

21 April 2017

Dear colleague,

**Two new routes into Medicine for applicants from a widening access background**

We are delighted to inform you of two new routes into Medicine, which the University of Aberdeen Medical School will introduce in the academic year 2017/18. Aberdeen Medical School has long been involved in a range of widening access activities through the Reach Scotland scheme. Within the admissions process, the Medical School provides additional support for applications from students from disadvantaged and challenging backgrounds.

In the next academic year, as part of the Scottish Government's strategic drive to widen access to higher education, Aberdeen Medical School will implement two new routes into Medicine, in addition to the traditional route.

1. Starting on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2017 a **pre-medical entry programme** will be delivered by The University of Aberdeen and North East Scotland College for 20 students who meet specific eligibility criteria for an innovative, supported Widening Access initiative. Details of the course and the entry criteria are enclosed with this letter. <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/smmsn/undergraduate/g2m>
2. We aim to reverse the trend of reducing numbers of applicants from a widening participation background to medicine by introducing a second approach to our strategy for applicants meeting widening participation criteria to enter directly into Year 1 MBChB. This will comprise;
  - Reducing the minimum academic requirement of AAAAB at higher level to AAAB for widening participation applicants.
  - Ring fencing five places for the best applicants from Reach Schools across the North of Scotland who have had the least success with respect to successful application to the Aberdeen medical programme in the last 10 years.
  - Establishing a bespoke summer school programme for summer 2018 to support the transition to university for widening participation medical entrants through both the lower minimum grade route or the ring-fenced school places.


We would be grateful if you could urgently cascade information about these two new routes into Medicine to the schools in your area.

Information evenings will be held in Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray; details of these will be circulated in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,



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