the basis of three scores:

academic qualifications



- non-academic qualifications
- an interview.

Exceptional circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis with every application.

In addition to the required academic qualifications, applicants are assessed on a range of other non-academic criteria. You need to be able to show the selectors that you have:

- insight into medicine as a career; for example, through work experience
- a caring attitude and sense of social awareness; for example, through voluntary work in a hospice
- a sense of responsibility; for example, through a role such as team captain or head of a society
- a balanced approach to life; for example, having interests outside of your studies
- evidence of self-directed learning; for example the Baccalaureate Individual Investigation
- team-working skills; for example, through membership of a club.

The important thing is demonstrating what you've learnt through these experiences, and being able to articulate what has motivated you to pursue a career in medicine.

Have you considered studying medicine through the medium of Welsh?

Did you know you can study medicine bilingually at Cardiff University? Here's why you might want to think about it...





We need more doctors who can speak to patients in both Welsh and English.

The Welsh Government is committed to delivering high-quality health service that are centred on patients' needs and outcomes. The 'More than just words' strategic framework identifies that many people in Wales can only communicate and participate effectively in their care and support as equal partners effectively through the medium of Welsh. NHS Wales therefore has a responsibility to meet people's linguistic needs and only by doing this can it provide a service that is safe and effective.

In addition, the Welsh Government's 'One million Welsh speakers by 2050' consultation paper sets out an ambition to create a Wales that responds in a planned way to the growing demand for Welsh-medium education. The plan is to increase the number of people learning and able to use the language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.

The aim is to create the conditions whereby everyone in Wales will have access to the Welsh language, and that every speaker, regardless of their level of ability, should be able to choose to use their Welsh language skills and receive encouragement and support to further develop their skills if they so wish, in an inclusive and positive environment.

Students studying bilingually also report that they are more confident when contributing to groups in Welsh. Students report higher student satisfaction levels according to the independent Teaching Excellence Framework data.

Our aim is to produce graduates who are confident with working in both Welsh and English. Take a look at the video below to find out about a student's experience of learning medicine through the medium of Welsh.





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