

HEO'S ALUMNI GUIDE

Medicine

OVERVIEW AND WORDS OF COUNSEL



Why Medicine?

There are 2 medical schools in Singapore - NUS' Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (YLL), and NTU's Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKC). Medicine is highly competitive, as you may have noted from the IGPs, where the 10th and 90th percentiles for the cohort of 2024 is AAA/A.

This year, the new admission criteria is three H2s + GP. As such, refine your application well, and utilise the opportunity of the statement, portfolio and interviews to demonstrate why you are a fit for the field. Avoid speculation and rumour on what counts/does not count! it is up to you to demonstrate fit.

If you are applying for Medicine, it should be because your interests, aptitude (academic and beyond), skills and personality are a **fit for the field**. Avoid applying simply because "others are doing so", or because you do not know what else to apply for. If you don't know, explore!

Also avoid fixation: while you will want to put your best foot forward, keep open to outcomes as they happen. Don't neglect all the possibilities around. **When applying for Medicine, one of your key questions should be: what are my alternative options, besides Med? Ensure you have options in your 2nd or 3rd choices onwards, in at least one university, where your UAS and RP are at least at the 10th percentile (See our Alumni Guide to local universities.) Medicine applicants will want to be aware that that majors that sound like Law, Dentistry, CS do not constitute less competitive options.**



HEO'S ALUMNI GUIDE TO MEDICINE APPLICATIONS



Application Portals and Submissions

You will want to prepare for, and ensure you submit the necessary on time. Be pro-active in outlining what needs to be done and do it on time.

NUS

NUS Medicine application guide

Portfolio comprising:

Personal statement (500 words)

List of 10 achievements

Official testimonial

2 referee reports

Admissions Assessment:

Focused Skills Assessment (FSA)

Update: The Situational Judgment Test (SJT) has been discontinued from 2026.

Which option should I apply under?

If your UAS meets the requirement, you should apply under the Standard Scheme.

If you apply under NUS' Excellence beyond Academics Scheme (EBAS) or NTU's Aptitude-Based Admissions Scheme (ABAS), take note of the earlier submission deadline for NUS (10 Mar 12pm). As advised by the universities, you only need to apply under these schemes if your achieved grades do not meet the required cutoffs.

NTU

LKC Medicine application guide

UCAT score (from last year)

Personal statement (300 words)

2 referee reports (incl. Civics Tutor)

Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI)

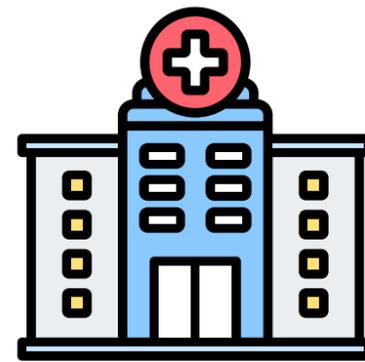
Referee reports

Ping your referees directly from the university portals, giving them details as/where necessary. Please approach the same set of 2 tutors for NUS and NTU. One needs to be your CT, the other can be a subject/CCA tutor. HEO's recommendation is to approach subject tutors given the academic nature of Med. It's a misperception that character is not seen in the academic classroom.

IMPORTANT: Approach your tutors personally to request for a reference first. Set up your accounts early, ping your teachers as early as possible. They need time to write for the many of you. You do not need to wait until you have completed your app to do this.



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Approaching the personal statement

1) Responding with conciseness & specificity

Keep an eye on the word limit and specific question(s) to answer. Given the short word counts (only 300 for NTU), focus on key skills that demonstrate your fit for Medicine. It pays to explicate in depth as opposed to generalised breadth. Answer the question(s) that are posed, relevantly.

Some questions for you to consider: what **specific** activities/leadership experiences have you had in secondary school and JC, both within and without school, that have taught and honed **relevant** skills for Med? How and why **exactly** are these important in Med?

In writing, **avoid** generalities and sweeping statements. For instance, skills like empathy and teamwork are necessary in all fields. Instead of saying "Empathy is important in Medicine", go for greater thoughtfulness, so that you demonstrate understanding of the discipline. E.g., why is empathy required **specifically** in Med? Any **particular situation or context**? As well, nuances matter. For example: 'teamwork' is vague. What **exact** feature about teamwork is important, and why, in Medicine?

2) Your intentions & motivations

Clarify your intentions and purpose for pursuing Medicine. Why this field, and not others? Beyond intent, what activities you have taken part in, which **further demonstrates suitability for Med**?

While a personal anecdote may make for an intro, avoid overemphasizing on emotive stories in the entire statement. You are applying for a **professional** field. Keep in mind thus that passion is **demonstrated**, not stated.

3) Heart and Head

Medicine is an **academically rigorous** field. Demonstration of fit is not only in the soft skills. What have you enjoyed academically (independently or as part of school, formally or informally), that is relevant to Medicine? Any areas of interest? What are some of the central tensions and dilemmas in Medicine? What is **your** stand on ethical issues? Are you up to date with news, in Singapore and globally on the health front?

In preparation especially for interviews, it's useful to think through some of these tough questions and **know your own position on things. Keep calm and cool, and respond to situations the way a professional doctor would do.**

Please note that HEO does not read Medicine statements given their brevity, specific prompts and the need for personal voice. The above is meant to guide you.



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The Interviews

Shortlisted candidates will be called up for selection interviews, commonly between late Mar through Apr. To know what to expect, refer to the direct interview resources for [NUS](#) and [NTU](#) here.

In brief: Apart from the conventional format of an interview, it can often also include simulated scenarios. If you are shortlisted, your university will let you know your exact interview date(s). So do keep a constant lookout in your email.

#HEOprotips:

- Prepare yourself mentally and probably even physically. Ensure you dress appropriately (refer to the dress code given by the universities).
- Think through some of the fundamental and key questions first, before you go for the interview. These include basics, such as questions about your reasons for wanting to join the profession, your values and ethical stands on issues, your strengths/weaknesses etc. What are the soft skills you possess, that make you a fit for Medicine? What are possible skills that you will want to work on?
- As well, questions on yourself: your strengths, weaknesses, leadership style, how you deal with conflict, people management skills, etc.
- While it is natural to be nervous in interviews, keep calm and composed, and conduct yourself **professionally**. If caught in a bind, your guiding question: what would a doctor do in this situation?

Importantly, be yourself. Nothing beats sincerity and authenticity of voice. So have confidence in putting your best foot forward!

Final notes

It is through your actions that fit is demonstrated, through the consistency of your deeds that character is shown. Avoid laundry-listing achievements, focus on why you are a fit for Medicine.

Given the competitiveness of Medicine, it is wise that, while you put your best foot forwards, you also keep open to other options. You won't know how wide the world is, if you don't explore. Please be considerate to your teachers, who have to write for many of you. Ping them early: concern for others is not just reserved for future patients. Finally: Go into apps with an open mind, and take outcomes as they come.

Wishing you all the best in your applications!

