

MBBS Admissions Policy



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In light of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, the 2023 entry MBBS Admissions Policy may be subject to some changes. Some Health Occupational information related to Covid-19 in particular Covid-19 vaccinations will be needed from applicants prior to entry. Some arrangements, particularly in relation to interviews, may have to be modified to ensure any future government advice is upheld. Any modifications to our processes will be publicized on Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed Malaysia) website.

1. Introduction

The admissions process is supervised by the Senior Admissions Manager, acting on behalf of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies at Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed Malaysia). The Admissions Policy is intended to ensure that the process of student selection is free from discrimination of any kind. It is based on guidelines adopted by Newcastle University, UK. In considering all applicants, the Medical School will consider the General Medical Council's (GMC) and Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) standards in Outcomes For Graduates and the guidelines on Medical Students: Professional Behaviour and Fitness to Practise.

The Admissions policy is reviewed annually by the Dean of Academic Affairs. The policy will be made freely available, via the World Wide Web and other sources, and in order to ensure that all applications are dealt with on the same basis, changes are not made part-way through the admissions cycle.

The Dean of Academic Affairs takes a strategic overview of the admissions policy and ensures that the policy is applied consistently to medical admissions at Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed Malaysia). The University Undergraduate Admissions Policy is also linked to the MBBS Admissions Policy.

2. Equal Opportunities Statement

We aim to ensure equality of opportunity for applicants and for all students in teaching, learning and assessment, and in the provision of services. We aim to create conditions whereby students are treated solely based on their academic achievement, ability and potential, regardless of age, religion or belief, ethnicity, gender, being transgender, marital or family status, sexual orientation, or disability. However, selection for a medical degree course implies selection for the medical profession and all applicants must have the potential to fulfil the duties of a doctor as stated by the GMC and MMC in their document 'Good Medical Practice'.

Admissions Selectors are drawn from a wide pool representative of gender and ethnicity

and including individuals from both a healthcare and lay background. All selectors and staff involved in the selection exercise are aware of their responsibility to implement the University's policies on equal opportunities and have participated in training sessions covering equal opportunities.

Any selector who is found to be in breach of the Admissions Policy will be required to stand down.

As part of our policy review, admission statistics on ethnic origin, and gender and socio-economic background are regularly monitored.

3. Disability

We are committed to the principle of equal treatment of disabled persons. Thus, an applicant who is judged academically suitable will, subject to the provisions of the Act, be neither treated less favourably nor placed at a substantial disadvantage on the grounds of disability unless this can be justified within the provisions of the Act. It is important for applicants to contact the Dean of Academic Affairs and/or Student Counsellor, to discuss the course requirements, and any concerns they may have. Applicants should be aware that such requirements change from time to time in line with evolving good practice and prevailing legislation.

During an interview, selectors assess individuals on their personal and academic merits without reference to any declared disability.

Applicants are encouraged to disclose their disabilities, of whatever nature, on their application. Applicants with a disability may wish to contact Dean of Academic Affairs and/or Student Counsellor who can provide an informative guide 'Into Medicine'. The General Medical Council advisory guidance Gateway to the Professions can be found at www.gmc-uk.org/

Any applicant who (a) meets the academic requirements, (b) is called for interview, and (c) has declared a disability on the application, may be contacted by the Student Counsellor where the applicant can discuss his/her support requirements, and be invited for an information visit. On receiving an offer to study applicants will be automatically contacted by the Student Counsellor to discuss support requirements.

All applicants must be considered able to meet the GMC and MMC outcomes for medical graduates and our programme outcomes and to be able to practise as a Foundation

doctor.

4. Health Requirements for Admissions and Continuing Practice

We have an overriding duty of care to the public with whom students come into close contact. All students are required to comply with University health requirement. Early clinical contact means that students will be asked to provide proof of their immunisation status by completing an Occupational Health Questionnaire on entry. Immunity against the following is required: Heaf/BCG, Meningitis (Quadrivalent), Hepatitis B, Polio, Measles, MMR/Rubella, Varicella (Chicken Pox), Diphtheria, Tetanus, and other (if any). All students are required to provide the Admissions Team with a GP vaccination history, therefore, it is important that you obtain this from your GP prior to completing your Occupational Health Questionnaire. The GP vaccination history can then be submitted together with your Occupational Health Questionnaire response. Occupational Health are unable to take a verbal history as evidence.

Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed Malaysia) follows the UK Medical Schools Council protocol on blood borne viruses. Early in the course students will be required to be screened for Hepatitis B; Hepatitis C and HIV. All aspects of a student's medical record will be bound by the same duty of confidentiality as for any doctor-patient interaction and informed by the same ethical guidance. Students commencing the programme will be immunised against Hepatitis B by our Occupational Health provider.

The status of any individual in respect of blood borne viruses will not be a factor in the admissions selection process and will not prevent them completing the medical degree but may require modification of the programme and may place some restrictions on their future practice as a doctor.

