Allocation to Wessex Foundation School 2009

FAQ’S

I’m unhappy with my final score – Can I have my application re-scored?
No. Applications cannot be re-scored. You cannot appeal against your score; you can only appeal against the application of the scoring criteria.

Your application was scored by your first choice foundation school. Each answer was scored by a trained scoring panel of two people, at least one of whom was a clinician, using a detailed set of national scorers’ criteria. Applications were scored horizontally, which means that each panel only scored one question at a time (i.e. all Question 2s; or all Question 3s) rather than scoring an entire application. The result is that your application was marked by a number of panels.

If you believe that the scoring criteria were not applied with appropriate diligence or due care or in scoring your application; or that the decision was made in a prejudicial way, you can lodge a complaint.

Information about the complaints & appeals process can be found on the UKFPO website under the key documents section for medical students.
http://www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/pages/medical-students/key-documents#complaints-appeals-process

Can I have application form feedback so I know where I went wrong?
We appreciate that some people are unhappy with their final score and request feedback on their applications to assist them when making future job applications. You may find it helpful to discuss your application form with your Educational Supervisor, once you are established in your F1 post. This can be used as a formative exercise to help you to improve completion of such forms in the future.

What are the Shadowing (Preparing for Professional Practice) arrangements in Wessex?
Shadowing will take place at the hospital where you will be spending your F1 year. It will run from Wednesday 29 July 2009 to Monday 3 August 2009 excluding the weekend, and is followed by Trust induction on Tuesday 4 August 2009 - the first day of employment.

You will not receive a salary from the Trust during your attachment, but accommodation will be provided free of charge.

Funding is available to trusts to support the shadowing period for Southampton Medical Students. Students from other medical schools should enquire if funding is available from their own medical school.
Details about shadowing arrangements can be found on our website:  
http://www.nesc.nhs.uk/primary_areas/wessex_deanery/wessex_schools/foundation/shadowing_in_wessex.aspx

**Shadowing Requirements for Non-Southampton final year students**
Please note that Wessex Foundation School is unable to assist with shadowing arrangements that are undergraduate curriculum requirements for other medical schools.

If you need to arrange an undergraduate shadowing placement, please liaise with your allocated Trust to find out if this is possible, and to make arrangements.

All applicants allocated to Wessex are expected to attend the Wessex shadowing week between 29 July and 3 August at their employing trust. This includes applicants who have already completed an undergraduate shadowing placement.

**Matching to Trusts/Programmes within the Wessex Foundation School – how does it work?**
Phase 2 - Within Phase 2 of the process, taking place between 7 January - 9 February 2009, applicants who have been allocated to the Wessex Foundation School will rank online the programmes offered by Wessex Trusts.

The deadline for ranking ALL programmes in order of preference is - Monday 9th February 2009.

Applicants will be automatically matched to programmes according to score and applicant preference. This is a simple match in score order and will place applicants in a trust/programme according to their ranked preferences. You will therefore be matched in score order, gaining a place in a trust/programme before applicants who scored lower than you. Where two or more applicants have the same score automatch will use random selection to decide which applicant to take first.

You will receive notification of your trust/programme allocation via email on Tuesday 3rd March 2009.

Appointment to a post is dependent upon the applicant successfully completing medical school (passing finals) and is subject to pre-employment checks and references.
Withdrawing from your allocated post and from the Foundation Programme application system
If you do not take up your place in your allocated Deanery you may not be able to find an F1 training post in England. Before you make any decision, you are advised to speak with your medical school / foundation school to review your options.

We have received the following guidance on recruitment to vacant F1 posts (from August 2009). These can only be advertised as:

a) One-year non-training posts (locums)

OR

b) One-year training posts where an essential criterion is that the applicant should hold full GMC registration.

The vacancies created by finals failures will be treated the same way.

Vacancies will be advertised in spring/early summer. Please refer to the recruitment section of our website for further details.

Applicant Scores - Can I compare my score to others within Wessex?
For an overview of the range of applicant scores for Wessex, please follow this link to a distribution chart on our website.

http://www.nesc.nhs.uk/pdf/Score%20range%20bar%20chart.pdf

Matching for the F2 year – what is the process for allocation of jobs for the F2 year? And can I move Trusts?
Your F2 year is guaranteed within Wessex, but not necessarily within the F1 Trust.

Matching to F2 will take place during the F1 year, and F1 doctors will be asked to state their preferences (for example stay as an F2 doctor in their F1 Trust, move to another Trust within Wessex, apply for prospective approval of an F2 post abroad).

F1 doctors are encouraged on educational grounds to continue into their F2 year in the same Trust, where places are available. A trainee would therefore be given priority to stay within a trust, over other F1’s who are wishing to move into that trust from another.

If you want to change trusts you are also eligible to do this, but in some trusts there is a shortage of F2 posts and there may be competitive selection.
If insufficient F2 places are available in a Trust to accommodate all F1 doctors already working there and wishing to stay for F2, it may be necessary to hold interviews for selection to an F2 placement within that Trust. The cohort of F1 doctors thus affected will be advised before then of vacancies elsewhere within Wessex.

Our F2 Policy can be found on our website via this link:

http://www.nesc.nhs.uk/professional_resources/wessex_deanery/wessex_schools/foundation/matching_to_f2_-_process.aspx

**Working abroad - What options are available?**

F1 doctors wishing to achieve their F2 competences outside the UK will need to apply for Prospective Approval of the F2 post. We ask that applications for Prospective Approval are submitted 6 months ahead of the post start date. Guidelines for the Prospective Approval process can be found on our website:

http://www.nesc.nhs.uk/primary_areas/wessex_deanery/wessex_schools/foundation/f1__f2_abroad.aspx

**Accommodation**

As of 1st August 2007 Trusts are not obliged to provide free accommodation for F1 doctors. Please contact the individual trusts to find out information about local accommodation arrangements.

**How much will I earn? - Pay Banding**

Information about pay banding is available from Medical Personnel teams at the individual trusts.

**How can I find out more about the trusts within Wessex?**

The 10 trusts that offer Foundation training in Wessex are:

- Basingstoke & North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust
- The Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch NHS Foundation Trust
- Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Isle of Wight NHS Primary Care Trust
- The Jersey General Hospital, States of Jersey
- Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust
- Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust
- Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust
- Winchester & Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust
For information on any of the individual trusts within Wessex, please follow this link to a page on our website that lists links to all trust websites:
http://www.nesc.nhs.uk/about_nesc/trusts_and_pct_partners.aspx

**International Students – applying for permit-free training**
Graduates of UK universities are able to apply to the Home Office for an extension of their leave to remain – this will be extended for a total of 26 months, enabling the trainee to complete the 2 year Foundation Programme. (You will therefore not require a work permit).

Applications will need to directly to the Home Office for this to be granted, and as part of your application, a letter from your Foundation School also needs to be supplied. The letter confirms to the Home Office that you have been offered a training post within the Wessex Foundation School, and names your allocated Trust.

Please contact the Wessex Foundation School if you are an international student and you will require a letter in support of your application. (Southampton students who have been allocated to another Foundation School should contact the Foundation School Manager at that school to find out what their local process is).

Please follow the link below to the Home Office / UK Border Agency website for details of how to make your application for extending your leave to remain.

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk/othercategories/postgraduatedoctorsanddentist switching/

Please note – you should make your application to the Home Office once you have been notified of your Trust allocation. Please do not leave it to the last minute! Applications can take many weeks to process.