



2021 Entry

Dear Applicant

Re: Your UCAS application to Keele University School of Medicine

Thank you for applying for entry to the MBChB programme at Keele University.

We are sorry that we were unable to offer you a place. As always, competition for places was intense. We received: (a) over 2,500 applications for 164 places, including 10 international places, on A100 and (b) over 350 applications for 10–20 places on A104. We shall be interviewing a total of approximately 700 candidates. This means that just around 25% of applicants will be invited for interview. Clearly, we are in the difficult position of being unable to offer places to many highly capable and motivated students owing to competition from even stronger applicants.

We strive to assess all applications in as fair and transparent a manner as possible. To reassure you that all applications have been dealt with equitably, our system of assessment is outlined below.

The stages for 2021 applications are as follows:

1. All home (UK) applicants must have completed the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) during the year in which they apply. Initial screening of UCAS forms ensures that this requirement has been fulfilled and that applicants have satisfied the other minimum criteria for entry, as detailed on our web pages. This year the minimum required UCAT score is 2,280, with a score in band 1, 2 or 3 in the situational judgement test (SJT) component.
2. Shortlisting of eligible home applicants for interview for the A100 programme is based mainly on the Roles & Responsibilities (R+R) form.

Admissions tutors assess the R+R form using the following criteria:

- Commitment to one or more role(s) involving direct engagement with people, ideally with an element of care or support.
- The value of the role(s) you undertook, in terms of contribution to the wellbeing of others or demonstration of appropriate personal characteristics.
- The level of responsibility taken in any of the above roles, or other roles that involve specific responsibility.
- A clear example of a situation where you did something that had a significant beneficial outcome for another person.
- Any exceptional achievements or circumstances.

The total UCAT score may be used to differentiate between candidates on the same score for the R+R form.

Shortlisting for the A104 programme will be based on meeting widening participation and academic criteria and UCAT requirements.

Shortlisting of international applicants (non-UK/Ireland) is based primarily on performance in the Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT).

3. Each candidate invited for interview will have an online interview. The interviewers are drawn from the university, partner hospitals, general practice and local community; they have undergone specific training for interviewing medical school applicants. The decision to offer a place is made on the basis of interview scores, with the threshold score being set to make the correct number of offers to fill the available places, taking into account the predicted proportions of candidates who will accept our offer and subsequently achieve the required grades in the appropriate exams. The total UCAT score may be used to differentiate between candidates on the same score after interview.
4. Following publication of exam results, offers to candidates who have obtained the required grades are confirmed. There may be a small number of unfilled places at this stage, which will be offered to candidates who have narrowly missed their required grades. At this point, preference is given to students who have engaged in the Keele widening participation programme, Steps2Medicine. Remaining students will be ranked on the basis of interview score, UCAT score, verified extenuating circumstances and the subjects in which grades below A have been achieved.

As you will appreciate, this is a complex process but it is one that we take very seriously. We continually monitor and review the process to make it as fair as possible. Please check our website regularly for any changes in procedures from previous years: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/schoolofmedicine/>

I am sorry that you have received a disappointing decision. We do not usually consider reapplications from candidates who were not offered a place after interview the previous year.

On behalf of Keele University, I would like to thank you for considering us and to wish you success in your future career. Thank you for applying for entry to the MBChB programme at Keele University.

Yours sincerely,



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