



Thank you for your application to Keele University School of Medicine. We realise it seems quite a while since you submitted your application through UCAS, and we are now getting close to the end of the year, so we wanted to assure you that it is being processed within our admissions procedure.

As you might have heard, we received more than 2,000 applications for 2021 entry. We have to review all of these to check that applicants meet our aptitude test and academic requirements. Home applicants then have to have their R+R forms scored: we are working our way through these as quickly as we can, but we do need to read them carefully to make sure everyone's form is scored fairly.

As you can imagine with such a rigorous procedure, it does take a while for us to select the highest-ranking applicants to invite for interview. We expect to have the majority of applications processed by the end of December. We have done some interviews in December and shall be sending out further interview invitations in the New Year.

We are expecting to invite approximately 680 applicants for interview. Interviews will generally run until late February or early March. An early interview doesn't indicate a greater chance of receiving an offer. For those who have attended an interview we plan to start making some offers in the New Year.

We will let you know as soon as possible the outcome of your application. In the meantime, here are some answers to questions we have seen applicants posting on social media.

Q. Does Keele send out interview invitations in order (e.g. highest UCAT scores first)?

A. No. We can process some applications more quickly because they qualify for automatic interview, e.g. on the basis of participation in widening-access programmes. However, for the majority of home (UK & Ireland) applications we have to score the R+R forms and these are done in random order. Receiving an early interview invitation doesn't mean your application was given priority because of academic or UCAT performance. And receiving a later invitation doesn't indicate that your application was any less strong. No. We can process some applications more quickly because they qualify for automatic interview, e.g. on the basis of participation in widening-access programmes. However, for the majority of home (UK & Ireland) applications we have to score the R+R forms and these are done in random order. Receiving an early interview invitation doesn't mean your application was given priority because of academic or UCAT performance. And receiving a later invitation doesn't indicate that your application was any less strong.

Q. How come you are sending out interview invitations before you have scored all the R+R forms? What happens if you run out of interview slots before you've scored them all?

A. We initially set quite a high R+R threshold score for invitation to interview to make sure we don't send out too many invitations. The more forms we score, the more confidently we can predict the final threshold score, so we can gradually lower the score for invitation to interview. If we have large numbers of applicants tied on the threshold score we shall rank you on total UCAT score, so students with that score might have to wait a bit longer to



receive a decision on whether you will be interviewed. Nobody with a score above the threshold will miss out on an interview because of a shortage of interview slots.

Q. If applicants are tied on the same R+R or interview score, will you give priority to students with better GCSE grades or predicted A-level grades, or who are doing three sciences at A-level or four A-levels?

A. No. If you have met our GCSE requirements, we won't look at your GCSE grades again. We never look at predicted A-Level grades. We don't have a preference for students with all science A-Levels. And we don't give any credit for fourth A-Levels.

Q. I am an international applicant. My BMAT scores weren't as high as I hoped. Will you take any other things (e.g. GCSE grades or predicted A-level grades) into account when deciding whether to offer me an interview?

A. No. You must meet our academic requirements (GCSE grades or evidence of equivalent academic achievement from another country) and be taking appropriate A-Levels or equivalent qualifications to be eligible for consideration. We don't use these for ranking. As long as you are eligible, we will rank you only on your BMAT score.

Q. How come you are making some offers before you have done all the interviews? What happens if you make too many offers from the early interviews?

A. The answer to this is the same as to the R+R form question. Interviewers don't decide whether to make you an offer. They score your performance in each section of their interview and we use the total of all the interviewers' scores to rank applicants. We will initially set a high threshold score for an offer and then bring that down as we do more interviews and can be more confident about the final threshold score. Again, if we have large numbers tied on the threshold score we might have to use UCAT as a tie-breaker for home applicants.

Q. Will you be making different offers to students from Wales, who won't be able to do A-level exams?

A. No. We don't know yet how A-Level assessments in Wales will be operating. Nor do we know full details of how they will operate in England or Northern Ireland, or how grade boundaries will be set. We shall continue to make standard offers on the assumption that regulators in the nations of the UK will assure consistency of standards.

For applicants who have not taken GCSEs, or have studied abroad, please can we ask that you upload to your portal transcripts of your subjects and grades received for the last three years? This will make it quicker and easier to assess your eligibility.

If you have any questions about the Keele MBChB programmes, please visit <https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/chat/> and ask a current student or member of staff.

Yours sincerely

Julia Molyneux

Admissions Manager