

TIPS FOR GETTING INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL

Duncan Cooper



About me

- ▶ Grew up in Dollar
- ▶ Currently a 5th Year Medical Student at the University of Edinburgh
- ▶ Intercalated in Reproductive Biology
- ▶ Interested in Paediatrics, A&E, Endocrinology, GP
- ▶ Play in ceilidh bands and teach UCAT in summer
- ▶ Enjoy music, sport, languages, travelling, the Big Cheese



Want to be a Doctor?

- ▶ Teamwork
- ▶ Leadership and responsibility
- ▶ Good work ethic
- ▶ Never stop learning
- ▶ Compassionate and caring
- ▶ Travel opportunities



How do I get in?



- ▶ Highers – each medical school different
- ▶ Most want chemistry then some combination of biology/physics/math
- ▶ <https://www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/applications/entry-requirements>
- ▶ If you're not sure, just ask!
- ▶ Advanced Highers – couple of relevant ones

How do I get in? (2)

- ▶ Life outside school so important!



Volunteer



How do I get in? (3)



▶ Work Experience

- ▶ Try to get a variety – GP, hospital, district nurses etc
- ▶ Keep a reflective diary/logbook each day you do, will help you a lot further down the line

▶ Personal Statement

- ▶ ~500 words about you
- ▶ Be as reflective as possible



How do I get in? (4)



- ▶ More exams 😞
- ▶ Scottish universities all use the UCAT
 - ▶ Multiple choice
 - ▶ 5 sections, very time pressured
- ▶ Some universities in the Rest of UK use BMAT
- ▶ Make sure you prepare

How do I get in? (5)

▶ Interviews

▶ Tips:

- ▶ Know your personal statement well
- ▶ Practice the classic questions – don't make them scripted though
- ▶ Dress smartly
- ▶ Have a good knowledge of current health-related news
- ▶ Smile!

Now I'm in - where should I go?

- ▶ Course structures vary
 - ▶ First few years focus more on science – lectures, PBL, essays etc.
 - ▶ Progressively more clinical as years go by
- ▶ Intercalation – compulsory vs. optional
- ▶ Make sure you like the city, go to the open days
- ▶ Lots of travelling to different places

Life as a Medical Student...



...and outside of Medicine!

