

From: Freedom of Information

Sent: 26 October 2020 13:51

To:

Subject: Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/392)

Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/392)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 6 October 2020, reference K/20/392.

Your request read:

“I would like some insight into medicine with a gateway year course. If BMAT scores were not looked at for 2020 entry, what is the emphasis on BMAT scores for 2021 entry? What is the selection process for interviews? Do you read personal statements, use it for interviews, or use it during the selection for interview process along with BMAT scores? Do you only look at BMAT scores in selecting students for interviews? What scores are considered satisfactory to gain an interview?”

The University of Leeds holds some information relevant to your request.

If BMAT scores were not looked at for 2020 entry, what is the emphasis on BMAT scores for 2021 entry?

Due to the small pool of applications for this programme this year the BMAT scores were not used within the shortlisting process. The average BMAT scores for a successful or unsuccessful candidate are therefore irrelevant within this year's process. Shortlisting was determined by whether they met the academic requirements and were from a widening participation background.

The BMAT raw scores are typically used in the following manner: All scores from applicants to MBChB Leeds are put into a normal distribution curve. Those candidates who are in the highest 20% receive a score of five out of five, and those who are in the lowest 20% receive a score of one out of five. Everything in between is scored according to where they are placed in this distribution.

What is the selection process for interviews? Do you read personal statements, use it for interviews, or use it during the selection for interview process along with BMAT scores?

We assess application forms against academic criteria, considering past and predicted grades, and the applicants' BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) score. We also take into account any issues regarding mitigating circumstances raised in personal statements and academic references. You can find more information about the BMAT on the [Admissions Service website](#).

The top-ranked applicants are invited for interview. We use a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) format, where we further assess applicants' non-academic qualities. There are currently eight interview stations, which applicants progress around. Each station currently lasts seven minutes, with one minute to move between stations and read the next task. The format of stations varies. At the end of each station the examiners award marks, according to a pre-determined standardised scale. After the completion of all stations we calculate a ranked score.

Offers are made on the basis of merit and the ability of each applicant to meet the academic and non-academic criteria for admission. The decision to make an offer after interview depends entirely on the candidate's performance at interview, not on predicted or achieved academic performance, or other scores.

Do you only look at BMAT scores in selecting students for interviews?

No – all parts of the application are considered

What scores are considered satisfactory to gain an interview?

The cut-off for interview varies year-on-year and is totally dependent on the cohort scores in the year of application.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions about this email, however, please do not hesitate to contact us on foi@leeds.ac.uk

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you can request an Internal Review. Requests for Internal Review should be made in writing using the following contact information:

Post: Mr D Wardle
Deputy Secretary
The University of Leeds
Leeds
LS2 9JT

Email: foi@leeds.ac.uk

Requests for Internal Review should be submitted within 40 working days of receiving the University's response to your request. Further information about how the University manages Freedom of Information requests and about our complaints procedure is also available on our website (www.leeds.ac.uk).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review/complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Kind regards

Chloe Wilkins

Freedom of Information Officer

Secretariat

University of Leeds