

UK Foundation Programme (UKFP)

Key Changes for 2022

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National Timeline

The national timeline has been revised to ensure optimum test centre availability for applicants when they come to book the Situational Judgement Test (SJT). The following adjustments have been made to the timeline to achieve this objective: -

- The eligibility application window has been reduced from six to three weeks now that the entire process is managed online and no longer requires applicants to send supporting evidence in the post.
- The date for medical school nominations to be provided has been scheduled slightly earlier, with an expectation for nominee data to have been provided to foundation schools and uploaded to Oriel by no later than 31 August 2021.
- The booking window for the SJT will be open from 4 October for all applicants and from 29 September for applicants with approved reasonable adjustments.
- The primary application window will take place earlier than in previous years, between 8 and 22 September 2021.

The main allocation dates will remain consistent with the timeline from previous years, with allocation to foundation schools occurring in the second week of March and match to programme results being released in the second week of April.

Oriel Application Form

General

- The national application form has been improved on Oriel to reduce the amount of data entry for applicants who choose to apply to multiple programme types, that is, specialised (academic, education/teaching and/or leadership/management) - SFP, priority – FPP and standard two-year foundation programmes - FP.
- There is now a single application form, as opposed to (a maximum of) four entirely separate forms. Applicants who wish to apply for specialised (SFP) and priority (FPP) programmes will be able to indicate this as part of the primary application form and will be presented with additional question sets, where applicable. This will reduce the need for applicants to type out their personal, eligibility, competence, and referee details multiple times.
- There are separate preferencing windows for specialised and priority programmes
 - Applicants can preference SFPs/FPPs from as soon as they submit their FP application until 6 January 2022 (SFP) and 17 February 2022 (FPP).

Specialised Foundation Programmes (previously known as Academic Foundation Programmes)

- Applicants wishing to apply for SFP will be presented with a series of white-space questions (WSQs), which have been aligned across all specialised units of application (SUoAs).
- Individual SUoAs have the option to use local selection criteria (including but not limited to some or all of the WSQs).
- Individual SUoAs will make clear on their website what the local selection criteria are.

Applications for Pre-Allocation based on Personal Circumstances

- Applicants wishing to apply for pre-allocation based on personal circumstances to a particular foundation school will be able to do so as part of the main application form on Oriel.
- Applicants will still be required to complete a separate detailed pdf form, but they will upload this, along with any additional evidence required, to their Oriel application form. Applicants will not be required to email any information to the UKFPO, as in previous years.

Requests for Reasonable Adjustments for the Situational Judgement Test (SJT)

- Applicants who require reasonable adjustments when taking their SJT will have the option to request these as part of the main application form on Oriel. There is no need for applicants to complete a separate form. Applicants are not required to provide evidence during the application window; however evidence may be requested at any time so applicants should make sure they have this.

Pre-Allocation based on Personal Circumstances

No longer referred to as special circumstances

The process for pre-allocation based on personal circumstances will be referred to as the pre-allocation process, which will be available for applicants seeking to apply to be allocated to a particular foundation school for specific personal reasons. The term special circumstances will no longer be used.

The criteria for pre-allocation have been expanded to include significant caring responsibilities under criterion 2 (primary caring responsibilities) and two new criteria, for educational circumstances and Widening Participation. This is intended to support applicants who would benefit from being allocated in the vicinity of their qualifying medical school (or their home address, if appropriate) to allow for greater familiarity with the system and ongoing family/peer/medical school support.

Medical school colleagues and prospective applicants are advised to consider the guidance for pre-allocation and the specific requirements under each criterion when it is made available on the UKFPO website.

Specialised Foundation Programme (SFP) Selection

Previously known as Academic Foundation Programme (AFP)

Following a review of the programmes included as part of the academic selection process, programmes that are recruited to by individual or clusters of foundation schools will be referred to as specialised foundation programmes (SFP). Specialised foundation programmes include academic/research, medical education/teaching, and leadership/management posts. The intention is to make the offering clearer to applicants, as not all of these programmes are academic in the traditional sense, with some programmes being focused specifically on leadership and management for example.

The selection processes and scoring criteria for these programmes will be determined by local foundation schools. The scheduling of offers will be determined nationally, as in previous years.

Additional Educational Achievements – additional deadline

As a result of bringing forward the application window for FP2022, and an unintended consequence, the deadline for submitting evidence of EAs is also earlier than last year. We realise that some applicants who have undertaken and completed an additional degree may not have it awarded by the time of application (or had a publication accepted), so we have added an additional, later deadline.

- The additional deadline for the award of a degree or publication is Wednesday 3 November 2021. This date is in line with the deadline for this in previous recruitment years.
- Only applicants who have not had their degree ratified/publication published (but this EA is genuinely expected by the amended deadline) are expected to use this amended process.
- This process cannot be used to claim for publications that are 'in press' by the additional deadline.

- **Applicants must include their EA in their FP application form** ('Supporting Information (2)'), even if they do not yet have the supporting evidence. They should claim for the number of points relevant to their publication or additional degree. Applicants are not able to claim for EA points retrospectively (that is, after the FP application window has closed on Wednesday 22 September 2021).
 - Evidence upload not required at this stage (upload a blank document/write a dummy PUBMED ID) *only if degree not yet ratified/publication not yet published*
- The verification process will award 0 points. Do not be alarmed at this score. This is expected system behaviour and will be reviewed when you submit your evidence (see next step).
- Please submit the supporting evidence (degree certificate or official letter confirming the award, or PUBMED ID) through the Stage 1 Appeals process (only for EAs that you have claimed for as part of your initial application). The timeline for appeals aligns with the additional deadline for award of EAs.
 - If your evidence is accepted by the appeals panel, your EA score will be amended as appropriate when your final FP score is calculated.
 - Valid evidence not provided by this date will result in no points awarded for the claimed EA(s)
 - EA(s) not claimed for in the FP application form will not be awarded points under any circumstances
 - Review the timeline on the UKFPO website (and in the Applicants' Handbook)

UK Foundation Programme Office
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