5. Occupational Health

If University are required to send the student for immunization, this cost will be charged to the students.

Also, it is a requirement of the Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) that each international student to undergo a health examination and passed the medical screening before they are permitted to endorse their student pass in their passport.

Domestic student must undergo the health examination once they have registered with Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed Malaysia). Their health examination

session will be arranged by the Student Office staff.

6. Fitness to Practise

For all applicants'/students' issues of fitness to practise are considered at admissions and throughout the degree programme.

We are under a duty in the public interest to ensure that students following degrees leading to professional health care qualifications meet relevant professional standards for fitness to practise. The University is responsible for protecting patients, fellow students, staff, vulnerable individuals and

taking appropriate steps to minimise any risk of harm to anyone as a result of the training of their medical students. In discharging these duties, the welfare and safety of actual or potential patients is the University's Chief Executive Officer concern. In addition, the University has a duty of care to their students and must ensure that any decisions are made with the best interests of the student at heart, as part of their support and welfare strategies. This includes being sure, as far as possible, that a student is fit to undertake the rigours of a demanding programme of study and a demanding profession.

The Faculty of Medical Sciences in the UK has a procedure in place designed to ensure the Fitness to Practise of its students. This procedure has been drawn up with specific reference to the guidance provided by appropriate health care professional bodies. This process covers all medical students at Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed Malaysia) and the procedure can be found at: [Fitness to Practise Procedure - Student Progress](#).

7. Criminal conviction, warnings, cautions and reprimands

Applicants must disclose this information on application and must disclose if they receive a criminal conviction after they submit their application. Failure to disclose will be taken seriously, and students are reminded it is their duty to disclose all and any information in relation to these matters at the earliest opportunity. Our policy on considering such applications is aligned to that applied by the regulating authority, the General Medical Council, the Malaysian Medical Council and published in their guidance documents. Such guidance is provided to protect members of the public, maintain the public's trust in the professions and ensure that standards of behaviour and conduct are appropriate to the professions.

You should note that while Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed Malaysia) may consider an application to the MBBS programmes, we are not able to predict or pre-empt any decision of the General Medical Council (GMC) or Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) in relation to any disclosures at the time of registration with them. The GMC and MMC will normally investigate such disclosures at the time of registration, under their rules and guidance. The University is also unable to influence any decisions by future employers in relation to disclosures. A standard disclosure will detail every conviction (including spent convictions), caution, warning and reprimand which is recorded in the central record, or it will state that there is no such information held on all criminal information. Additionally, this level of disclosure will provide clarification as to whether the applicant is banned from working with children or vulnerable adults.

8. Providing False or Misleading Information

Applicants who are suspected of providing, or are found to have provided, false information or application similarities shall be referred to agents if their application was originally submitted through that service. The University reserves the right to cancel an application and withdraw any offer if it is found that the application contains false or misleading information.

9. Description of Programmes and Application

The first 2 years, though largely university based, are case led with clinical skills and professionalism taught and assessed from the start, so laying the foundation of clinical practice. The final 3 years of the course are clinically based with teaching taking place in government hospitals/clinics facilities throughout the Johor. We aim to provide a range of clinical experiences and as such students will be required to spend prolonged periods at sites from Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed Malaysia) campus.

Students will also be required to take part in work outside of normal working hours, which would reflect that of a Doctor's training in the government hospitals.

R2/721/6/0046 MBBS Five-year programme: available to both domestic and 'International' students. We also have places to recruit international students. Note that application to the MBBS programme delivered at Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed Malaysia) is not open to UK/EU applicants.

10. The Admissions Process Applications

All applications will be acknowledged on receipt by the Admissions Team. The application will be processed within specific timeline. The selection process involves three stages: a) shortlisting; b) interview of shortlisted candidates; and c) making offers.

Shortlisting

Applications are assessed initially to check application data and the acceptability of qualifications. Predicted or achieved grades are required. Applications fulfilling the academic requirements will be passed to the next stage. Academic entry information can be found at: <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/numed/study-with-us/undergraduate-and-foundation-study/mbbs-honours/>

Resit qualifications - Note: Applicants must have achieved the necessary A level grades at the first attempt.

We do not consider applications from candidates who have previously commenced a medical degree and failed to progress for any reason.

Please Note: Once the academic screening criteria have been met academic achievement is not considered further in subsequent parts of the application process. E.g. additional A levels or A* results do not give further advantage.

Interview

The purpose of the interview is to confirm whether the candidate has the aptitude, motivation and personal qualities to succeed as a medical student at Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed Malaysia) and as a potential doctor of the future.

Once we have considered candidate's application and are pre-selected, candidate will be invited to attend an interview.

Interviews will be held at the Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed Malaysia) campus in Johor, and in other centres within Malaysia including in Kuala Lumpur and in East Malaysia. In certain circumstances, we can arrange for candidate to be interviewed elsewhere. Currently interviews are conducted online through Zoom platform.

