

# Press release

18 July 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Foundation Programme to Run Parallel Recruitment Exercise

In addition to completing their FPAS application this Autumn, final year medical students will also be asked to take part in a full-scale pilot of the proposed selection methods during a Parallel Recruitment Exercise (PRE). This exercise will help ensure that any issues with the proposed application process are identified before the new methods go live for the FP 2013 recruitment round.

Both the Situational Judgement Test (SJT) and the Educational Performance Measure (EPM) will be piloted during this recruitment round.

All final year medical students will be expected to take a shortened version of the SJT, which will take one hour and will consist of 30 questions. Each medical school will inform their students of the date, time and venue for their particular SJT, choosing from one of the four nationally agreed dates below:

- Friday 11 November 2011 (Birmingham and Imperial only)
- Monday 28 November 2011
- Friday 9 December 2011
- Monday 9 January 2012

Students applying from medical schools outside the UK will also have the opportunity to undertake an SJT in Manchester if they are undertaking a clinical assessment, or in London if they are not. Students should be aware that as this is a pilot, their SJT results will not be taken into consideration for their FPAS application.

Medical school administrators will be piloting the Educational Performance Measure (EPM) element and consulting with students on what assessments should be included when calculating each student's decile score. The full EPM Framework can be found on the ISFP website: [www.isfp.org.uk](http://www.isfp.org.uk)

Students will receive feedback on both their SJT and EPM scores at the end of the recruitment process.

Professor Paul O'Neill, Chair of the Improving Selection to the Foundation Programme project said:

“This is an excellent opportunity for students to practice SJTs and for medical schools to ensure the processes for implementation are tried and tested. I would encourage all final year medical students to take part in the PRE to help ensure that the new methods and processes are robust.”

For more information on the research published the Parallel Recruitment Exercise (PRE), including example SJT questions and the EPM framework, go to [www.isfp.org.uk](http://www.isfp.org.uk)

- ENDS -

### **Notes to editors**

1. A full Parallel Recruitment Exercise (PRE) will be run alongside the national FP2012 recruitment round, allowing medical schools to conduct a “dry run” before implementing the new selection methods in earnest for FP 2013 recruitment.
2. The aim is for an invigilated Situational Judgement Test (SJT) to replace the “white-space” application questions and for an Educational Performance Measure (EPM) to replace the current academic quartile ranking for students in the FP 2013 recruitment round.
3. All medical students applying to the Foundation Programme 2012 will be asked to take an SJT in addition to completing their FPAS application.
4. Medical school administrators will be asked to calculate a decile score for each student’s EPM in addition to providing an academic quartile ranking.
5. The results from the Parallel Recruitment Exercise will only be used for purposes of analysis and will not have any bearing on the Foundation Programme allocation process.
6. Extensive piloting of both new selection methods has been successfully undertaken over the past year. SJTs are already being used for selection into GP training and are increasingly being piloted and used for other specialty selection.
7. Medical Schools Council is working closely with the UKFPO, BMA and the four UK departments of health to ensure that the new selection methods are fully piloted and fit for purpose before implementation.
8. The Parallel Recruitment Exercise (PRE) will take place in all medical schools in the UK.
9. For more information, or to schedule an interview with Professor Paul O'Neill, please contact Amy Stringer on [amy.stringer@medschools.ac.uk](mailto:amy.stringer@medschools.ac.uk) or tel: 020 7419 5427.