

MSB BULLETIN



Welcome to the October 2009 edition of the UKFPO Medical Student Board bulletin. This is a busy month for everyone with the application system live from 12-23 October. Some of the most important points for applicants to consider are included in this bulletin, please remember that there is much more information available on the UKFPO website: (www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk).

Please remember that you can contact us with any UKFPO-related queries on our dedicated e-mail address: msa.ukfpo@googlemail.com

Kind Regards,

Thomas Kelley and Matko Marlais
UKFPO Medical Student Advisors

Key Messages from the recent MSB meeting

Here are a few key messages from the UKFPO Medical Student Board meeting which took place on Monday 28th September 2009:

1. Questions 2-6 of the application form all relate to the FP 2010 Person Specification. Make sure you read a copy of this and use it to help you write your answers.

2. Applicants will not score higher if they apply to their local foundation school, the markers will not see where the student comes from. You should apply to the school you most want to go to.

3. Questions are marked horizontally, so a marker will only see one answer. It is therefore essential that you answer each question individually (e.g. do not put "see answer to question 3" in the box for question 5, as you will score 0).

4. You will need to provide 2 referees, one consultant/GP who knows your clinical abilities. Another should be at your university. Remember that they do not need to write a detailed report about you and this will **not affect your allocation to a foundation school/programme.**

5. Some applicants will be asked to verify their answers. Make sure you are able to provide evidence to back up ALL your answers - consult the FP201 Applicant's Handbook for further guidance.

6. Do not rank your schools purely on the basis of last year's competition ratios. While these give some indication, they will fluctuate each year.

7. Make sure you are aware of the allocation algorithm. Briefly, applicants are allocated first based on preference, then on score. Further information can be found in

Timeline for Foundation Programme 2010 Recruitment

28th September 2009:
Enrolment opens online. Application questions and handbook available to download online.

12th October 2009:
Online application system opens, applications can be submitted online.

23rd October 2009:
Application system closes (12 noon, BST).

9th December 2009:
Application results and foundation school allocation available online.

Key Documents and Downloads:

FP 2010 Applicants Handbook

FP 2010 Person Specification

Podcast for Applicants

Plagiarism and Courses

As you would expect, plagiarism is taken very seriously and should you be found guilty, you risk being removed from the application process and referred to the GMC. All application forms are checked using the most up to date plagiarism software. Please remember not to copy demonstration answers given in lectures, as this constitutes plagiarism (this

has happened in the past). While it's perfectly acceptable to discuss questions and answers with friends and colleagues, it is imperative that you write your own individual answers.

A number of courses by different organizations are being held this year. Please remember that the questions are completely

different to previous years and the scoring criteria will not be released.

Therefore, think carefully whether these courses are worth the money. If you do attend be careful when writing up the answers not to copy any sample answers you've been given.

Swine Flu

Our advice is to complete the application form as soon as possible.

If there is a Swine Flu national emergency, the deadline for submission will NOT change. Therefore, this will not be an excuse for late applications which will not be accepted under any circumstances.

