

**Office for
Students**



Medical and Dental Students survey 2022 (MDS22)

**Survey for the Office for Students, the
Department of Health and Social Care,
Health Education England and
UK higher education funding bodies**

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Summary

Purpose

1. The Medical and Dental Students survey 2022 (MDS22) asks higher education providers in the UK to provide data on the intake of medical and dental students in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 academic years.

Key points

2. This is an annual, UK-wide survey. The Office for Students (OfS) is conducting it on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), Health Education England (HEE), the Scottish Funding Council, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland.
3. Data from this survey is used by the OfS, DHSC and HEE as an early indicator of medical and dental intakes, including to inform DHSC and HEE workforce planning. The OfS will also be using the data to monitor the 2021-22 medical and dental intake targets and to inform funding allocations for providers in England.
4. The census date for the 2022-23 intake data is Sunday 9 October 2022.
5. Higher education providers with joint medical schools or other collaborative arrangements (see Annex A) are expected to submit a single joint return.
6. As part of the government's commitment to transparency, the OfS intends to publish data on both the confirmed 2021-22 and initial 2022-23 intakes on our website.¹ We intend to publish this data for all providers completing MDS22 as official statistics.²

Action required

7. MDS workbooks will be available to eligible providers via the OfS portal in late September 2022.
8. Completed workbooks must be submitted through the OfS portal no later than **noon on Thursday 20 October 2022**.
9. **By Wednesday 9 November 2022:**
 - a. All data verification queries must be resolved.
 - b. The data should be signed off by the provider's accountable officer.

¹ For the equivalent 2021 data on the OfS website, see www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/funding-for-providers/health-education-funding/medical-and-dental-intakes/.

² For the OfS official statistics release schedule, see www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/producing-statistics/.

Changes and clarifications since the Medical and Dental Students survey 2021 (MDS21)

Changes and clarifications

10. Although we have not made substantive changes to the guidance on fee eligibility, providers should note that changes to legislation from 1 August 2022 will affect the population of students who can be regarded as eligible for home fee status in the 2022-23 academic year. These changes will result in differences in how some student intakes are classified for 2021-22 and for 2022-23. The following list is intended to provide only a summary overview of new eligibility categories for home fee status taking effect from 1 August 2022, but providers should refer to guidance on eligibility for home fees available on the relevant nations' student finance web pages, to ensure that each category applies in the relevant devolved administration.³
- a. Students from Ukraine who are on a new year of instance (whether starting a new course or continuing a course from 2021-22), and who are in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland under one of the three routes for those affected by the conflict in Ukraine (the 'Ukraine Family Scheme', the 'Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme' and the 'Ukraine Extension Scheme').⁴ This change will only affect 2022-23 intakes, as students for the 2021-22 intakes will still be classified as overseas.
 - b. Persons granted leave under one of the Afghan Schemes who begin a new course on or after 1 August 2022.⁵
 - c. British nationals evacuated or assisted from Afghanistan who begin a new course on or after 1 August 2022.
 - d. UK nationals and their family members in the British overseas territories already benefit from access to home fee status if they meet the residency requirements of three years' residence in the UK, Islands and specified British overseas territories. Now family members of **all** persons who would be settled when in the UK, who begin a new course on or after 1 August 2022, will have access to home fee status. This is subject to those family members meeting three years residence in the UK, Islands and specified British overseas territories, of which at least part was in the specified British overseas territories, immediately before the start of the course.⁶
 - e. Family members of UK nationals settled in the UK were already eligible for home fee status, subject to having three years residence in the UK and Islands immediately before the start of the course. Now family members of **all** persons settled in the UK, who begin a

³ See, for providers in:

- **England** – <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies>
- **Scotland** – <http://www.saas.gov.uk/full-time/funding-information-undergraduate>
- **Wales** – <https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/undergraduate-finance/>
- **Northern Ireland** – <https://www.studentfinancenir.co.uk/types-of-finance/undergraduate/full-time/>.

⁴ Further details of the schemes can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-ukraine-scheme>.

⁵ This means persons granted leave under either the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme or the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy Scheme.

⁶ 'Students from British Overseas Territories: Access to Student Finance in England from academic year 2022-23', available from www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/policy, provides further guidance. Although this is guidance on access to student finance, the same changes apply to home fee status.

new course on or after 1 August 2022, will be eligible, subject to meeting those residency requirements.

Survey details

Outline timetable for the MDS22 return

11. The timetable for MDS22, and the grant adjustments appeal process for English providers, are summarised in Table 1. Actions for providers are in bold.

