

Medical Schools Teaching Styles

There are two main teaching styles used by Medical Schools:

Traditional

- Key focus on teaching the theoretical and scientific background to Medicine in the first stage of study, before moving onto clinical training
- Learning tends to be delivered through lectures with a full weekly timetable.
- Good for those who don't wish to go straight into clinical placements and for those who may be interested in doing a subsequent PhD or Masters
- Used at Oxford and Cambridge

Integrated

- The approach taken by the majority of UK Medical Schools
- Incorporates teaching around scientific knowledge and clinical training.
- Focus is placed on self-directed learning and group learning.
- Good for self-motivated students who enjoy hands-on learning and working within teams.
- Students work with patients from the start of the Medicine course.

The majority of UK Medical Schools offer **Integrated** Medicine courses, but what makes their courses unique is the different teaching approaches used to deliver the courses:

Problem-based learning (PBL)

- Students are given weekly a problem/case study to resolve and learn from -this is guided by group work facilitated by a tutor and self-directed study
- Involves lectures and seminars alongside the group work, but a large emphasis is on self-directed learning
- Key focus is placed on developing patient interaction skills
- Courses that offer PBL teaching:

Barts (Queen Mary)	UEA	Edinburgh	Exeter
Glasgow	HYMS	Keele	Lancaster
Manchester	Plymouth	Sheffield	St. George's

Case-based learning (CBL)

- A medical case will be used as a focal point for a particular area of the curriculum, and this will trigger studies around the knowledge and skills need to resolve this
- Students work in small groups for short periods as well as more traditional learning methods like lectures and seminars.
- CBL courses: Liverpool Cardiff Glasgow

Enquiry-based learning (EBL)

- Students are given questions, problems or scenarios rather than facts and are expected to think around these by identifying any issues and conducting further research to both consolidate and expand knowledge.
- Focus is on self-directed learning rather than lecture-based delivery.
- This style is very similar to PBL and is currently only offered by Birmingham University

Remember... check course details on individual Medical School websites.

Essential Reading

[Medical School Teaching Styles - The Medic Portal](#)
[Courses at medical school \(bma.org.uk\)](#)

Careers Department,
St. Aidan's and St John Fishers Schools