

Your Medicine MMI



Preparing
for your
interview
at
Newcastle

Preparing for your interview at Newcastle

Congratulations on being invited to an interview at Newcastle. We believe in an open and transparent selection process and as part of this, we want to provide you with information about our interviews to help you prepare so that you are able to perform at your best. This quick guide will provide some simple and practical advice.

What we look for and what to expect

We find that the best interview performances are from candidates who can fluently describe, analyse and reflect on a range of their own life experiences, behaviours, observations and opinions. We encourage you to be prepared, but we are definitely not looking for rehearsed and scripted responses – there will be many good answers to the questions you will be asked. It is really important to be yourself at our interviews and say what you think rather than what you think we want to hear. We want to find out about you and assess why our MBBS programme would be the right one for you. Our interviews will be friendly but probing. You should expect to be asked a range of questions, but do not expect to be examined on specific pieces of technical knowledge.

Our selectors

Our pool of selectors come from a variety of backgrounds and are provided with regular training to ensure fairness and transparency. The selectors you meet may be a mixture of NHS doctors, university staff, researchers, intercalating medical students and lay people from all walks of life.



The Multiple Mini Interview

For all Home and EU students we use the multiple mini interview (MMI) format for selection. Our MMIs are composed of seven stations that you will rotate through. Each station lasts seven minutes, with two minutes for movement and preparation in between. The whole MMI will last approximately 65 minutes.

We recognise that you may be nervous, so on your first station we will ask "why you want to be a doctor?" as a warm up question. You will be given two minutes to answer the warm up question. This will hopefully get you talking and allow you to become more relaxed. Any answers that you give in this two minutes will not count towards your interview score. Once the warm up is complete you will then start the assessed part of the MMI. Each of the seven assessed MMI stations cover a number of different criteria.

Interview Criteria

- Communication, Empathy and Self-awareness
- Compatibility with MBBS Programme
- Motivation and commitment to be a doctor
- Team working including leadership
- Personal organisation
- Persistence and resilience
- Integrity



Seven minutes may not seem like a very long time, but you will be surprised at how much information you can provide the selectors in this time. Typically, each MMI station may begin with a general question for example "Can you tell me about a time when you...?" To get more detail about your ideas and experiences this may be followed up by a more specific question, this might be "What were your thoughts on this...?". There may be further questions that try to focus on your thoughts and reflections, such as "What did you learn from this...?". Each interview is unique, but by the end of the interview the selectors should have asked you a number of questions that will have covered enough content related to the criteria listed above. The table below gives some examples of the attributes we will be looking for against the criteria assessed. Please note that this is a guide only and is not an exhaustive list – there are many other positive attributes selectors look for.

Criteria	Example positive attribute expected to from candidates
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to provide clear and succinct information • Can summarise • Confident without being arrogant
Empathy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows concern for others
Self-awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands own behaviour and can recognise why they have acted in a certain way • Open to ongoing personal development
Compatibility with MBBS Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a good understanding of the Newcastle MBBS programme, teaching methods and ethos • Understands the learning styles required on the Newcastle MBBS programme and is able to identify potential development needs so that these are met
Motivation and commitment to be a doctor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balanced understanding of the role of a doctor • Understands the difference between medicine and other careers • Has good overview of post-graduate career options
Team working including leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can work effectively in a team • Knows when to lead and take responsibility appropriately • Shows interest in the welfare of other team members
Personal organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is well organised and good at planning ahead • Is able to balance study and recreation
Persistence and resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of dealing with difficulty and set backs • Remains calm when under pressure • Can deal with consequences of decisions
Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is non-judgemental • Can acknowledge and accept mistakes • Has awareness of topical ethical issues in medicine

Scoring of interview responses

After completion of the interview the selectors will independently score your performance on a scale of 1 – 5 for each of the criteria. They may also include any feedback they wish to provide. Offers for places on the programme are then made based on the total interview score.