

MEDICINE

Suggested Reading

Do you like challenges? Are you interested in science and how the body works? Do you care deeply about other people, their problems, and their pain? Are you a good listener? If the answer to these questions is 'yes', then a career in Medicine may be for you. To help you get a feel for what being a doctor is really like, work experience is invaluable. Contact your local hospitals about work experience opportunities and ask at school to see if they can provide any support setting this up.

Medicine is a lot broader than Biology and Chemistry. At its core it concerns life and death and as such poses serious ethical questions. It is important for you to think about these before making an application. Below are some suggestions of resources you can use to start investigating the study of Medicine.

1. **Trust me, I'm a Junior Doctor** by Max Pemberton is a fun, easy read, that gives a very accurate account of life as a newly qualified doctor.
2. **Doctors make mistakes. Can we talk about that?** is a TED talk by a Canadian doctor discussing perfectionism in doctors and how difficult we find it. It challenges the preconception that you have to be perfect to be a good doctor, in fact it might even be bad for you. Things will go wrong, it is how we deal with these situations that is so important.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUbfRzxNy20>
3. **Pain, Pus and Poison: The Search for Modern Medicine** is a three part documentary-series for the BBC by the doctor who fronts the 5:2 diet: A fun and highly watchable romp through modern medicine, all of which is available on You Tube:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1iA8YtxJaM>.
4. The book **Bad Pharma**, by Ben Goldacre, takes a closer look at the \$600bn global pharmaceutical industry. How are the interests of this large, and very powerful, industry balanced against the interest of patients, and how accurate is the information drugs companies publish about their products?
5. **Medical Ethics: A Very Short Introduction** is available on Amazon and a great introduction to Medical Ethics.
6. Terry Pratchett's compelling **Richard Dimbleby Lecture** on euthanasia and the right to die deals with a very topical issue, and one that is likely to be even more pressing when you come to be practising: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90b1MBwnEHM>. If this interests you, have a look at the news coverage of the Tony Nicklinson case in 2013.
7. There are a number of relevant lectures available online. One interesting series in the 2014 Darwin College lecture series on **Plagues**. All episodes are available online here: <http://sms.cam.ac.uk/collection/1630650>.