Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB)

The SMART Curriculum

As one of the youngest institutions to be ranked among the world’s top medical schools, the Faculty of Medicine of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK Medicine) is reputable for being innovative and forward-thinking. In addition to conducting high impact research, the nurturing of competent and compassionate medical graduates is an important mission of the faculty.

As the traditional system-based and problem-based learning models can no longer meet the expectations of tomorrow's doctors, CUHK Medicine is pleased to launch a unique MBChB programme - the SMART curriculum - to nurture our future doctors who will make a difference to the world.

Prince of Wales Hospital
(Teaching hospital of CUHK Medicine)
Student-centred
We see things through the eyes of our students, understanding their needs and walking them through their difficulties. Our students are inspired to undertake self-directed learning and are equipped to be active learners. Students are motivated to make the most of their potential and will be given ample opportunities to pursue their academic interests.

Mentorship-based
Our teachers do much more than simply transferring knowledge. They have the interests of their students at heart, see the potential in each student, and have the passion and ability to bring out the best in them.

Assured Knowledge Acquisition
Students build solid foundations in medical science in the initial years. Well-structured bridging courses are provided to ease the transition from pre-clinical to clinical training. The flexible curriculum allows our students to acquire knowledge, skills, and competence through a variety of innovative platforms.

Robust Clinical Teaching
Our clinical training begins in the early years. Students acquire clinical competence through a well-designed programme consisting of simulation training, bedside teaching, clinical attachment in centres of excellence, and a pre-internship course before they graduate and work as interns in various hospitals in Hong Kong.

Teach Bioethics, Communication Skills, and Professionalism
We strongly believe that good doctors are defined not by how much they know about the diseases but by how well they care for people suffering from diseases. A significant proportion of the SMART curriculum is dedicated to the learning of important bioethical values and principles, as well as the cultivation of effective and empathic communication skills and professionalism, which are essential attributes of tomorrow’s doctors. Professionalism is emphasised throughout the six years and students are given ample support and advice with respect to professionalism-related issues.

“A positive and inspiring learning experience is essential for students to have their potential fully developed. CUHK Medicine is pleased to launch the SMART curriculum. This unique curriculum is designed using a student-centred and mentorship-based approach, which can help ensure a smooth transition from secondary school to university study for our students. With early clinical training and various teaching platforms, we believe that our students are able to acquire knowledge and skills in the most effective manner. Life as a medical student at CUHK is enriched by the support of very friendly and caring teachers and staff. This supportive learning environment has become a CUHK Medicine hallmark. Students are truly nurtured here.”
## The Six-year Curriculum

We offer a six-year medicine programme. The first year is the foundation year; students will learn the basic scientific knowledge and concepts to be applied in subsequent pre-clinical and clinical studies.

Our medical education is more than vocational training. All medical students are benefited from the general education which is a unique strength of CUHK. Students have ample opportunities to learn humanities and other knowledge beyond medicine through the entire curriculum to expand their knowledge and develop their intellectual capacity.

Year 2 and Year 3 offer mainly pre-clinical science training. Students are provided with a solid, comprehensive, and continually updated grounding in biomedical sciences with some community exposure.

Clinical skills training is introduced in pre-clinical years. Bridging courses are offered before students are promoted to Year 4 to further equip our students with the essential pathology knowledge and clinical skills.

In Year 4, students will acquire the skills and knowledge of handling basic clinical problems through clinical attachment to the Prince of Wales Hospital, our primary teaching hospital and other partner hospitals. Anatomical pathology and clinical haematology, chemical pathology, clinical microbiology, medicine and surgery are covered.