Table 1: Provisional timetable for MDS22 and grant adjustments appeal process

Date	Action	Action applies to
Late September 2022	MDS workbooks available to providers via the OfS portal.	All providers
9 October 2022	Census date for 2022-23 intake data.	All providers
20 October 2022	MDS22 submission deadline. A valid MDS22 workbook must be submitted through the OfS portal (no later than noon).	All providers
20 October 2022 to 9 November 2022	Data verification phase.	All providers
9 November 2022	Sign-off deadline. Final MDS22 data must be signed off as correct by the accountable officer as at the census date.⁷	All providers
By late November 2022	After verification, providers notified of provisional formulaic grant adjustments (where applicable) arising from recruitment against their medical and dental intake targets, and invited to submit appeals.	English providers only
11 January 2023	Deadline for submission of appeals against grant adjustments arising from over-recruitment against medical and dental intake targets.	English providers only
By end of February 2023	Providers notified of final grant adjustments arising from recruitment against medical and dental intake targets, including the outcome of appeals.	English providers only

Data preparation and submission

12. Contacts in the medical and dental schools will be able to access their provider's workbook via the OfS portal in late September 2022. A provider's portal user administrator can create an account for the data contact and give them access to the survey when it is live in September. Guidance for user administrators can be found on the login page for the OfS portal (<https://extranet.officeforstudents.org.uk/Data>). Once the data contact has access, they can download the blank MDS workbook which is individually prepared for each provider and saved in Excel. The completed workbook can then be uploaded via the OfS portal. Once the data has

⁷ For English providers only, see 'Regulatory advice 10: Accountable officers. Guidance for providers on the responsibilities of accountable officers' (OfS 2018.29), available at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/regulatory-advice-10-accountable-officers-guidance-for-providers-on-the-responsibilities-of-accountable-officers/.

successfully uploaded, a results package workbook can be retrieved which will contain the data in our systems that was previously uploaded.

13. The name of the workbook will be MDS22XXXXXXXXX.xlsx (where XXXXXXXXX denotes the UK Provider Reference Number (UKPRN)). Do not attempt to rename or reformat the workbook, because our systems for loading providers' returns depend on the file-naming convention and file formats.
14. All totals, labels and table formats will be locked using Excel's cell protection facilities. Do not attempt to change the contents of the protected cells, or the structure of tables by adding or deleting any rows or columns. Only cells where data is required should be altered. If a password warning appears, this means a protected cell has been selected or an attempt made to 'paste' over a protected cell. Worksheets contain information critical to accurate loading of the data; it is essential that this is preserved. We will refuse to accept any workbooks which have been unprotected as we cannot be certain of our ability to load the data contained in them correctly. We are aware that certain software packages remove the saved passwords; please let us know if you think you may have removed the password in error in this way.
15. The Excel workbook contains the following four worksheets (see Annex B for examples):
 - a. Medical confirmed intake – Medical students intake during the academic year 2021-22.
 - b. Medical initial intake – Medical students intake for the academic year 2022-23 as at 9 October 2022.
 - c. Dental confirmed intake – Dental students intake during the academic year 2021-22.
 - d. Dental initial intake – Dental students intake for the academic year 2022-23 as at 9 October 2022.For providers in England there is an additional worksheet (see Annex C):
 - e. MDS22Summary – A read-only summary that shows for each MDS table the provider's intake target and maximum overseas number, the reported total intake, and the number and percentage of overseas students from the reported intake. This table will be populated automatically when data is entered in the survey tables (Medical confirmed intake, Medical initial intake, Dental confirmed intake and Dental initial intake).
16. All worksheets in the original workbook should be returned even if they contain no data. This will be applicable for new medical schools that have no data for the 2021-22 academic year (although the Medical confirmed intake and Dental confirmed intake tables will usually be hidden for new medical schools). Providers should keep a back-up copy of the tables that they return to the OfS.
17. A completed valid workbook must be uploaded to the OfS portal by noon on Thursday 20 October 2022.

Data verification and sign-off

18. After the survey is successfully submitted to the OfS portal, providers should check the data in the results package to ensure that it is consistent with what has been submitted and that the 'date loaded' field has the date of the latest upload. The OfS will check the data for all providers against previous years' returns, and for providers in England against the intake targets set for

the year. Any discrepancies will be queried with the provider (or, in the case of a joint submission, with the provider that has submitted the data).

