

**Keele University
School of Medicine**

Policy for Students with Disabilities applying for Medicine

Applicants are advised to declare any special needs on the UCAS application form. Applications will then be considered in the usual way. Potential applicants are advised to contact the Admissions Administrator for further advice prior to submitting a UCAS application, so that individual circumstances may be considered.

Keele University welcomes applications from disabled students and strives to provide an appropriate level of support to meet known individual needs. The University is committed to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (1995), the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Act (2001), the Equality Act (2010) and any guidance issued by the Council of Heads of Medical Schools (Guiding Principles for the Admission of Medical Students 1999) and General Medical Council. We consider applications against the usual academic criteria. However we also take into account any limitations in accordance with the General Medical Council Fitness to practice requirement that students must meet the standards of competence, care and conduct as laid out in the GMC Good Medical Practice guide (2001). Anyone with a disability wishing to enter medical school is advised to read and reflect on this document.

All applicants holding an offer to study medicine must satisfactorily complete a health questionnaire as part of the condition of their offer to study medicine at Keele University. Applicants must declare a history of mental ill health, but this will not jeopardise a career in medicine unless the condition impinges on professional fitness to practice and is ongoing or likely to recur.

Applicants indicating Dyslexia on their UCAS form should note that they will be expected to supply the University with a copy of their assessment by an Educational Psychologist.

If an application is of a sufficiently good standard, applicants will be invited to attend for interview. No candidate will be offered a place without interview. Following this all successful applicants are sent a health questionnaire and the Occupational Health Unit may invite them to discuss how they manage their disability or condition and what coping strategies they have developed, so that a judgement can be reached regarding their fitness to practice.

Applicants should be aware that whilst appropriate measures can be taken to accommodate particular needs to enable them to study effectively in the theoretical and classroom components of the course, clinical practice placements may require alternative arrangements.

The School of Medicine reviews all students' general progress regularly and will discuss with them any support issues related to their disability or condition. We operate a health and conduct committee as well as a special circumstances committee.

If it appears that their condition compromises safety in a clinical setting or that it is unlikely that they will be able to meet the fitness to practice requirements for registration with the General Medical Council, then this will be discussed with them as soon as possible and appropriate guidance and support will be offered. This may result in a referral to the University's Fitness to practice Committee, and possibly to them being unable to remain on their current programme.

Keele University has an excellent Student Support Centre who are able to provide advice and support to disabled students. For further information see:

www.keele.ac.uk/depts/aa/disabilityservices/

Further information can be found at:

Council of Heads of Medical Schools - www.chms.ac.uk/fastuds.html

General Medical Council - www.gmc-uk.org