

READING LIST FOR POTENTIAL MEDICAL STUDENTS

Everyone has a different set of books about medicine and about science that they enjoy and that they think are important. Nobody expects a potential medical student to read a long list of science and ethics books, but our reading list contains suggestions, and is divided into categories that you might like to dip into. We have tried to include science, ethics and lifestyle books in this list. We hope you will enjoy some of them.

Let me emphasise again that this is **not** a reading list for you to wade through, but there are some things in here which might excite you, challenge you, both scientifically and emotionally, and perhaps even surprise you. Do dip into them as and how you wish.

I have put the ethics and life style books first because these are areas in which students do not always have as much knowledge as they do about some of the science issues. There are also several science books that you might like to pick one or two from and that may then set you off looking at other material from the same author. Do remember that our course in Cambridge is very science heavy and that if you are not interested, genuinely, in the science you will probably not enjoy our course as much as we would like you to enjoy it.

Learning medicine and advice for getting in:

Houghton, Andrew

Getting into medicine: the essential guide to choosing a medical school and obtaining a place
London, Hodder & Stoughton, 1997: ISBN: 0340701587

Richards, Peter

Learning medicine 15th ed
London, British Medical Journal, 2000: ISBN: 0727914626

Personal views from a biographical stance:

Atul Gawande

Being Mortal: Illness, Medicine and What Matters in the End
Wellcome (Paperback): ISBN: 9781846685828

Paul Kalanithi

When breath becomes air
Random House: ISBN: 9781784701994.

Adam Kay

This is going to hurt: secret diaries of a junior doctor
Pan Macmillan: ISBN10 150985861X

Rachel Clarke

Your life in my Hands, a junior doctor's story
John Blake Publishing: ISBN: 9781786064516

Ethics:

Henry Marsh
Do No Harm
Orion: ISBN: 9781780225920

Tony Hope
Medical Ethics: A Very Short Introduction
OUP: ISBN: 9780192802828

Science Books:

Almost any book by Richard Dawkins contains some interesting and challenging ideas. Probably the most accessible are 'River out of Eden: a Darwinian view of life' and 'The Selfish Gene'.

Deutsch, David
The fabric of reality
London, Penguin, 1998: ISBN: 0140146903

Diamond, Jared
Guns, germs and steel: a short history of everybody for the last 13000 years
London, Vintage, 1998: ISBN: 0099302780

Diamond, Jared
The rise and fall of the third chimpanzee
London, Vintage, 1992: ISBN: 0099913801

Feynman, Richard P
QED: the strange theory of light and matter
London, Penguin, 1990: ISBN: 0140125051

Feynman, Richard P
Surely you're joking, Mr Feynman: adventures of a curious character
London, Vintage, 1992: ISBN: 009917331X

Feynman, Richard P
What do you care what other people think? Further adventures of a curious character
London, Grafton, 1993: ISBN: 0586218556

Fortey, Richard
Life: an unauthorised biography
London, Flamingo, 1998: ISBN: 000638420X

Hawking, Stephen W
A brief history of time
Updated and expanded 10th anniversary ed.
London, Bantam Books, 1998: ISBN: 0553380168

Singh, Simon
Fermat's last theorem
London, Fourth Estate, 1998: ISBN: 1857026691

Stewart, Ian
Does God play dice? The new mathematics of chaos
2nd ed.
London, Penguin, 1997: ISBN: 0140256024

Stewart, Ian
Life's other secret: the new mathematics of the living world
London, Penguin, 1999: ISBN: 0140258760

Stewart, Ian
Complex analysis (the hitchhiker's guide to the plane)
Cambridge, CUP, 1983: ISBN: 0521287634

Wright, Lawrence
Twins: genes, environment and the mystery of human identity
London, Phoenix, 1998: ISBN: 0753805359

King, John (1997)
Reaching for the sun
CUP, ISBN: 0521587387
How does a bulb know to sprout in the spring? Why are flowers different colours and why do they smell? This book answers these questions. From their ability to take energy from sunlight to make their own food to their range of life-sustaining strategies, it explains why plants dominate our planet.

Widmaier, Eric P (1999)
Why Geese Don't Get Obese (and We Do)
W H Freeman, ISBN: 0716736497
In this text, Eric Widmaier offers a physiologist's view of the features and abilities humans and other creatures have evolved to meet the seemingly impossible challenges of survival.

McGowan, Christopher (1999)
Diatoms to Dinosaurs The Size and Scale of Living Things
Penguin Books Ltd, ISBN: 0140281045
A mouse weighs about one ounce, has a heart rate of 700 beats per minute, a gestation period of 21 days, and lives for less than 3 years. A 5-ton elephant has a heart rate of 30 beats per minute, a 22 month gestation period, a slow metabolic rate and lives for 60 years or more. How are these facts related? In this text Christopher McGowan investigates a wide range of size-related phenomena, from the gliding mechanism of diatoms to blood pressure problems of dinosaurs. A journey through the natural world and life in its various forms.

Vogel, Steven (2000)
Cat's Paws and Catapults
Penguin Books, ISBN: 0140277331
Human designers love right angles, but nature prefers to be round and curved; we like to be dry, whereas nature tends to be wet; we use wheels in diverse ways, but nature's only true wheels occur in bacteria. This text introduces us to the world of biomechanics.