



STUDENT SURVIVAL KIT FOR

DENTISTRY

INTERVIEWS 20/21





Who are we?



The Islamic Medical Society was founded many years ago by a group of enthusiastic medical students that strongly believed as students we don't have to wait until graduation to start our legacy and make a difference.

IMed combines the Islamic teachings of compassion and stewardship with the nobility of the healthcare profession we are blessed to be a part of.

At IMed we organise a wide range of events from opportunities to engage in humanitarian and charity work, revision seminars, conferences on healthcare and medical ethics and the best social events for brothers and sisters. We do this to provide our Muslim family with a well-rounded university experience-nourishing them both spiritually and intellectually.

Medicine and Dentistry Interview Practice (also known as Birmingham Medical Access Day, BMAD) is a day where Medical and Dental students use their experience and knowledge to help students who are starting their journeys into medicine and dentistry. We have compiled this booklet as an aid for your continuing journey and we hope you find it useful.

We at IMed wish you all success in your future endeavours!





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UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM DENTAL SCHOOL INTERVIEW FORMAT 2021

*This year, University of Birmingham will be conducting interviews for Dentistry **online**.*

How will the 2021 Interview Work?

Your interview will take place via Zoom and will last for no longer than 30 minutes. The interview will be operating in a Multiple Mini Interview format, but with two stations rather than seven.

These two stations will be: Motivation for a Career in Dental Surgery and Manual Dexterity.

You could be in either of these stations first and you will spend 10 minutes in each station. You will be joined by three interviewers for each station.



WHAT TO DO BEFORE THE INTERVIEW AND ON THE DAY?

- Have access to a laptop or computer with a webcam. Ensure that your laptop, webcam, microphone and video call connection work well in good time before your interview.
- Create an account on Zoom and ensure that Zoom is installed onto your laptop. The interview link will not work if you are not signed into Zoom.
- You will need to edit your name as your full name and your UCAS ID – just in case someone of the same name or a similar name is in the same interview slot as yourself. You can do this by going onto your profile in Zoom and clicking ‘edit’.
- Make sure that you have a valid photo ID with you ready to show the interviewers on the day. If you do not have a photo ID, please let the admission team know at least one week before your interview so that they can verify you in another way.
- Dress as you would for a face-to-face interview.
- Your Manual Dexterity station will involve materials that were sent to you in the post, keep these materials safe until the interview and make sure they are prepared for the interview.

zoom



INTERVIEW PREPARATION TIPS

- 1** Find out what kind of interview style the specific university uses and prepare accordingly. Look online for past questions and read the university website to find out as much information as you can.
- 2** Read through your personal statement in depth and think of any potential questions that may arise from things you have mentioned. Be prepared to go into depth about experiences you have listed, things you have achieved and any extracurricular activities you participate in.
- 3** Try to practice your manual dexterity in some way. Many hobbies such as cake-decorating, playing the guitar, sewing will require good hand-eye co-ordination so this helps! Try to follow instructions to make origami shapes and time yourself. The main idea is that you can perform well and accurately under pressure and with precision.
- 4** Practice answering questions on the spot. ESPECIALLY questions that you haven't prepared for. Practice putting yourself out of your comfort zone. Have a friend or family member ask you questions and answer as if you are in the interview



GENERAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Dental schools will have a range of questions to ask you to assess your motivation for dentistry, to test your logic and to analyse your way of understanding.

Consider some of the general questions and have an idea of how you would answer these in an interview

Traditional style questions



- Why dentistry?
- Tell us about your strengths and weaknesses?
- Tell us about a time where you were in a stressful situation and how you overcame it?
- Why should you Dentistry you over someone else?
- What are the qualities of a good dentist?
- Tell us about the importance of some voluntary work you have done?
- How have you given back to your community?



Logic/Observation questions



- What can't you hold for half an hour but weighs nothing?
- How many times can you divide 56 by 8?
- Give instructions on how to make a model using the given shapes but do it without saying the names or colours of the shapes. why did we ask you to do this?
- Carve a wax model of a tooth?
- Make a list of 5 people you would take to a new planet and explain why?
- Describe this given painting and explain why you think we asked you to do this?
- Direct the interviewer to make an origami penguin?

Hot topics in Dentistry

The Fluoride debates
Inverse Care Law
Use of the internet/technology in Dentistry
The use of Amalgam
The role of the GDC
Gillick Competence
The Sugar taxes
Use of Cosmetic Dentistry
The structure of the NHS
The structure of the Dental Team
How dental treatment is charged on the NHS
(treatments bands)
Should the NHS treat self-induced diseases

Ethical Scenarios

Also remember to practice answering ethical scenario questions, there are so many examples online and in interview preparation books. There are probably a lot more available for aspiring medics, but they generally test the same things and so once you have exhausted all the scenarios related to Dentistry, maybe move on to the ones based on Medical School interviews!

