Key Facts Mature Entry to Medicine

NUI Galway is an undergraduate medical school. The mature entry route is designed as a widening access route. NUI Galway is committed to widening diversity in higher education. Mature entrants bring a wealth of knowledge and experience with them and in the School of Medicine we believe that this enriches our medical programme. This route has a limit, of up to a maximum of 3 places per year, and entry to it is highly competitive. Because there are many facets to being a good doctor, our selection process evaluates applicants across a broad range of domains.

Entry Requirements

Eligibility for mature entry to medicine is based on age and domicile requirements – please see the mature entry webpage for full details http://www.nuigalway.ie/mature/

The subject eligibility requirement is a C in a Leaving Certificate higher level laboratory science subject (i.e. Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physics with Chemistry (joint) or Agricultural Science) or equivalent. With the new modifications to the Leaving Certificate this equates with a H5 grade. You need to have achieved this grade in order to be eligible to apply, ie you must have achieved this grade by taking the Leaving Certificate examination in the year prior to applying or earlier.

All applicants whose first language is not English need to provide proof of English language proficiency such as an IELTS score.

Please see the admission website for full details on entry requirements. http://www.nuigalway.ie/admissions/procedures/medeuire.html

Application process

Applications are made through the CAO. See https://www.cao.ie/
All applicants to undergraduate medicine in Ireland are required to sit HPAT-Ireland and this is the same for entrants via the mature entry route. HPAT-Ireland is designed to test your logical reasoning and problem solving, interpersonal understanding and non-verbal reasoning skills.

You need to register for and sit HPAT-Ireland. Please see the website for closing date details and date of HPAT-Ireland for 2017. https://hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au/

Additional Requirements

Students must also satisfy the Garda/Police vetting and Medical Clearance requirements.
Short-listing Process

Applicants’ scores on HPAT-Ireland are used to rank order applicants for a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI). The top performing applicants are called to this interview process. Approximately 15 applicants are interviewed each year. **The MMI will be held on Tuesday May 16th 2017.**

The Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) Process

What will the MMI consist of?

The MMI is a series of timed stations, through which each applicant rotates. There are approximately 10 separate stations, each lasting 7-10 minutes. Each station examines a different aspect of the competencies and attributes required of a doctor. There is an interviewer at each station and some of the stations also have a role-player present. The types of skills tested include communication, collaboration and teamwork and ethical reasoning.

How is the MMI conducted?

The MMI is conducted in a circuit. Each applicant will be allocated to a start station and will then rotate through all the stations until he/she has completed the entire circuit. A bell sounds to alert you when to move on to the next station. At each station you will be presented with a card of written information, outlining the task required of you at the specific station. The task may involve interacting with a role player, while being observed and marked by the interviewer. Alternatively you may need to converse directly with the interviewer for example you may be asked to outline how you would approach a hypothetical dilemma.

There are also stations that ask about your life experiences and your preparation and readiness to enter a highly academically demanding course. These stations will offer an opportunity for you to demonstrate that you have the skills and attributes likely to be helpful for you to succeed in the undergraduate programme and to go on to have a future career in medicine.

How to prepare for applying to Medicine via the Mature Entry Route

If you are interested in our undergraduate medical programme you are encouraged to talk to some of our students. We are very supportive of our mature students and strongly believe that they bring a lot to our programme, the profession and to future health care. We also feel that they enrich our medical school and that school leaver students gain from their presence.
Studying medicine as a mature candidate involves a lot of commitment, organisation and hard work. It is essential that mature applicants get as much information as possible about the undergraduate programme and future life as a doctor, to ensure that they feel they are suited to it. Talking to people within the profession, reading about health care and health care delivery, learning about the career pathways and postgraduate training in the medical specialities, volunteering and gaining experience in health related fields are all excellent ways to inform yourself of what to expect as a medical student and future doctor.

In order to make financial plans you should contact the fees office to clarify exactly what you would have to pay if you were offered a place. 
http://www.nuigalway.ie/fees/

If you have any further questions please contact the Medical School at medschool@nuigalway.ie