The interview, conducted by two trained selectors, will last approximately 30 minutes. The interview format is designed to confirm whether each candidate have the aptitude, motivation and personal qualities to succeed as a medical student in Newcastle University

Medicine Malaysia (NUMed Malaysia), and as a potential doctor of the future.

At the conclusion of the interview each selector will grade performance and complete an assessment form. These grades are used as the basis for the final decision to offer you a place on the programme.

At interview you will be assessed and graded under the following main categories:

- Motivation
- Reflection on care and role of the doctor
- Empathetic and ethical reasoning
- Critical thinking
- Communication skills

Selectors will expect candidate to show some insight into personal attributes, the learning that has resulted from previous experiences, and an understanding of the relevance of these factors to a career in medicine.

Making Offers

Candidates who have been unsuccessful at the shortlisting stage will normally be informed immediately after the screening process. Candidate will be informed of the outcome of the interview whether they will be offered a place to study medicine at Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed Malaysia), within one week of the interview.

To ensure equity, offers will be made in writing by the Senior Admissions Manager, following interview, once all the interviews have been completed. The offer will remain valid within six weeks of the offer letter or by deadline.

Note: All qualification results must be confirmed and received by August to coincide with the release of the 'A' level results. REMARKS - Those applicants who hold an offer and are appealing an A level grade must inform the University as soon as possible to discuss the impact of their appeal on their entry to the programme. If an applicant requests a re-mark of their A-Levels and achieves the offer grades before 31st August in the relevant admissions cycle, we will endeavour to admit them to the MBBS programme for the academic year for which they applied. This is subject to places being available on the programme. If the programme is full, a place will be guaranteed for deferred entry one year later. If results of re-marks are received after 31st August, a place for deferred entry may be offered but there is no guarantee that this will be possible, and each instance will

be considered on a case-by-case basis. However, applicants, who receive a re-mark after the 31st August and who are not offered a deferred place would be welcome to re-apply in the following admissions cycle.

11. Deferred Entry

We will consider applications from candidates who wish to defer entry by one year if they can demonstrate plans to use their time constructively. Any further additional deferral requests will require evidence of extenuating circumstances. Once offers have been made, deferrals will not normally be granted. Applicants need to pay the deposit to confirm their deferment for the next admissions cycle.

12. Transfers

Due to the integrated nature of our medical degree programme, we do not normally consider students wishing to transfer from another medical school. Such students would be expected to apply to Year 1 entry, provided they have not previously been considered and declined by us. Requests from medical students who have been required to withdraw from other medical schools due to failure to progress will not be considered.

13. English Language Test

All applicants required to provide an English Language qualification must have achieved/achieve a minimum score of 6.5 in each domain (IELTS). If wishing an alternative qualification to be considered, the applicant should contact the University to check that it would be acceptable. Effective from 1st January 2018, all international students are compulsory to sit for approved English test by the Ministry of Higher Education before they can join undergraduates' programmes.

14. Closing Date

Malaysian applicants: While there is no formal closing date for the receipt of applications, you are encouraged to apply early as places on the programme are offered throughout the year and a limited number of places are available.

International applicants: The closing date for receipt of international applications is 30th

July each year. This is to permit enough time for us to assist you to obtain your student visa.

15. Feedback

Feedback will be given to unsuccessful applicants upon written request. Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed Malaysia) will not enter discussions relating to the professional judgement underlying the scoring at interview. We are unable to provide feedback to applicants who have received an offer.

Please note: In accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, such feedback can only be given to the applicant. Specific feedback can only be provided to a third party when written consent has been provided by the applicant to the University.

16. Age

Whilst we do not impose an entry age limit to study, it may be necessary to impose a lower age limit due to NHS regulations should the applicant plan to apply for Foundation year in the UK. Therefore, it may not be possible to consider an applicant who would be under the age of 17 on entry.

As per Accreditation Guidelines 2016 by the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC), pursuant to the Age of Majority Act 1971 (Act 21) and taking into cognisance of intimate issues and procedures, student should be at least 18 years old during admission. This is to ensure that one possesses the required and enough maturity to pursue the medical course.

17. Appeals and Complaints

Prospective student who does not success in the MBBS student interview are granted the chance to appeal once, and they may request feedback from panel. Upon approval of the appeal, the student will be invited for second interview with different accessors.

Any appeal must be submitted within 7 days of the receiving the interview result. Appeals received after these 7 days period will not be considered.

The appeals process is overseen by an Executive Board (EB) member, separate from the

initial selection panel, to guarantee objectivity and impartiality in decision-making.

Applicants who feel they have grounds to Complain/Appeal about the administration of the MBBS Admissions Policy may direct their Complain/Appeal to the Senior Admissions Manager through email or mail to Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed Malaysia), 1 Jalan Sarjana 1, Kota Ilmu, EduCity@Iskandar, 79200 Iskandar Puteri, Johor.

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