Multiple Mini-Interviews

From those who apply, approximately 90 candidates are invited to attend for interview. Interviews take place in December.

There are seven stations. Each interview lasts for 6 minutes, with 2 minutes preparation time outside the station to read information relating to that topic. At each station one interviewer will discuss the topics with you and will assess your performance. For some of your stations, an observer may be present but this person will not participate in any aspect of the process.

Please note that, in the MMI format, seven applicants will be interviewed simultaneously and the order in which you attend each station is assigned at the time of registration.

The format allows you to start afresh at each mini-interview. A range of your personal attributes relevant to studying medicine will be assessed by means of different tasks. Interview stations are designed to assess aspects such as: motivation for medicine; communication; perspective-taking (empathy); self-insight; ethical reasoning; data interpretation; ability to evaluate information and identify relevant aspects.

The seven stations are:

Data Interpretation:

You will be presented with data relating to a patient scenario. You will be expected to show an understanding of the importance of numerical accuracy in managing the situation and be able to demonstrate your own numerical ability, by undertaking very simple calculations in your head. The discussion with an interviewer will also relate to your understanding of the significance of numerical accuracy in clinical situations.

Motivation and Insight into Medicine:

You will be asked to discuss specific aspects of your work experience; in particular, those experiences where you had some role in providing care or support to vulnerable individuals. It is expected that you will have also developed an understanding through observation of professional healthcare workers. The type of experience is not important but we will expect you to have gained good insight into professional behaviour and have discovered what qualities are important for good and effective patient management.

Dealing with personal and ethical challenges:

You will be provided with a scenario relating to potential challenges faced by doctors. You have the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of the personal qualities important for coping in a demanding career.

Interactive Task:
The interactive task station gives you a chance to show how comfortable and confident you are meeting a new person, and having a short conversation with them; a conversation that will cover issues of substance and there is an overall objective to the discussion.

You’ll be provided with a brief paragraph to explain the context of the conversation, and then how it runs is up to you. The station is primarily about communication.

One of the core qualities of a good doctor is the ability to communicate well, often with people that s/he has not met before. Also of course when you start university you will need to interact with lots of new peers and staff, so this station focuses on some of the qualities you need for those situations too.

This station is not about testing knowledge, so you can’t ‘revise’ for it. The qualities that the task measures includes things like listening, questioning, engaging and responding appropriately to what another person says.

Debate Task:

You will be presented with a short introduction to a topic relevant to health care. You will be expected to identify the issues that are of particular relevance to this topic and, through discussion of these, highlight why this topic is subject to debate. You should also present your arguments for possible courses of action.

Ethics:

This station provides candidates with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to consider and communicate about ethical issues in a balanced manner. Students are not expected to have any prior clinical knowledge and scenarios used to stimulate discussion will include all of the relevant information necessary in order to make a decision.

Students will be assessed on their ability to: analyse the question set with reference to the rights of patients; communicate their ideas, and formulate arguments and counter-arguments in an ethically justifiable manner.

Communication:

Your skills in communication are important throughout the interview process but in this station you will be engaging with a trained role player who is also trained in assessment. You are expected to interact with the role player as if the situation is real. Your skills in establishing an effective rapport whilst dealing effectively with the challenges that will be presented to you will be assessed.

Outcome of interview:

The decision whether an offer is made is based primarily on the interview performance data. We will not re-review academic information in making the decision unless absolutely necessary (e.g. if there are a number of applicants on the same interview score). The scores for each station are used to calculate an average score (simple arithmetic mean), which is used to rank all applicants. We expect to make up to 50 offers and these applicants will be
identified according to the rank order (we do not define an acceptable overall score). It is likely that we will continue to set a minimum performance standard for each station (which will be well below the threshold for the average score). If this is not met than an offer may not be made even if the overall score is above threshold.

We expect to be able to begin communicating decisions in mid-January.

Preparation for interview and indeed for study on a medicine programme is aided by engaging in frequent discussions with friends and family about medical issues appearing in the news and media. You should also use your time on work experience effectively by gaining insight into the demands placed on staff, the problems they encounter and the strategies that they employ to handle difficult situations as well as the benefits they obtain from caring for people and working in teams. Again, opportunities to engage in discussion of these issues must be taken.