19. The OfS requires all providers to sign off their MDS data as fit for purpose by Wednesday 9 November 2022. We require the accountable officer (normally the head of provider) to sign off the finalised MDS return. This requires them to understand our data collection requirements, so that they can ensure that the provider has systems capable of producing an accurate, complete return and that the preparer of the return has compiled it competently. If it is anticipated that the accountable officer will be unavailable to sign off the data by the deadline, the delegated authority can sign off the data.
20. If an English provider fails to meet the deadline for signing off data, or we believe the data to be inaccurate, we reserve the right to use our own estimates of data to inform OfS funding allocations (see the Terms and conditions of funding for higher education institutions).⁸ For providers in England, we cannot guarantee that any amendments to data after 9 November 2022 will be taken into account. For providers in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, any amendments to data would be subject to the agreement of the Scottish Funding Council, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales or the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland respectively
21. The verification sign-off form will be available in the results package (as well as via email upon request). Once the OfS has completed the data verification process, all providers will be asked to have this form signed by the accountable officer. This signed verification form should either be uploaded to the OfS portal, or returned by email to mds@officeforstudents.org.uk by 9 November 2022.
22. We will only accept amendments after this point in exceptional circumstances, where errors are genuine, widespread, significant, and make a material difference to our use of the data. Amendments will be required to pass an assessment process, as described fully on our website.⁹
23. The OfS may use the student record returned to the designated data body (DDB) to monitor parts of the MDS return and will query providers if there are significant discrepancies.

Definitions and guidance

Coverage of tables

24. The intakes in all tables should be the headcount of students starting a programme that leads, on successful completion, to a first qualification that enables UK registration as a medical doctor or dentist (discounting those who already hold such a qualification). This will exclude those undertaking qualifications leading to registration with either the GMC or GDC under another profession, but will include students starting a 'graduate-entry course' (defined as one whose entry requirement is a first degree in a subject other than medicine or dentistry). Students who join a programme in the second or later year should also be included, unless they are transferring (see paragraph 35) or already hold a first UK registrable medical or dental

⁸ Available at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/terms-and-conditions-of-funding-for-2022-23/ (paragraph 22).

⁹ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/amendments-to-data/.

qualification. All students included in the MDS should be included in the individualised student record returned to the DDB for the relevant academic year.

25. International students who are entering after the first year of a medical or dental programme and intend to complete their first UK registrable medical or dental qualification, resulting in full registration with the General Medical Council or General Dental Council, are to be reported as intakes. For example, students from the International Medical University of Malaysia joining Year 3 should be included.
26. All international students should be included in the MDS survey unless an explicit exemption has been granted by the Department of Health and Social Care to exclude certain students from the intake control. The procedure for reporting international students may change in future years.
27. Where a student is studying for a medical or dental specialism that requires dual qualifications in both medicine and dentistry, such as oral and maxillofacial surgery, that student should only be reported for their first qualification. The intake on the second medical or dental programme and subsequent qualification should not be reported on this survey.
28. Students on courses preceding a course leading to a first UK registrable medical or dental qualification (such as foundation 'year 0' or gateway courses) should not be included in the reported intake figures, until they start year 1 of a programme leading to a first UK registrable medical or dental qualification. Where providers have fully integrated programmes that include the equivalent of a 'year 0' foundation year as the first year of the programme, the student should be reported as an intake when they start year 1 of the programme leading to a first UK registrable medical or dental qualification, rather than in 'year 0'.
29. Students who intend to take an intercalating non-medical or non-dental degree should be included as intakes when they first register with the provider where they intend to obtain a first UK registrable medical or dental qualification. This includes intakes to any six-year medical or dental programme that includes a non-medical or non-dental degree as part of the programme.
30. For the Medical initial intake and Dental initial intake tables, intakes should be reported as at 9 October 2022. Additional intakes after 9 October 2022 but before the end of the academic year, who have not withdrawn before the end of the academic year, should be reported the following year, in column 1 of the Medical confirmed intake or Dental confirmed intake tables on MDS23.
31. Intakes reported on Medical confirmed intake and Dental confirmed intake on MDS22 are an update of the Medical initial intake and Dental initial intake collected on MDS21. Students who withdrew from the programme between 10 October 2021 and 31 July 2022 inclusive should be reported in column 3 of Medical confirmed intake or Dental confirmed intake, but not in column 1 of Medical confirmed intake or Dental confirmed intake on MDS22. Students who withdraw after the end of the 2021-22 academic year, 31 July 2022, should be reported in column 1 of Medical confirmed intake or Dental confirmed intake on MDS22.
32. Students should be treated as having withdrawn for the purposes of this survey when they cease studying towards a first UK registrable medical or dental qualification. A date recorded in the ENDDATE field on the student record returned to the DDB indicates that a student has withdrawn.

