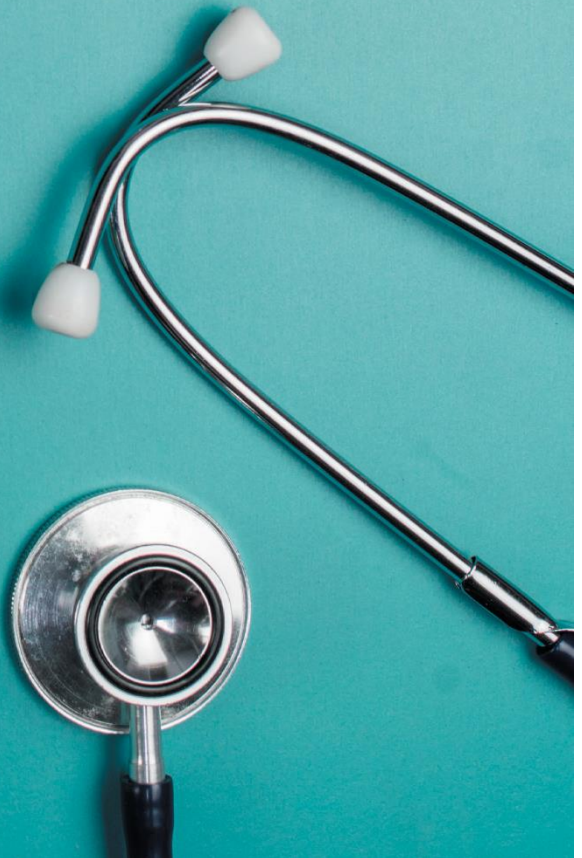




Newcastle
University

Your Medicine interview

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 are from a variety of backgrounds and 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 Interview Format

For all Home students, we use the multiple mini interview (MMI) format for selection. Our MMI's 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.

For International students, we will use a virtual panel interview, which will be hosted on Microsoft Teams. The panel-style interview is a more traditional interview in which you will be asked questions by two selectors. This will last approximately 25 minutes.

Regardless of the style of interview you are undertaking, the competencies we are looking for remain the same.

We recognise that you may be nervous, so the first question you will be asked is "why do you want to be a doctor?" as a warm-up. You will be given two minutes to answer this question, and it is designed to get you talking and allow you to relax into the interview. Your answer for the warm-up question will not be marked or count towards your interview score.

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**

Typically, general questions will start for example, “**Can you tell me about a time when you...?**” To get more details about your ideas and experiences, this may be followed up by a more specific question, “**What were your thoughts on this...?**”. There may be further questions to focus on your thoughts and reflections, such as “**What did you learn from this...?**”. Each interview is unique, but by the end, selectors will have asked you a number of questions that cover 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. 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 attributes expected from candidates
Communication, Empathy and Self-awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Able to provide clear and succinct information• Can summarise• Confident without being arrogant• Shows concern for others• Understands their own behaviour and can recognise why they have acted in a certain way• Open to ongoing personal development
Compatibility with the MBBS Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has a good understanding of the Newcastle MBBS programme, teaching methods and ethos• Understands the learning approaches used in the programme and can identify potential development needs
Motivation and commitment to becoming a doctor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Balanced understanding of the role of a doctor• Understands the difference between medicine and other healthcare careers
Team working, including leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can work effectively in a team• Knows when to lead and take responsibility• Shows interest in the welfare of other team members
Personal organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Well organised and good at planning ahead• Able to balance study and recreation
Persistence and resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence of dealing with difficulties and setbacks• Remains calm when under pressure• Can deal with the consequences of decisions
Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is non-judgmental• 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. This will be solely based on the answers provided during the interview. They may also include any feedback they wish to provide. Your UCAT situational judgement test band will also be included in your overall interview score. Offers are then made based 50:50 on your academic screening score and interview score.