

Medicine and Dentistry Interview Guide for Teachers and Advisers

This year has been a challenge for everyone involved in education. At Newcastle University we have adapted our Medicine, Dentistry and Dental Hygiene Therapy interviews to ensure we keep everyone safe whilst ensuring we select students who are right for our degree programmes.

Our interviews will move to a virtual format. Students will be invited to interview via Zoom or a similar platform. We have put together this short guide to help you advise any students interviewing for a programme in the Faculty of Medical Sciences at Newcastle University.



Medicine

Timing: The interviews will still take place Jan — March. Students will hear the outcome by the end of March.

Format: Instead of MMIs, the format will be a panel style interview.

Platform: Zoom or similar

Key skills: Integrity, Communication, Empathy and self-awareness, Motivation and commitment to be a doctor, Compatibility with MBBS programme, Teamwork (including leadership), Personal organisation, Persistence and resilience

Selectors: There will be 2 selectors. Our selectors come from a variety of backgrounds including NHS staff, Clinicians, University academic and professional staff and students.



Dentistry

Timing: The interviews will take place December—February. Students will hear the outcome by the end of march.

Format: Panel style interview.

Platform: Zoom

Key skills: Preparation and motivation for dental school, Effective Learning skills, Team working, Personal qualities/resilience, Interpersonal and communication skills, Empathy, integrity and professionalism

Selectors: There will be 2 selectors. Our selectors come from a variety of backgrounds including academic and clinical staff within the Dental School.

Top tips for interview

- Ensure your students read the **admissions policy** of each of the Medical or Dental Schools they are applying to. It will tell them the areas they will be assessed on. Remember every institution does it differently.
- **Practise but don't rehearse.** When students have rehearsed answers selectors can tell. It often leads to them not answering the question they have been asked. Advise students to prepare examples for each domain they may be asked about, but not to write a script.
- **Don't worry if we dig a little deeper.** Our selectors are trying to get the most information out of students as possible to meet all the criteria. Make sure your students don't panic if we ask follow up questions, it doesn't mean they have done anything wrong.
- **Clinical examples aren't necessary.** Students can pull examples from all areas of their life to demonstrate skills. They don't need to use medical or dental work experience. Part time jobs, sports teams, group work and hobbies can all be used to demonstrate key skills!



Virtual interviews

- Remember a lot of the **preparation is the same.** We are still looking for students to demonstrate the same key skills which make a great doctor, dentist or dental hygiene therapist. Students should still prepare examples to show how meet the criteria.
- **Test your digital set up.** Students should test the equipment and internet connection they plan to use before their interview to try and minimise any issues on the day. We are advising students to get in touch with their teachers if they don't feel they have an appropriate set up at home to see if their school can support them.
- **Things go wrong—don't worry.** Students won't be penalised if they have issues with their internet connection or any interruptions during the interview. We are scoring on the content of their answers. If we cannot finish the interview, we will make sure we try everything to rearrange another suitable time.
- **Good luck!** We are here to help. Please contact outreach@ncl.ac.uk to book an interview preparation session.