

30 September 2007



PRESS RELEASE

Get into Medical School Ltd was conceived in late 2006 and incorporated in August 2007. Its principal activity is a one-day Oxford-based course (the GeMS course) which provides the information and support required to apply to medical schools in the UK. The overarching aims of the course are to guide, encourage, and enthuse non-traditional applicants to medicine, and to promote a level playing field amongst applicants, regardless of their educational, familial, or social backgrounds. This, in turn, should help to ensure that the doctors of tomorrow are more reflective of the diversity of British society.

The directors and course organizers, Drs Neel Burton and Chris Chopdar, have designed the course so that it provides all applicants to medicine with some of the extra preparation that a subset of applicants have always enjoyed. As such, the course organizers see it as a valuable democratising course, with a real potential to broaden access to medical school. To support this vision, they offer a number of bursaries to students in financial need to help them to meet the cost of the course.

The cost of the GeMS course (currently £185) reflect the costs of running the course in terms of rental, catering, teaching, course materials, website maintenance, marketing, and other associated costs. This cost compares favourably to the cost of similar courses on offer.

To date, past attendees have been drawn from a wide variety of social and cultural backgrounds. Their feedback has been overwhelmingly positive; they have repeatedly cited the inspirational nature of the course, and praised the quality and delivery of the teaching. Many attendees benefited from meeting other potential applicants to medicine, particularly if they came from a background where they were not in contact with any.

Whilst the course organizers are both part-time tutors in psychiatry for the medical school in Oxford, they make it clear (for example, on the course website) that the course is not affiliated to any university, and that they are not involved in any part of the medical schools short-listing process. As such, they do not believe that there is a conflict of interest between tutoring medical students and organizing the course.

In summary, the overarching aims of the GeMS course are to guide, encourage, and enthuse non-traditional applicants to medicine, and to promote a level playing field amongst applicants, regardless of their educational, familial, or social backgrounds. This, in turn, should help to ensure that the doctors of tomorrow are more reflective of the diversity of British society.

For further queries, please contact enquiries@getintomedicalschool.org