

Press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Improving Selection to the Foundation Programme – over 90 percent participation in SJT pilot

The ISFP Project Group today announces the final participation numbers in the Parallel Recruitment Exercise for the new Situational Judgement Test (SJT). Over 90 percent of applicants to the Foundation Programme participated in the pilot, including 92% of UK medical students and a number of overseas applicants. A total of 6,851 applicants took part in the pilot, including 6,781 UK medical students.

As recommended by the ISFP Project Group in its Final Report², all applicants to the Foundation Programme will take the SJT to assess aptitude for employment as part of the application process from FP 2013 onwards. The assessment will last for 2 hours 20 minutes and will consist of 70 questions, including a small number of pilot items. The SJT will be implemented alongside the Educational Performance Measure (EPM) to reflect academic achievement up to the point of application.

Professor Paul O'Neill, chair of the ISFP Project Group, said: 'The fact that over 90% of applicants to the Foundation Programme took part in the pilots speaks very well of medical students. They have taken the opportunity to gain experience of an assessment that is increasingly popular for speciality selection, and by taking part they are also helping to make selection to the Foundation Programme more reliable, robust and cost-effective. We value the views of medical students highly, so every applicant who took the test was given the opportunity to provide feedback and their views will be taken into consideration ahead of implementation of the live SJT.'

ENDS

Notes to editors

1. In January 2009, the Medical Schools Council was commissioned by the Department of Health to lead the Improving Selection to the Foundation Programme Project Group to look at the best way of selecting medical students to the Foundation Programme.
2. The Final Report of the ISFP Project Group can be found on the ISFP [website](#).
3. More information, including some example SJT questions and the EPM can be found on the ISFP website: www.isfp.org.uk
4. For more information please contact Will Riddington on will.riddington@medschools.ac.uk or Tel: 020 7419 5427