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Monday 22nd July 2019

To whom it may concern,

Re. FP Assessment for Entry to the UK Foundation Programme

The UK Foundation Programme Office (UKFPO) is writing to inform all UK medical schools of changes to the assessment process for entry to foundation training in the UK.

For the last six years, applicants to the Foundation Programme have been required to sit a Situational Judgement Test (SJT) at the medical school in order to meet the person specification requirements for foundation training. The SJT is a written test targeting the key attributes in the Foundation Programme person specification including patient focus, commitment to professionalism, coping with pressure, effective communication and team working. The SJT presents applicants with a series of work-relevant situations and asks applicants about how they would respond to these situations. The SJT assesses attributes that are separate from the clinical knowledge demonstrated by the primary medical qualification, and performance at medical school, as measured by the Educational Performance Measure (EPM). Applicants are ranked based on their combined performance on the SJT and the EPM.

UK medical students are currently expected to sit the test under invigilated conditions on one of two specific dates, usually as determined by the medical school.

For UKFP 2021 and postgraduate training due to commence in August 2021, the assessment process will be enhanced and will be moving to a digital platform, allowing us to introduce new item types, response formats, and multimedia elements. Our vision is to evolve and modernise the SJT, making it more engaging for applicants, while continuing to deliver a test that is reliable and can differentiate between performance. Applicants to the Foundation Programme will have the option to sit the test at either a Pearson Vue test centre at a location of their choosing, or from an alternate location with the use of remote proctoring. There will be two test windows; one in December 2020 and one in January 2021. Applicants will have the option to choose the date and time of their test around their own availability.

UK medical students who are currently in their penultimate year of undergraduate education will be expected to sit the current SJT. This change will take effect in 2020 and will apply to those who are due to graduate in 2021 and who will be looking to apply to the Foundation Programme in October 2020, for training that is due to commence in August 2021. Further information will be shared with relevant stakeholders in due course.

Any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the team.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Yapp'.

Dr Tom Yapp

UKFPO Special Advisor – Recruitment / Foundation School Director – Wales