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Summer School

College Pathways

COURSE OVERVIEW

Faculty of Medicine

14-17yrs

Dukes Cambridge Summer School

At a glance

Introduction to Faculty of Medicine

The Faculty of Medicine offers a rigorous and immersive programme designed for students who aspire to make a difference in the field of healthcare. This course combines in-depth medical knowledge with practical skills, preparing you to take on the challenges of a medical career with confidence and compassion.

Academic Content

20 hours of subject-specific academic content per week with an experienced subject tutor, delivered through interactive seminars and hands-on practical workshops.

English Language Level

Students require a minimum English level of B1+ to enrol onto this programme.

About the programme

The Faculty of Medicine at Dukes Cambridge gives you a focused introduction to medical study. Over two weeks you'll cover anatomy, physiology and medical ethics while practising the skills that shape clinical care.

The course builds a solid grounding in how the body works and how disease is understood and treated. You'll study pathology, pharmacology and diagnostics, learning how healthcare professionals approach the prevention and management of illness.

Practical work is central. You'll take part in clinical simulations and workshops where you practise key skills: taking patient histories, carrying out basic examinations and providing first responses in emergencies. These sessions are designed to give you confidence in applying knowledge in realistic settings.

You'll also work in teams, discussing cases and completing group projects that reflect the collaborative nature of medicine. This develops both subject knowledge and the ability to communicate and problem-solve alongside others.

Studying medicine at Dukes Cambridge gives you a strong foundation for future study and clinical training. Whether you aim to practise as a doctor, move into research or lead in healthcare, this programme provides the skills and insight needed to take the first step.

Key Learning Outcomes

1.

Build a foundation in medical science

Study anatomy, physiology and pathology to understand how the human body functions and how illness develops.

2.

Examine the principles of medical ethics

Explore the responsibilities of healthcare professionals, focusing on consent, confidentiality and ethical decision-making.

3.

Practise essential clinical skills

Take part in workshops and simulations that cover patient history, examination techniques and basic emergency care.

4.

Work collaboratively in clinical settings

Join peers in case discussions and group projects that reflect the teamwork central to modern healthcare.

Subject Theme

The Challenge Lab

The Cambridge Challenge Lab gives students the chance to turn ideas into action. Over the course of the challenge, you'll take what you've learned in class – concepts, theories, and creative approaches – and put them to the test. Each subject sets its own challenge: scientists run live demos, medics work through clinic simulations, psychologists design social experiments, business students act as consultants, and artists create large-scale installations. English students launch a full publication, taking on the roles of writers, editors, and designers. The Lab becomes a space where experimentation meets presentation, where you'll learn how to move from planning to execution, and from individual thinking to group collaboration. The week culminates in a showcase where projects are demonstrated, performed, or displayed in real time, allowing the audience to see the full journey from theory to practice.

Fundamental concepts

Medicine introduces students to the foundations of medical reasoning. They explore how doctors gather evidence, weigh possibilities, and reach decisions under time pressure. The focus is on diagnosis and problem-solving, but also on communication — the ability to explain choices clearly and responsibly to patients or the public.

Faculty of Medicine Frameworks

The project follows the structure of clinical simulation. Students are given a case or scenario, ranging from an individual patient with symptoms to a wider public health problem. Working in teams, they collect information, discuss possible causes, and propose interventions. The framework mirrors the process used in medical training, where simulation is a bridge between theory and real-world practice.

Foundational Vocabulary

Diagnosis, symptoms, prognosis, treatment, intervention, prevention, epidemiology, triage, public health, risk, patient, case study.

Time to Shine

Time to Shine gives every student the chance to practise public speaking in a structured setting. By researching, preparing and delivering a project to an audience, you build confidence in expressing ideas clearly and develop the ability to present with authority. It's an opportunity to refine communication skills that are valuable for academic study, professional life and beyond.

The showcase is staged as a live clinical or public health simulation. Students step into the role of medical teams, presented with a case in real time. They outline their reasoning, describe possible diagnoses, and explain the treatment or intervention they would pursue. The audience sees the flow of decision-making as it happens, reflecting how medicine combines knowledge, logic, and teamwork under pressure.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE | 14-17 YRS | B1+ | 2 WEEKS | DUKES CAMBRIDGE SUMMER SCHOOL

Time to Shine Project: Week One

Run a clinic scenario focused on individual diagnosis. Students receive a case with a set of symptoms – perhaps fatigue, fever, or chest pain – and must decide what questions to ask, what information matters most, and which diagnoses are most plausible. They then present their chosen course of action and justify it to the audience.

Time to Shine Project: Week Two

Take on a public health challenge such as a local outbreak or a nutrition crisis. The task is to design a campaign or plan that addresses the wider population, balancing medical evidence with communication strategies. Students show how medicine moves beyond the clinic to safeguard entire communities.

Case Study

Bridging Theory and Real World Application

Medical thinking is used in many areas, not only in hospitals. Aid workers use the same skills when they respond to emergencies such as earthquakes or disease outbreaks. Governments rely on doctors and health experts to plan campaigns about vaccines, exercise, or healthy eating. Companies use medical knowledge to design new medicines, safer workplaces, and health technologies. Schools and universities also use clinic-style simulations to train future doctors and nurses. By running their own simulation, students see how medical ideas are applied in real situations that affect whole communities.

Fieldwork Research

Students extend their work by examining how health decisions play out in everyday environments. They might conduct short observational studies of patterns such as hydration, physical activity, or stress management among their peers. Using these observations, teams then design simple but persuasive health interventions — for example, a poster campaign or a practical behavioural nudge — to demonstrate how public health draws from lived reality as well as clinical expertise.

Academic Difficulty

No prior experience is needed to take part in this subject. Every student is welcome, whether or not they've studied the subject before. Key ideas and terms are introduced step by step, and all materials are provided during the course. The emphasis is on participation, teamwork, and curiosity, so students can contribute fully and grow in confidence as they prepare for the final showcase.

In-Person Programme Benefits

Academic Coaching

Throughout the course, you will receive ongoing academic coaching designed to support your development. Our experienced tutors will provide you with personalised feedback, help you refine your study techniques, and guide you in developing the critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential for a career in medicine.

Certificate of Achievement & Reference Letter

On completion of your programme, you will receive a Certificate of Achievement from Dukes Cambridge, recognising the knowledge and skills developed during your studies. A personalised Letter of Reference is also available on request, providing an account of your progress and commitment. Both serve as valuable additions to your academic portfolio.

Secure your place

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