

Dear student,

You are holding an offer to study the ScotGEM programme at St Andrews. The offer is either unconditional or you are waiting for qualification results to meet the conditions we have set. You may have also decided to set us as your insurance option. If you have accepted, or are going to accept our offer, there are a number of preparatory activities we would like you to complete over the summer. Please ensure you have also visited the University's pages for offer-holders, found here:

<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/offer-holders>

**Orientation week.** The University and School's programme of induction will commence on Monday 4th September. Orientation week comprises 5 full days of both University and course activity to which all students are expected to be present in St Andrews for. The first session will be held in the School Booth Lecture Theatre on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 9.00am.

### **Learning Environment**

Due to the practical nature of the medical courses, students cannot study remotely. Students will find it essential to have access to a laptop or mobile device to enable them to engage flexibly with teaching and supplementary learning resources as required throughout their studies. We recommend laptop devices capable of running Windows (10 or 11) or Apple devices (minimum MacOS 11). If you already own an alternative device and there is any software required to be used for teaching or assessment that cannot be installed on your device, a loan device will be available. The GMC information on 'Welcome to Medicine' can be accessed at <https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/welcome-to-medicine> and includes information on support, guidance, tips, tools and resources for medical students.

### **Immunisations:**

Guidance is that all healthcare workers, which includes medical students, should be up to date with their routine immunisations e.g. tetanus, diphtheria, polio and MMR. The MMR vaccine is especially important in the context of the ability of healthcare workers/medical students to transmit measles or rubella infections to vulnerable groups. While healthcare workers/medical students may need MMR vaccination for their own benefit, they should also be immune to measles and rubella in order to assist in protecting patients. Satisfactory evidence of protection would include documentation of having received two doses of MMR or having had positive antibody tests for measles and rubella.

Please remember to bring copies of any documentation related to your past vaccination. If you have missed any scheduled immunisations and your situation allows please catch up with these prior to starting at St Andrews. In addition,

students are strongly recommended to demonstrate evidence of or take vaccination for BCG, Hepatitis B, Varicella, Influenza and Covid.

**Health.** The personal health of a medical student is important for a range of reasons:

- a. Students must be fit to enter the course; be able to participate in the rigorous academic and practical programme and live independent lives.
- b. Students must be fit to study; able to learn, revise and sit exams.
- c. Students must be fit for practice; they should not pose a risk to patients nor be at risk from patients.
- d. Students must be fit to practice, that is they are likely to be fit to be registered as a doctor by the General Medical Council. To be registrable they must pose no risk to patients and must not damage the reputation of the medical profession.

**HEOPS standards.** The School of Medicine uses the standards defined by the Higher Education Occupational Health Physicians (HEOPS) to decide if a student is fit to enter the course. All applicants must read the attached HEOPS standards and complete and return the attached certificate to [scotgem-admin@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:scotgem-admin@st-andrews.ac.uk) by 3rd August 2023. If you have any queries about this declaration, these can be emailed to [medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk) prior to signing the form.

**Occupational Health questionnaire and Tayside Employee Skin Surveillance Declaration (ESSD).** All applicants will complete and return an Occupational Health Questionnaire, details of which will be sent to you by separate email in due course.

**Declaring a Disability.** As an offer holder, the University can start the process of putting arrangements in place before you start your studies. We recommend that you contact the disability team as soon as you have made an application to study here <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/orientation/before-you-depart/disability/>

**Other relevant policies:**

School policy for [pregnancy & maternity / parental leave guidelines](#)

We will write to you again towards the end of June with advice on Freshers' Week, advice on textbooks and things to buy. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact us by emailing [scotgem-admin@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:scotgem-admin@st-andrews.ac.uk).



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