33. Students who transfer to a programme that is not a first UK registrable medical or dental qualification should be reported as having withdrawn even if their ENDDATE field is blank.
34. Students who transfer from a programme leading to a first UK registrable medical qualification to a programme leading to the equivalent dental qualification, or vice versa, should be reported as withdrawn on the first programme and as an intake on the second.
35. Students transferring between medical programmes leading to a first UK registrable medical qualification should not be reported as intakes for the programme they transfer to, even when they change providers, unless they are transferring from a provider not subject to intake controls.¹⁰ Similarly, students transferring between dental programmes leading to a first UK registrable dental qualification should not be reported as intakes, unless they are transferring from a provider not subject to intake controls. However, students who transfer from a medical programme to a dental programme, or vice versa, should be reported as an intake for the programme they transfer to.
36. Students who suspend their studies should only be reported as having withdrawn when they have a value in their ENDDATE field; otherwise they should be reported in the survey in column 1 of Medical confirmed intake or Dental confirmed intake on MDS22.

Row and column descriptions

37. For all tables, student numbers should be reported by sex, fee eligibility and domicile.
38. Sex should be recorded on the MDS as coded on the student record returned to the DDB field SEXID.
39. Fee eligibility, as coded on the student record returned to the DDB, indicates for the purposes of this survey whether a student is eligible to pay home or other fees. Students entitled to be charged home fees are coded 1 in the fee eligibility field (FEEELIG) and those charged other fees are coded 2.
40. Domicile columns refer to the country of the student's permanent or home address prior to entry to the programme. EU and overseas students are those not domiciled in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. For English providers, for the purposes of the caps on overseas medical intake and overseas dental intake, only intakes recorded as subject to 'other' fees in column 1d will be counted.
41. Column 2 on all tables records students on a graduate-entry course. Students entered in this column should also be included in columns 1a to 1d on each table as appropriate.
42. Column 3 on the Medical confirmed intake and Dental confirmed intake tables record intakes who have withdrawn from the programme between 10 October 2021 and 31 July 2022 inclusive, by fee eligibility. Intakes who have withdrawn from the programme by 31 July 2022 should be reported in column 3 of Medical confirmed intake or Dental confirmed intake on

¹⁰ 'Intake controls' means: for providers in England or Scotland, those subject to medical or dental intake targets; for providers in Wales, those subject to limits on commissioned places; or for providers in Northern Ireland, those subject to a Medical and Dental contract full-time equivalent (CFTE) target.

MDS22 and not included in column 1 of Medical confirmed intake or Dental confirmed intake on MDS22.

Examples

Example 1: Registration, withdrawal

43. A student started a first UK registrable medical programme on 3 October 2021 but suspended studies on 6 January 2022. They notified the provider on 20 June 2022 that they do not intend to return and an ENDDATE was recorded in the 2021-22 student record returned to the DDB. As the student has withdrawn from the first UK registrable medical programme by 31 July 2022, they should be reported in column 3 and not in column 1 of Medical confirmed intake on MDS22.

Example 2: Transfer to a programme that is not a first UK registrable medical or dental programme

44. A student started a first UK registrable medical programme on 3 October 2021 but transferred to a biosciences degree on 6 January 2022. As the student had withdrawn from the first UK registrable medical programme by 31 July 2022, they should be reported in column 3 and not in column 1 of Medical confirmed intake on MDS22.

Example 3: Transfer from a medical to a dental programme

45. A student started a first UK registrable medical programme on 3 October 2021 but on 6 January 2022 transferred to a first UK registrable dental programme. As the student had withdrawn from the first UK registrable medical programme by 31 July 2022, they should be reported in column 3 and not in column 1 of Medical confirmed intake on MDS22. However, as they started a first UK registrable dental qualification programme on 6 January 2022 they should be included as an intake in column 1 of Dental confirmed intake on MDS22.

Example 4: Student retaking year 1

46. A student started a first UK registrable medical programme on 3 October 2021. On 3 October 2022 they return to retake year 1 of the first UK registrable medical programme:

- a. If the student withdrew (or was withdrawn) during 2021-22, they should be reported in column 3 and not column 1 of Medical confirmed intake on MDS22.
- b. If the student is retaking year 1 for any other reason, they should be reported in column 1 of Medical confirmed intake on MDS22.

