

Key Facts Mature Entry to Medicine

University of Galway is an undergraduate medical school. The mature entry route is designed as a widening access route. University of Galway is committed to widening participation in higher education. Mature entrants bring a wealth of knowledge and experience with them and in the School of Medicine we believe that this enriches our medical programme. This route has a limit, of up to a maximum of 3 places per year, and entry to it is highly competitive. Because there are many facets to being a good doctor, our selection process evaluates applicants across a broad range of domains.

Entry Requirements

1. Eligibility for mature entry to medicine is based on age and domicile requirements – please see the mature entry webpage for full details [Mature Students - University of Galway](#)
2. The subject eligibility requirement is a C2/ H4 grade in a Leaving Certificate higher level laboratory science subject (i.e. Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physics with Chemistry (joint) or Agricultural Science) or equivalent. You need to have achieved this grade in order to be eligible to apply, i.e. you must have achieved this grade by taking the Leaving Certificate examination in the year prior to applying or earlier.
3. All applicants whose first language is not English need to provide proof of English language proficiency such as an IELTS score. Please see the admission website for full details on entry requirements. [Medicine EU - University of Galway](#)
4. Please note that Mature Entry is not the same as graduate entry. If you hold an undergraduate degree or equivalent, you may still apply, provided you meet all criteria, and on the grounds of mature age and meeting EU residential requirements, but you may not be eligible for free fees or other financial supports.
5. University of Galway is an undergraduate medical school, and the mature entry route is aimed at widening access. Applicants who qualify to apply for graduate entry medicine elsewhere (i.e. achieving a second class honours, grade one-2:1 undergraduate degree) are not eligible to apply to the University of Galway Mature Entry Route.
6. Applicants who have a place in another medical school are not eligible to apply for Mature Entry to Medicine at University of Galway.
7. The maximum number of times an applicant can be interviewed is two.

Application Process

Applications are made through the CAO. See <https://www.cao.ie/>

All applicants to undergraduate medicine in Ireland are required to sit HPAT-Ireland and this is the same for entrants via the mature entry route. HPAT-Ireland is designed to test your logical reasoning and problem solving, interpersonal understanding and non-verbal reasoning skills.

You need to register for and sit HPAT-Ireland. Please see the website for full details <https://hpat-ireland.acer.org/>

Additional Requirements

Students must also satisfy certain requirements including the Garda/Police vetting, Occupational Health requirements and good standing regulations, as per University of Galway admissions policies and regulations. See website for further details [Admissions Policies and Regulations - University of Galway](#)

Short-listing Process

1. Applicants' scores on HPAT-Ireland are used to rank order applicants for a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI). The top performing applicants are called to this interview process, to a maximum of 20 interview places.
2. In order to be eligible for consideration for call to MMI, the expected minimum HPAT score is 140 or above. As this is a competitive entry route, it is usual that the HPAT scores of shortlisted candidates far exceeds this.
3. The MMI is held once annually and candidates must present for interview on that day. There is no opportunity for shortlisted applicants to reschedule their interview.
4. The MMI will be held on **Tuesday 26th May 2026**

The Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) Process

What will the MMI consist of?

The MMI is a series of timed stations, through which each applicant rotates. There are approximately 8 separate stations, each lasting 7-10 minutes. Each station examines a different aspect of the competencies and attributes required of a doctor. There is an interviewer at each station and some of the stations also have a role-player present. The types of skills tested include communication, collaboration and teamwork and ethical reasoning.

How is the MMI conducted?

The MMI is conducted in a circuit. Each applicant will be allocated to a start station and will then rotate through all the stations until he/she has completed the entire circuit. A sound will alert you when to move on to the next station. At each station you will be presented with information, outlining the task required of you at the specific station. The task may involve interacting with a role player, while being observed and marked by the interviewer. Alternatively you may need to converse directly with the interviewer for example you may be asked to outline how you would approach a hypothetical dilemma.

There are also stations that ask about your life experiences and your preparation and readiness to enter a highly academically demanding course. These stations will offer an opportunity for you to demonstrate that you have the skills and attributes likely to be helpful for you to succeed in the undergraduate programme and to go on to have a future career in medicine.

How to Prepare for Applying to Medicine via the Mature Entry Route

If you are interested in our undergraduate medical programme you are encouraged to talk to some of our students. We are very supportive of our mature students and strongly believe that they bring a lot to our programme, the profession and to future health care. We also feel that they enrich our medical school and that school leaver students gain from their presence.

Studying medicine as a mature candidate involves a lot of commitment, organisation and hard work. It is essential that mature applicants get as much information as possible about the undergraduate programme and future life as a doctor, to ensure that they feel they are suited to it. Talking to people within the profession, reading about health care and health care delivery, learning about the career pathways and postgraduate training in the medical specialities, volunteering and gaining experience in health related fields are all excellent ways to inform yourself of what to expect as a medical student and future doctor.

In order to make financial plans you should contact the fees office to clarify exactly what you would have to pay if you were offered a place. [Student fees - University of Galway](#)

If you have any further questions please contact the Medical School at schoolofmedicine@universityofgalway.ie