Premedical course
Handling medical data

Aims of course

The course is designed to introduce students to the concepts of good study design, to show them some of the pitfalls of interpretation which can be encountered because of inappropriate choice of control groups or the failure to control for confounding variables, and to enable them to carry out simple statistical analyses using a computer. Although many medical examples will be used, the impact of statistics in other fields of application will also be considered.

There are no lectures. Instead students are expected to watch a series of videotapes which will subsequently be discussed at seminars.

There are practicals concerned with the design of studies, to which students are expected to contribute their varying experiences.

Computing practicals use MINITAB for Windows as this is likely to be available to students throughout the rest of their course. Students should be able to import the results of their analyses, both text and graphics, into a word-processing package.

Assessment will be on the basis of submitted practical work and a written examination at the end of the course.