47. In both these cases, the student should not be reported in the Medical initial intake table on MDS22 (as they would have been reported against the intake year in MDS21).

Annex A: Higher education providers with joint medical schools

Joint medical schools

We expect the following higher education providers with joint medical schools to submit a medical return this year:

- University of Brighton and University of Sussex
- University of Hull and University of York
- University of Kent and Canterbury Christchurch University.

There should be a single joint return from each joint medical school.

Other collaborative arrangements

We also expect the following higher education providers with collaborative arrangements around their medical provision to submit a joint medical return from the lead medical school this year:

- University of Leeds and University of Bradford (for 2021-22 intakes only)
- University of Nottingham¹¹ and University of Lincoln.

¹¹ For the University of Nottingham, the collaborative provision at Lincoln should be reported in a separate return to their own medical provision.

Figure 3: Dental confirmed intake table

The figure below shows the table used to collect data on the Dental students intake during the academic year 2021-22.

Headcount of the confirmed intake of dental students in the 2021-22 academic year																	
Provider name																	
Validation checks are shown below the table. Any cells that fail a validation check will be shown in red.																	
Intake target:																	
	Column 1 Total intake of students not withdrawn from the programme			Column 1a Domiciled in Great Britain			Column 1b Domiciled in Northern Ireland			Column 1c Domiciled in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man			Column 1d Domiciled in EU and overseas			Column 2 Intake to 'graduate entry' courses (included in column 1)	Column 3 Intake of students withdrawn from the programme (not included in column 1)
Fee eligibility	Male	Female	Other	Male	Female	Other	Male	Female	Other	Male	Female	Other	Male	Female	Other		
Home fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 4: Dental initial intake table

The figure below shows the table used to collect data on the Dental students intake for the academic year 2022-23 as at 9 October 2022.

Headcount of the initial intake of dental students in the 2022-23 academic year																	
Provider name																	
Validation checks are shown below the table. Any cells that fail a validation check will be shown in red.																	
Intake target:																	
	Column 1 Total intake of students not withdrawn from the programme			Column 1a Domiciled in Great Britain			Column 1b Domiciled in Northern Ireland			Column 1c Domiciled in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man			Column 1d Domiciled in EU and overseas			Column 2 Intake to 'graduate entry' courses (included in column 1)	
Fee eligibility	Male	Female	Other	Male	Female	Other	Male	Female	Other	Male	Female	Other	Male	Female	Other		
Home fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Annex C: Example summary table (providers in England only)

This annex provides an example of the MDS22_Summary table, which appears in the Excel workbook for the MDS22 for providers in England only.

Medical and Dental Students survey 2022 summary					
Provider name					
This summary is for information only and the OfS will notify providers of any adjustments to grant arising from over-recruitment later this year.					
Table A is populated with information taken from the Medical confirmed intake and Dental confirmed intake worksheets in MDS22.					
Table B is populated with information taken from the Medical initial intake and Dental initial intake worksheets in MDS22.					
For both tables 'Overseas intake' is the total number of students returned as domiciled EU and overseas (Column 1d) subject to other fees.					
For both tables 'Percentage overseas' is 'Overseas intake' expressed as a percentage of 'Total intake'.					
This worksheet contains two tables separated vertically by one blank row.					
Table A: 2021-22 Confirmed intakes					
For this table 'Total intake' is the sum of Columns 1 and 3 of Medical confirmed intake or Dental confirmed intake.					
	2021-22 Intake target	Of which maximum overseas numbers	Total intake	Overseas intake	Percentage overseas
Medical confirmed intake	0	0	0	0	0%
Dental confirmed intake	0	0	0	0	0%
Table B: 2022-23 Initial intakes					
For this table 'Total intake' is the sum of Column 1 of Medical initial intake or Dental initial intake.					
	2022-23 Intake target	Of which maximum overseas numbers	Total intake	Overseas intake	Percentage overseas
Medical initial intake	0	0	0	0	0%
Dental initial intake	0	0	0	0	0%

Explanation of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Explanation
DDB	Designated Data Body (the Higher Education Statistics Agency, HESA, from 1 April 2018)
DHSC	Department of Health and Social Care
HEE	Health Education England
MDS	Medical and Dental Students survey
OfS	Office for Students
UKPRN	UK Provider Reference Number



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