

Faculty of Medical Sciences | School of Medical Education
Medicine and Surgery MBBS
Covid-19 | Frequently asked questions

- 1. Given the current circumstances, do all offers to study still hold?**
 - Yes, all offers are still valid. In line with UCAS regulations, Newcastle will not withdraw any offers. If you meet all the conditions of your offer, you will have a place at Medical School.

- 2. What happens if Newcastle University over-recruits on to the MBBS programmes?**
 - Ofqual expect that, even under the unprecedented circumstances we find ourselves in, the distribution of exam results should not vary greatly to any normal year. In this case, we would not expect significant over-recruitment. It is, of course, impossible to predict and Newcastle University is working closely with the Medical Schools Council and other Medical Schools around the country to ensure that plans are in place, which are fair and transparent to all offer holders.

- 3. If students are unhappy with the grades they receive in August and decide to sit the exams in the autumn of 2020, is this classed as a resit?**
 - No, this would be considered as a first sitting of the exams.

- 4. If students choose to take their exams in the autumn of 2020, can they start the programme pending their results?**
 - No, this would not be possible.

- 5. If students choose to take their exams next year, does this count as resitting?**
 - No, this would be considered as a first sitting of the exams.

- 6. If students choose to take their exams in the autumn of 2020 or in the summer next year, do they have to resit the UCAT and re-apply to Newcastle University through UCAS?**
 - No, we would not require students to re-take the UCAT, re-apply or attend another MMI. The offer would simply be deferred for them pending the results of their exams whether they take them in the autumn of 2020 or the summer of 2021.

- 7. If a student doesn't get the required grade for one of their exams on results day would they have to sit all of their exams in the autumn (or next year) or just the one where they had dropped a grade?**
 - Students would only be required to take the exam where they had dropped a grade and this would be considered as a first sitting of that subject.

- 8. If students put Newcastle down as insurance, do firm offer holders have priority over them if the programme ends up being oversubscribed?**
 - No, all students who become firm with Newcastle are treated equally.

- 9. If a student has already met their conditions, do they have priority over others if the programme is oversubscribed?**
 - No, all students will be treated equally.

10. What will happen about the PARTNERS summer school?

- All PARTNERS students will receive updates from the PARTNERS team regarding the Summer School.

11. Will the programme definitely start in September?

- At this time, we anticipate that term will start in September as usual. There is potential for disruption and if this was to change, we will let students know straight away.

12. When does my conditional offer change to unconditional?

- Your offer will only change to unconditional when you have met all the conditions. Meeting the academic qualifications is just one part of your offer. Some offer holders may have other conditions such as having an Occupational Health consultation, making Newcastle their firm choice if they are PARTNERS students etc. Only when all of the conditions in your offer are met, can we change it to unconditional. All offer holders are required to complete an Occupational Health Questionnaire before the end of July. We will begin sending these to you in April.

13. When does the DBS check take place?

- All offer holders are required to complete a DBS check (of if you are an international student provide a Letter of Good Conduct). The DBS check will be carried out when you arrive during your first week of term.

14. Recommended reading

- We understand that a number of our offer holders will have extra time on their hands due to the cancellation of A-level exams. If you want to use some of your time making a start on some reading, which would be helpful prior to starting the programme you will find some suggestions below. (Please note that it is not essential that you do this prior to starting the programme).

| Essential/Recommended | Title | Author |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Essential | Kumar & Clark's clinical medicine / | Kumar |
| Recommended | Lippincott's Illustrated Reviews: Physiology | Preston & Wilson |
| Recommended | Essential cell biology / | Alberts, Bruce author. |
| Essential | Rang & Dale's pharmacology / | Rang, H. P. |
| Recommended | Gray's anatomy for students / | Drake, Richard L. 1950- author. (Richard Lee), |
| Essential | ABC of clinical reasoning | Cooper, N and Frain, J |