

2026 Criteria: Widening participation scholarships for UK students

The University of Surrey School of Medicine is committed to supporting widening participation opportunities in graduate entry medicine.

For 2026, there are two types of scholarships offered by the School of Medicine that are available for home students:

- *The Sam and John Dawson Medical Scholarship*
This scholarship consists of a full fee waiver and a £10,000 per annum living costs grant (non-repayable) for all four years of the BMBS programme.
- *The Sidney Perry Foundation Scholarship*
This scholarship consists of a £3,000 living costs grant (non-repayable) for the first year of the BMBS programme.

To be eligible for consideration for these awards, applicants MUST:

- Be eligible for home fees status.
- Have attended a non-selective state school (defined as completing A-levels, or equivalent).

In addition, applicants must normally demonstrate that they meet at least two of the following widening participation criteria.

Criteria	Definition	Evidence
Care experienced	Being care experienced means you will have <ul style="list-style-type: none">• spent time living with foster carers under local authority care,• in residential care (e.g. a children's home),• looked after at home under a supervision order,• or in kinship care with relatives or friends, either officially (e.g. a special guardianship order) or informally without local authority support.	Student must provide the name and contact details of a professional who can verify their care experience status. Examples include a contact from their local authority such as their social worker, key worker or virtual school staff, their school tutor or GP.
Estranged from family	By estranged we mean that either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have not communicated with either of your biological or adoptive	Student applied to Student Finance England for their Undergraduate degree as an independent student or

	<p>parents for a period of one year before your course began</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your parents cannot be traced or it is not possible, practical, or safe to make contact with them • Your parents have significant mental or physical health problems which prevent you from contacting them • Both of your biological or adoptive parents are deceased 	<p>was supported to update their circumstances by University support services.</p> <p>Name and contact information for Student Services of undergraduate University.</p>
Lived in an area of multi-deprivation during compulsory education	<p>Area with an Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Quintile 1*</p> <p>Resident in this area in the year GCSEs and A levels (or equivalent) were completed.</p>	Postcode of address at the time of your GCSEs and A levels.
Young carer/ young adult carer	<p>A person who regularly provides unpaid emotional and/or practical support and assistance for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support.</p>	<p>A name and contact details of a professional who can verify your carer status. Examples include a contact from a registered charity that has supported you, a social worker, your school tutor or your GP.</p>
Higher level University maintenance loan or University means tested bursary	<p>Maintenance loan paid according to household income of £25000 or less.</p> <p>Received a university means-tested bursary during their undergraduate degree</p>	<p>Confirmation letter from Student Loan Company or undergraduate university detailing the financial support you were entitled to.</p> <p>A name and contact details for Student Services or Bursaries and Scholarship staff from your undergraduate university who can verify you received the financial support listed.</p>

*Indices of Multiple Deprivation will be according to 2015 or 2019 datasets depending on dates in secondary education.

- Applicants should apply via our standard UCAS admissions process as described on the Medicine (Graduate Entry) [course webpage](#)
- Applicants must have received an offer
- Offer holders who meet the scholarship criteria will be required to complete an application form indicating which criteria they meet.
- Eligible applicants will be ranked by the Medical Admissions Review Group according to Multiple Mini Interview total score. The highest scoring candidates will be invited for a panel interview pending verification of their supporting evidence.
- The panel interview will be held face to face and candidates will be asked questions to demonstrate their knowledge and behaviours related to a career in medicine.
- Each candidate is ranked independently by each interviewer.
- A maximum of one scholarship per candidate will be awarded.
- The Dawson Scholarship will be awarded to up to two candidates who fulfil the requirements and receive the highest scores at the panel interview.
- The Sydney Perry Scholarship will be awarded to up to four candidates who fulfil the requirements and receive the next highest scores at the panel interview.
- Scholarships are only awarded to candidates who accept their offer, complete registration and maintain continuous enrolment with the University.