In Year 5, students rotate in four clinical disciplines: community and family medicine, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, and psychiatry. At the end of Year 5, students will broaden their learning, research, and clinical horizons through

### Year 1 - Foundation Year
- Health Sciences
- Systemic Anatomy
- Cells and Tissues
- Public Health

### Years 2-3 - Pre-clinical Years
- Human Structure
- Human Function
- Molecular Medicine and Genetics
- Basic Pathology

### Year 4 - Clinical Year
- Anatomical Pathology and Clinical Haematology
- Chemical Pathology
- Clinical Microbiology
- Medicine and Surgery
- Research Module

### Year 5 - Clinical Year
- Clinical Rotations in Medicine and Surgery
- Clinical Skills Modules
- Advanced Life Support
- Doctor and Patient

### Year 6 - Clinical Year
- Law, Society and Medicine
- Clinical Communication Skills
- Professionalism

### Year 7 - Clinical Year
- Law, Society and Medicine
- Clinical Communication Skills
- Professionalism

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**Table:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Years 2-3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Knowledge</strong></td>
<td><strong>Clinical Training</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bioethics, Communication Skills, Professionalism and General Education</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| - Health Sciences  
- Systemic Anatomy  
- Cells and Tissues  
- Public Health | - Basic Life Support  
- Clinical Skills Practical  
- Clinical Anatomy and Clinical Skills  
- Basic Life Support  
- Doctor and Patient | - Bioethics and Humanities  
- Communication Skills  
- Professionalism  
- General Education |
| - Human Structure  
- Human Function  
- Molecular Medicine and Genetics  
- Basic Pathology | - Clinical Skills Practical  
- Clinical Anatomy and Clinical Skills  
- Basic Life Support  
- Doctor and Patient | - Bioethics and Humanities  
- Ethics and Society  
- Communication Skills  
- Professionalism  
- General Education |
| | | - Law, Society and Medicine  
- Clinical Communication Skills  
- Professionalism |
In Year 6, students will go through rotations for further clinical teaching in medicine, surgery and other clinical disciplines including anaesthesia and intensive care, clinical oncology, diagnostic imaging and interventional radiology, emergency medicine, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, orthopaedics and traumatology. Students are scheduled to work with interns and clinical teams in their day-to-day clinical duties under the supervision of more senior doctors. Pre-internship training ensures that our students will have a smooth transit to become safe and competent interns.

Throughout the six-year curriculum, training in bioethics, communication skills, and professionalism will be offered to our students. These are all important attributes of our graduates before they are competent and ready to serve the community as junior doctors.

CUHK graduates have been well known for their good attitude and dedication. I am proud to be one of them!"
Admission

We set out to recruit the very best students. We not only look for academic ability, but also students with a keen interest in medical discipline, high ethical standards, good communication skills, leadership potential, the ability to work as a team, and a strong desire to serve people.

We take in 235 students a year and do not set specific quotas for JUPAS and non-JUPAS places as we prefer to select the students we consider most capable and best suited to become tomorrow’s generation of new doctors.

We accept students who rank in the top 1% or higher in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) or equivalent standards for other non-JUPAS categories.

The tables below list the minimum requirements of HKDSE in terms of subjects and the grade required for each respective subject to apply for the MBChB programme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Subject(s)</th>
<th>Minimum Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Language</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics Compulsory Part</td>
<td>3</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elective Subject(s)</th>
<th>Minimum Level</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any 1 subject (1)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any 1 subject (2)</td>
<td>3</td>
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Notes:
(1) Chemistry is preferred.
(2) Biology is preferred.

Taking a third elective and/or Mathematics Extended Part Module 1 or 2 is strongly recommended. We use the total score of all subjects (4 cores + 2 or 3 electives) to rank the students. As a result, students who take 7 subjects (4 cores + 3 electives) will have an advantage over students who only take 6 subjects (4 cores + 2 electives). The conversion of examination grades to scores works as follows: $5^{**} = 7$, $5^{*} = 6$, $5 = 5$, $4 = 4$, $3 = 3$. The extended Mathematics module contributes to the total HKDSE score if the grade in that module is better than the worst of the 3 best electives. Please refer to our faculty website for calculating the total score if the extended Mathematics module is included.
Admission Interviews
Students will usually be invited to an admission interview if they achieve the minimum scores. Interviews, which last for around 15 minutes, will be conducted in English by senior professors, outstanding medical alumni or distinguished leaders in the community.

Application
JUPAS applications are made through the JUPAS office and applicants’ schools.
Non-JUPAS applications are made via the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid (OAFA). The latest information on the programmes and courses offered is available on the faculty website at www.med.cuhk.edu.hk.

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