

UKWPMED: Guidance

Widening Participation in Medicine: A collaboration of UK Medical Schools

Scheme Title: **UKWPMED**

1. Summary:

- 1.1. We have designed a scheme to facilitate entry to medicine for applicants from socially and/or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds
- 1.2. The UKWPMED scheme is open to secondary school students in Year 13 who have successfully completed a specific widening participation (WP) programme at a medical school participating in the scheme (see table)
- 1.3. If you are eligible and apply to study medicine at any participating medical school, you will receive the same consideration in the selection process as offered to graduates of the named WP programme delivered by that medical school.

Participating Medical Schools	WP Programme
Birmingham Medical School	Routes to the Professions: Medicine
Brighton and Sussex Medical School	BrightMed
Hull York Medical School	Pathways to Medicine Next Step York
Keele School of Medicine	Steps 2 Medicine
Manchester Medical School	Manchester Access Programme Preston Widening Access Programme (for medicine)
Peninsula Medical School	Pathways to the Healthcare Professions

2. Eligibility for UKWPMED:

- 2.1. You must complete any of the WP programmes identified in the table successfully
 - 2.1.1. Successful completion is defined separately by each WP programme. Links to the websites for each programme are provided
- 2.2. No other WP programme will be considered
- 2.3. You must apply to study medicine at one or more medical schools participating in the UKWPMED scheme.

3. Outcome of applying as part of UKWPMED:

- 3.1. If your eligibility is approved you will be considered automatically by each medical school that is part of UKWPMED in the manner described in this section
- 3.2. Please use the web links in the table to find out how each WP programme considers a medicine applicant who has completed that programme successfully
 - 3.2.1. Each participating medical school will apply that same level of consideration to all of its UKWPMED applicants
 - 3.2.2. The potential benefits that may be offered to a UKWPMED applicant may differ between participating medical schools and may include, for example, prioritisation for selection for interview or a reduction in the offer requirement or a combination of adjustments to the standard process of selection
 - 3.2.3. You are advised to determine for yourself if any of the potential benefits are relevant to your situation
- 3.3. Throughout the entire selection process, the medical school will follow their own procedures for the UKWPMED medicine applicants
- 3.4. You must attend for interview, if invited, to be considered for an offer.

4. UCAS: Applying as part of UKWPMED

- 4.1. The screenshot shows the section of your UCAS application where you must enter the relevant data (Activities in preparation for higher education)

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- 4.2. The location must be one of the participating UKWPMED medical schools
- 4.3. The correct "Sponsor" information is vital. You must select UKWPMED from the list of options (as shown). Do **not** select the specific WP programme that you completed
- 4.4. The other information is whatever is relevant to your scheme
- 4.5. By applying as part of UKWPMED through UCAS, you are consenting to allow each medical school to check your eligibility by contacting the medical school where you completed your WP programme. This principle applies to any aspect of your application, which can be checked by the recipient universities

The image shows a screenshot of a UCAS application form. On the left, there are several form fields: 'Do you identify as transgender?', 'National identity*', 'Dual national identity', 'Activities in preparation for high', 'Start date', 'Duration (days)', 'School year', 'Location', and 'Sponsor'. The 'Sponsor' field is open, showing a dropdown menu with a list of options. The options are: Higher Education Insight Programme (HEI), Lancaster Access Summer School, LEAPS, LIFT OFF, Next Step York, Nottingham Potential Summer School, NUEntry, QUB – Pathway Programme, Reaching Wider, Realising Opportunities, Routes to the Profession (R2P), SEREN Network, Step Up, Sutton Trust, and UKWPMED. The 'UKWPMED' option is highlighted in blue. Below the dropdown menu, the 'Sponsor' field contains the text 'UKWPMED' and a small red question mark icon.

5. Important Notes:

- 5.1. The UKWPMED scheme as described here is open only to medicine applicants who apply via the standard UCAS process in the 2020-21 application cycle. We will review the scheme during this cycle and any changes will be communicated in advance of the 2021-22 application cycle
- 5.2. Medical schools will consider only UKWPMED applicants who are classified as home status. Each medical school will follow their own procedures for determining status
- 5.3. Medical schools will **not** consider applicants as part of the UKWPMED scheme if they have completed Year 13 at the time of application
 - 5.3.1. Applicants who are re-sitting some or all of their Year 13 qualifications will not be considered via the UKWPMED scheme. Each medical school has its own separate policy for considering re-sit applicants, which is outside of this scheme
 - 5.3.2. If you wish to take a gap year, either you should apply for deferred entry, or, if your application is successful, request that your offer is deferred. For deferral requests received after an application is submitted, each medical school will consider those requests according to its own policy
- 5.4. You do **not** need to contact each medical school separately to advise them you are applying via UKWPMED **unless you are advised to do so by your host medical school.**

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- 5.5. If you are invited for interview by one UKWPMED medical school this does not necessarily mean that you will be invited by another
 - 5.6. Medical schools will consider only the WP programmes listed in the table, even if you have completed a different programme at a UKWPMED medical school
 - 5.7. If you apply to a medical school that is not part of UKWPMED, you will be considered only according to their own selection processes
 - 5.8. If you do not follow all instructions and meet the requirements described in this guidance document you will not be considered as a UKWPMED applicant.
6. Rationale:
- 6.1. The Medical Schools Council Selecting for Excellence Report identified the need for diversifying the medical student population in terms of recruiting students from socially and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. Increases in relevant demographics have been made but more work is required
 - 6.1.1. An update to the report has been published and a link is provided here:
[Selecting for Excellence Update](#)
 - 6.2. Many medical schools have put in place initiatives to achieve WP but these local programmes have not been recognised fully by other medical schools
 - 6.3. We have considered carefully the selection criteria and content for each WP programme within UKWPMED to ensure that there is no disproportionate advantage or disadvantage to applicants
 - 6.4. Keele School of Medicine conceived the idea of collaboration whereby we will recognise a graduate of each other's WP programmes. We are off to a good start but we hope that other medical schools will join.