

The use of the Multiple Mini-Interview in the MBChB admission process

Dr Karen Foster, Admissions Lead (Medicine)

Background

Evidence suggests that the multiple mini-interview (MMI) is a reliable, valid and acceptable format for assessing non-academic aspects of medical school applicants.

The University of Aberdeen Medical School introduced MMIs in place of 20 minute two person interviews in the academic year 2012/13.

The MMI comprises seven stations each lasting seven minutes with two minutes between each station.

An application (“app”) was developed by the Medi-Cal Unit to collect the data from the interviews on iPads.

MB ChB admission process

The Admissions procedure at Aberdeen involves the detailed assessment and scoring of a range of aspects of an application, including

- academic attainment/predictions (which contribute 30% of the overall admission score
- the UKCAT (20%)
- then subsequent interview performance (50%).

The written UCAS application is reviewed by admissions staff at the same time as the academic score is assessed and is then scored objectively at the interview. Details of the process are available at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/smd/medicine/index.php>

Applications are assessed against all the others received for that year’s entry. We received over 2500 applications in the 2014/15 cycle. Our year group number is 152 Home and 16 Overseas students.

Those applicants who score sufficiently highly achieve an interview then possibly an offer. This year we interviewed just under 800 applicants.

What is an MMI?

Candidates rotate around a number of different question stations in turn. At each station, a selector explores one question area/domain for 7 minutes and scores the candidate's performance against pre-determined criteria.

Communication and interpersonal skills are also scored at each station. The MMI experience lasts approximately 1 hour for each candidate.

Details about the MMI and advice for applicants about what to expect and how to prepare for interview are given at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/smd/medicine/interview.php>

Each admission cycle utilises a mixture of new and previously used stations. New stations are piloted by staff within the Division of Medical and Dental Education (DMDE) before they go live. The validity of each station is assessed using the Cronbach alpha statistical test.

Selector training and feedback

All Selectors receive training for their role and have access to a Selector Training website with information about the admission process; how to use the iPad app; and videos of four mock MMI stations to allow them to practice scoring.

Annual feedback is provided to each Selector on their individual performance compared to other Selectors at each MMI station.

