

### Updates in Relation to COVID-19

COVID-19 is continuing to have a significant impact on the availability of suitable work experience opportunities for MBChB applicants. Warwick Medical School (WMS) is continuously monitoring the situation and would like to update you with the current position and guidelines. Note: Due to the fluidity of the COVID-19 situation the information below is subject to change.

#### 2021-2022 Admissions Cycle (Entry September 2022)

The 2021-2022 application cycle will currently proceed as normal: all published MBChB admissions criteria remain in place. Updates relating to UCAT and WMS work experience requirements are below.

#### UCAT

UCAT have published the Key dates for the 2021 test cycle here: <https://www.ucat.ac.uk/about-ucat/key-dates/>

#### WMS Work Experience Requirements (Applications for 2022 Entry)

WMS will now accept relevant work experiences conducted over the past 4 years (from 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021).

WMS are aware that certain hands-on work experience placements involving patients or people with healthcare needs might have been altered, and in some cases cancelled. Despite this, and given applicants previously had a 3 year, and now have a 4 year period (from 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021), in which to conduct the required work experiences, there are currently no changes to the published work-experience requirements. All applicants will need to have met these requirements by the application deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Relevant work experience roles that fall under the 'Key Worker' classification (UK Government defined) are still available. If you are undertaking such a role at this time, or in the near future, please ensure that you are medically fit and able to do so in light of COVID-19.

We recognise that many of our applicants want to be, or are currently, involved in the national response to COVID-19. We both encourage and support such activity, therefore for the 2021-2022 admissions cycle we will also accept the following work experiences:

- COVID vaccinator roles (vaccinators only – greeting/marshalling is not included).

COVID testing roles – these are only accepted if the tester is physically acquiring the sample from the patient – distribution of test for the patient to complete is not accepted).

NOTE: COVID testing and vaccinator roles can count for up to 50 hours hands on care, however, an applicant's second experience should involve hands on care or shadowing in a formal medical setting. For UK applicants this must be within the NHS.

- NHS 111 Operative (up to 50 hours).

- NHS facility/hospital patient-facing support staff/volunteer (must fall under the Key Worker category) (up to 50 hours).
- Volunteer under the NHS Volunteer Responders (GoodSAM) scheme launched by UK Government in March 2020: specifically involved in **hands-on** patient assistance, and the care of vulnerable patients in the community (up to 50 hours).
- Roles performed at distance and not in person (e.g., via telephone, video call, etc) that provide, as part of broader remit, experience of healthcare provision, triage or advice. Examples include Nightline, Samaritans, Red Cross support line and GoodSAM. The role must involve some form of healthcare provision, and not simply be a general conversation (e.g., “how are you?” calls). Given the variability of these roles, their total contribution toward the 70 hours minimum is capped at 20 hours and you must be able to provide evidence of having performed at least 60 hours of actual work within the role.
- St John ambulance volunteer (or equivalent), with log-book evidence of providing hands on care to people or patients with healthcare needs. Only the time spent caring for people or patients, and not the time on shift, will be considered (up to 50 hours).
- The shadowing of healthcare professionals in an online format provided the course/experience provides an opportunity for interaction, discussion and reflection that is in some way assessed and certified by the course/experience provider. The hours associated with such an experience must be evidenced within the certification, and total shadowing hours are capped at a maximum of 20 hours.
- We accept the Bright and Sussex Medical School Virtual Work Experience for a maximum of 10 hours as long as the reflection is completed, and you can provide a certificate of completion. Other online course will not be accepted unless they are credit bearing and verified.

Please contact us ([mbchb.admissions@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:mbchb.admissions@warwick.ac.uk)) if you are undertaking other forms of hands-on care of patients or people with healthcare needs related to the national COVID-19 response that are not covered in the list above.

**Evidence must be provided to demonstrate the number of hours and type of work that was completed as part of your work experience. This applies to all work experiences undertaken.**