

Context and Facts on Intake

School of Medicine, College of Medical Sciences, University of Guyana

Every year, the UG School of Medicine is forced to turn away a significant proportion of qualified applicants because of the limited number of spaces available.

1. It should be noted that UG's Administration has recognized the increased desire for access to medical education and training and the University continues to work with stakeholders to expand the number of students being taken into its medical disciplines once they can qualify. While it may not be possible to admit every applicant, the University would like to offer an opportunity to many more than it is currently able to offer.
2. UG has the only accredited medical school in Guyana. This means that UG trained medical doctors can work anywhere in the world – and they do.
3. UG's fees for medicine are 200% less than any other in the country and up to 1000% less than most others in the world. UG's fees are not pegged to the real costs of providing education. The University does not aim to make huge profits from training our people. (You can research this for yourselves.)
4. In the 2020-2021 Academic Year, UG has already increased the number of spaces in the School of Medicine by 50% in anticipation of a commitment to increase the number of beds in several regional hospitals in the next few years.
5. It needs to be understood that all medical schools in the world have quotas. In fact, all programmes in every university in the world have cut off numbers and many are far smaller than the number taken in by UG. Intake is based on several factors including space as well as the amount of supporting facilities and human resources available at the University and in external health systems that facilitate clinical rotations, internships, etc.
6. In most parts of the world, acceptance rates at medical schools vary significantly. For the most selective medical schools the acceptance rate is around 3.8% of all applicants. However, some medical schools have higher acceptance rates of up to 13.8%. The average medical school acceptance rate is 7%. How does UG stack up? UG gets about 300 applicants annually where the intake rate has been 40 students per year. That is just about the high end (13%) of global intake. This year (2020) we have increased intake by more than 50% to 65 students, this is around 23% on the high end of global intake. An increasing number of medical school applicants worldwide every year is driving acceptance rates downwards, especially at popular or competitive medical schools.
7. UG has a policy of ensuring that each cohort includes qualifying students from underserved and vulnerable communities.
8. UG's new medical complex currently in the final design phases is expected to be completed in the next 3 years and was planned with the expansion of the University's medical sciences offerings in mind.

