

UK Foundation Programme (UKFP) 2019

Key Changes to the Application Process

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the key changes to the application process for UKFP and AFP 2019. The paper also seeks to provide a summary of any forthcoming developments either for the next year or future application cycles.

Eligibility Application Process

The entire eligibility application process will be managed online through Oriel this year. The requirement for applicants to send hard copies of their Dean's statement and a passport photograph by post has now been removed. Oriel has been developed to enable applicants to upload a scanned copy of their Dean's statement as part of their application and to include a profile picture on their online account.

For applicants requiring IELTS to evidence English language skills, it is no longer a requirement to upload a scanned copy of their IELTS certificate. Applicants will be asked to provide the Test Report Form (TRF) number from their certificate for the UKFPO to verify through the online IELTS database.

It is recommended for applicants requiring PLAB to sit PLAB 1 no later than 1st November 2018 to allow for sufficient time for PLAB 2 and to obtain provisional registration with the GMC. This means that applicants must qualify by 25th October 2018 to undertake PLAB in accordance with the recommended timescales.

Educational Achievements (EA)

No stamp required on letter confirming additional degree awarded

The requirement for the stamp of the awarding university to be included on the letter confirming that an additional degree has been awarded when the degree certificate is not available for whatever reason has been removed.

Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR)

The handbook has been revised to clearly state that a transcript or a Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) alone is **not sufficient evidence** to be awarded the points.

Applicants limited to one document upload on Oriel

Applicants will be restricted to just one document upload in support of their application. The majority of applicants only need to provide a copy of their degree certificate, or a letter confirming the degree has been awarded. Some applicants will be required to provide additional supporting evidence, for example, Cambridge graduates must also provide a copy of their transcript, and overseas graduates will be expected to provide a copy of their transcript and evidence to demonstrate equivalence with UK qualifications / classification. In these instances, applicants are advised to scan multiple documents into one file for uploading onto Oriel.

GPA Scores (overseas degrees)

This section of the handbook has been revised to provide greater clarity for applicants. Reference to the 4 and 5-point scales has been removed. A key change is to allow medical schools to confirm the equivalence of the GPA score to a UK degree as this is calculated for entry into medical school.

References

Following consultation with NHS Employers, the requirement for applicants to provide referee details for both an academic and a clinical referee has been amended to just one academic referee. There is no longer a requirement for a clinical reference to be sought on behalf of incoming foundation trainees.

Declarations

There will be an additional declaration statement included on the application form about the implications for in the event that applicants choose to withdraw their application.

Situational Judgement Test (SJT) – Newcastle University and University of Nicosia, Cyprus

Applicants from Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMED) will be invited to sit the SJT at Newcastle University with students from Newcastle medical school, rather than at the venue in London with all other Eligibility Office applicants. This is because the number of graduates from NUMED has increased considerably from 24 to 86 over the last four years, 80 of which applied for their eligibility to be considered for UKFP 2018. It is anticipated that the number of graduates will continue to increase further to around 120 next year.

Applicants from University of Nicosia, Cyprus will also be invited to sit the SJT alongside students from St. George's University of London.

Low Scoring SJT Reviews

The process for reviewing exceptionally low SJT scores is currently being reviewed and confirmation of the process for 2019 will be communicated with medical schools and applicants prior to the first scheduled sitting of the SJT in December 2018.

Allocation of Non-UK / EEA Applicants – Sponsorship for Tier 2

The guidance has been amended to better advise applicants of the position in regard to the possibility for sponsorship to be provided if there are available programmes once all UK, EEA, EU and settled workers have been allocated.

The deadlines for right to work evidence to be provided in January (for AFP) and March (for FP only) now hold a different meaning entirely. In previous years, applicants who were unable to provide evidence of their right to the work in the UK by the deadlines specified would have had their application(s) withdrawn from the process (either for AFP or FP). From 2018, applicants who fail to provide the necessary evidence will be placed on the reserve list.

Applicants who are subject to Resident Labour Market Tests (RLMT) will be offered a post / allocated to a place at a foundation school, once all eligible settled workers have received offers / been matched to programmes. RLMT applicants are not guaranteed to receive an offer / to be allocated a place on the programme.

Please note: the rules around RLMT apply to longlisting and shortlisting processes as well. If an Academic Unit of Application (AUoA) is unlikely to invite all eligible applicants for interview due to capacity, all eligible settled workers will be allocated an interview slot first.