Be prepared to answer difficult questions based on your answers and to argue your point whilst being willing to consider the viewpoints of others but try not to budge on your moral principles!

2021 INTERVIEW TOPICS AND QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

As stated on the University of Birmingham Dentistry website, the 2021 interview will consist of two stations testing Manual Dexterity and Motivation for Dentistry

Manual Dexterity

Manual dexterity is the ability to use your hands in a skilful, coordinated way to grasp and manipulate objects and demonstrate small, precise movements. The manual dexterity station will consist a task and a set of instructions to test your ability to work under pressure performing tedious detailed tasks. It is important you prepare for this station prior to your interview by practicing tasks that require a good level of manual dexterity. The task in the interview will be unique every year but the main aim is the same.

Motivation for Dentistry

This station is to assess WHY you want to study dentistry. It is important that you have thought about WHY and have a genuine and unique reason. To prepare for this station, consider the following questions:

- Why would you like to study dentistry?
- Any experiences that made you want to pursue dentistry
- Why dentistry, but not other healthcare professions
- Why should you be chosen to study dentistry over another person



This station should highlight your desire to pursue dentistry from different angles, this may be how the career would suit you as a person, but also how you can use the profession to benefit others. For example,

Dentistry may suit you and benefit you as it is a practical job and you would be able to benefit others by directly improving the quality of life from the treatment you can perform.

RESOURCES FOR INTERVIEW PRACTICE

Practicing interview questions is probably the most valuable method of preparation. As much as you would like to learn more about dentistry and read about new and exciting ideas, nothing will help you more than just getting straight into it and practicing answering questions on the spot. Of course, it is still very important that you read around dentistry, pick one or two new developments or interesting areas within dentistry and read a little around them. It is always nice to give the interviewer something different to talk to you about and they are more likely to remember you as the one who had an exciting topic of discussion!

It is also origami to have some idea of what's going on in the news outside of dentistry (they want to train people who are involved in all aspects of society!) and so having some level of knowledge of current topics in the news is important. Brexit has been an interview station at Dentistry MMIs in the past.

Useful books:

Multiple Mini Interviews for UK dental school, by Maria Coll M.A, CEO, Fast Track Dentistry

Dental School Interview Questions and Answers with full explanations by Sri H. Ravi, V. Babu, R. Patel

Getting into Dental School by Adam Cross



Useful websites:

themedicportal.com
uniadmissions.co.uk
studential.com
thestudentroom.co.uk

DUAS

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْتَوِدُّكَ مَا قَرَأْتُ وَمَا حَفِظْتُ، فَرُضُهُ عَلَيَّ عِنْدَ حَاجَتِي إِلَيْهِ، إِنَّكَ
عَلَى مَا تَشَاءُ قَدِيرٌ وَأَنْتَ حَسْبِي وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ

“Allahumma inni astaodeeka ma qara’tu
wama hafaz-tu. Farudduhu ‘allaya inda hajati elahi. Innaka ‘ala ma-
tasha’-u qadeer wa anta hasbeeya wa na’mal wakeel”

Oh Allah! I entrust you with what I have read and I have studied. Oh Allah! Bring it back to me when I am in need of it. Oh Allah! You do whatever you wish, you are my availer and protector and the best of aid.

اللَّهُمَّ لَا سَهْلًا إِلَّا مَا جَعَلْتَهُ سَهْلًا وَأَنْتَ تَجْعَلُ الْحَزْنَ إِذَا شِئْتَ سَهْلًا

"Allahumma la sahla illa ma ja'altahu sahlâ wa anta taj'alu al-hazana idhâ shi'ta sahlâ."

Oh Allah! Nothing is easy except what You have made easy. If You wish, You can make the difficult easy.

رَبِّ أَسْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي . وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي , وَأَحْلِلْ عُقْدَةً مِّن لِّسَانِي يَفْقَهُوا قَوْلِي

"Rabbish rahli sadri, wa yassirli amri, wah lul quadatan min lisaani,
yaf qahu qauli."

“My Lord, put my heart at peace for me and make my task easy for me and remove the knot from my tongue that they may understand my speech.”

Surah Ta-Ha: Verses 25-28



Disclaimer – the views, information, or opinions expressed in this booklet are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the University of Birmingham medical school. The information contained in this booklet is accurate to the best of the authors' knowledge at the time writing and no responsibility is assumed for any errors or omissions.



WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST!