

**Office for
Students**

The logo for the Office for Students, featuring a dark blue square with a yellow square in the top right corner containing the letters 'OfS' in dark blue.

OfS

Medical and Dental Students survey 2023 (MDS23)

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

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Summary

Purpose

1. The Medical and Dental Students survey 2023 (MDS23) asks higher education providers in the UK to provide data on the intake of medical and dental students in the 2022-23 and 2023-24 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), NHS England (NHSE),¹ 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 NHSE as an early indicator of medical and dental intakes, including to inform DHSC and NHSE workforce planning. The OfS will also be using the data to monitor the 'Expected maximum intakes'² and to inform funding allocations for providers in England.
4. The census date for the 2023-24 intake data is **Monday 9 October 2023**.
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 2022-23 and initial 2023-24 intakes on our website.³ We intend to publish this data for all providers completing MDS23 as official statistics.⁴

¹ In previous years, one of the stakeholders for which we conducted the MDS survey was Health Education England. Health Education England merged with NHS England in April 2023.

² The term 'Expected maximum intakes' refers (for English providers only) to either the 2023-24 Expected maximum intake for medical and dental pre-registration courses for 2023-24 or the 2022-23 medical and dental intake targets.

³ For the equivalent 2022 data on the OfS website, see www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/funding-for-providers/health-education-funding/medical-and-dental-intakes/.

⁴ For the OfS official statistics release schedule, see www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/producing-statistics/.

Action required

7. MDS workbooks will be available to eligible providers via the OfS portal in late September 2023.
8. Completed workbooks must be submitted through the OfS portal no later than **noon on Thursday 19 October 2023**.
9. **By Wednesday 8 November 2023:**
 - a. All data verification queries must be resolved.
 - b. The data should be signed off by the provider's accountable officer.

Changes and clarifications since the Medical and Dental Students survey 2022 (MDS22)

Changes and clarifications

10. We have updated the terminology relating to intake targets for English providers. This now refers to 'Expected maximum intakes', which applies to either the 2023-24 expected maximum intake for medical and dental pre-registration courses for 2023-24 or the 2022-23 medical and dental intake targets.

Survey details

Outline timetable for the MDS23 return

11. The timetable for MDS23, 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 MDS23 and grant adjustments appeal process

| Date | Action | Action applies to |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Late September 2023 | MDS workbooks available to providers via the OfS portal. | All providers |
| 9 October 2023 | Census date for 2023-24 intake data. | All providers |
| 19 October 2023 | MDS23 submission deadline. A valid MDS23 workbook must be submitted through the OfS portal (no later than noon). | All providers |
| 19 October 2023 to 8 November 2023 | Data verification phase. | All providers |
| 8 November 2023 | Sign-off deadline. Final MDS23 data must be signed off as correct by the accountable officer as at the census date.⁵ | All providers |
| By late November 2023 | After verification, providers notified of provisional formulaic FTE adjustments (where applicable) arising from recruitment against their Expected maximum intakes, and invited to submit appeals. | English providers only |
| 12 January 2024 | Deadline for submission of appeals against FTE adjustments arising from over-recruitment against Expected maximum intakes. | English providers only |
| By end of February 2024 | Providers notified of final FTE adjustments arising from recruitment against Expected maximum intakes, 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 2023. 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

⁵ 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/.

(<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 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 MDS23XXXXXXXX.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 2022-23
 - b. Medical initial intake – Medical students intake for the academic year 2023-24 as at 9 October 2023
 - c. Dental confirmed intake – Dental students intake during the academic year 2022-23
 - d. Dental initial intake – Dental students intake for the academic year 2023-24 as at 9 October 2023.

For providers in England there is an additional worksheet (see Annex C):

- e. MDS23Summary – A read-only summary that shows for each MDS table the provider's Expected maximum intakes 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 2022-23 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 19 October 2023**.

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 Expected maximum intakes 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 8 November 2023**. 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).⁶ For providers in England, we cannot guarantee that any amendments to data after 8 November 2023 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 8 November 2023.
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.⁷
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.

⁶ Available at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/terms-and-conditions-of-funding-for-2023-24/ (paragraph 22).

⁷ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/amendments-to-data/.

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 General Medical Council (GMC) or General Dental Council (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 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 GMC or GDC, 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. We will engage with the DHSC to confirm and understand such exclusions. 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 2023. Additional intakes after 9 October 2023 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.

31. Intakes reported on Medical confirmed intake and Dental confirmed intake on MDS23 are an update of the Medical initial intake and Dental initial intake collected on MDS22. Students who withdrew from the programme between 10 October 2022 and 31 July 2023 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 MDS23. Students who withdraw after the end of the 2022-23 academic year, 31 July 2023, should be reported in column 1 of Medical confirmed intake or Dental confirmed intake on MDS23.
32. For the purposes of this survey, students are considered to have withdrawn when they cease studying towards a first UK registrable medical or dental qualification. A date recorded in the ENGENDDATE 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 ENGENDDATE 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 regulated intakes.⁸ 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 regulated intakes. 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 ENGENDDATE field; otherwise they should be reported in the survey in column 1 of Medical confirmed intake or Dental confirmed intake on MDS23.

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

⁸ 'Regulated intakes' means the following for providers in:

- England – the Expected maximum intake for medical and dental pre-registration courses for 2023-24 and the 2022-23 medical and dental intake targets
- Scotland – those subject to medical or dental intake targets
- Wales – those subject to limits on commissioned places
- Northern Ireland – those subject to a medical and dental contract full-time equivalent (CFTE) target.

charged home fees are coded 01 in the fee eligibility field (FEEELIG) and those charged other fees are coded 02.

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 2022 and 31 July 2023 inclusive, by fee eligibility. Intakes who have withdrawn from the programme by 31 July 2023 should be reported in column 3 of Medical confirmed intake or Dental confirmed intake on MDS23 and not included in column 1 of Medical confirmed intake or Dental confirmed intake on MDS23.

Examples

Example 1: Registration, withdrawal

43. A student started a first UK registrable medical programme on 3 October 2022 but suspended studies on 6 January 2023. They notified the provider on 20 June 2023 that they do not intend to return and an ENGENDDATE was recorded in the 2022-23 student record returned to the DDB. As the student has withdrawn from the first UK registrable medical programme by 31 July 2023, they should be reported in column 3 and not in column 1 of Medical confirmed intake on MDS23.

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 2022 but transferred to a biosciences degree on 6 January 2023. As the student had withdrawn from the first UK registrable medical programme by 31 July 2023, they should be reported in column 3 and not in column 1 of Medical confirmed intake on MDS23.

Example 3: Transfer from a medical to a dental programme

45. A student started a first UK registrable medical programme on 3 October 2022 but on 6 January 2023 transferred to a first UK registrable dental programme. As the student had withdrawn from the first UK registrable medical programme by 31 July 2023, they should be reported in column 3 and not in column 1 of Medical confirmed intake on MDS23. However, as they started a first UK registrable dental qualification programme on 6 January 2023 they should be included as an intake in column 1 of Dental confirmed intake on MDS23.

Example 4: Student retaking year 1

46. A student started a first UK registrable medical programme on 3 October 2022. On 3 October 2023 they return to retake year 1 of the first UK registrable medical programme:

- a. If the student withdrew (or was withdrawn) during 2022-23, they should be reported in column 3 and not column 1 of Medical confirmed intake on MDS23.
- b. If the student is retaking year 1 for any other reason, they should be reported in column 1 of Medical confirmed intake on MDS23.

47. In both these cases, the student should not be reported in the Medical initial intake table on MDS23 (as they would have been reported against the intake year in MDS22).

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 Nottingham⁹ and University of Lincoln.

⁹ For the University of Nottingham, the collaborative provision at Lincoln should be reported in a separate return to their own medical provision.

Medical initial intake

The figure below shows the table used to collect data on the Medical students intake for the academic year 2023-24 as at 9 October 2023.

Figure 2: Medical initial intake table

| Headcount of the initial intake of medical students in the 2023-24 academic year | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------|-------|---|--------|-------|--|--------|-------|---|--------|-------|---|--------|-------|---|
| Provider name | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Validation checks are shown below the table. Any cells that fail a validation check will be shown in red. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Expected maximum intake: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fee eligibility | 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) |
| | 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 |
| Other fees | 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 |

Dental confirmed intake

The figure below shows the table used to collect data on the Dental students intake during the academic year 2022-23.

Figure 3: Dental confirmed intake table

| Headcount of the confirmed 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Expected maximum intake: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fee eligibility | 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) |
| | 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 | |
| Other fees | 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 | |

Dental initial intake

The figure below shows the table used to collect data on the Dental students intake for the academic year 2023-24 as at 9 October 2023.

Figure 4: Dental initial intake table

| Headcount of the initial intake of dental students in the 2023-24 academic year | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------|-------|---|--------|-------|--|--------|-------|---|--------|-------|---|--------|-------|---|
| Provider name | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Validation checks are shown below the table. Any cells that fail a validation check will be shown in red. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Expected maximum intake: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fee eligibility | 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) |
| | 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 |
| Other fees | 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 |

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

This annex provides an example of the MDS23_Summary table, which appears in the Excel workbook for the MDS23 for providers in England only.

Medical and Dental Students survey 2023 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 MDS23.

Table B is populated with information taken from the Medical initial intake and Dental initial intake worksheets in MDS23.

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: 2022-23 Confirmed intakes

For this table 'Total intake' is the sum of Columns 1 and 3 of Medical confirmed intake or Dental confirmed intake.

| | 2023-24 Expected maximum intake | Of which anticipated 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: 2023-24 Initial intakes

For this table 'Total intake' is the sum of Column 1 of Medical initial intake or Dental initial intake.

| | 2023-24 Expected maximum intake | Of which anticipated 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 |
| DHSC | Department of Health and Social Care |
| GDC | General Dental Council |
| GMC | General Medical Council |
| HEE | Health Education England (since April 2023 has merged into NHS England) |
| MDS | Medical and Dental Students survey |
| NHS England | National Health Service England |
| OfS | Office for Students |
| UKPRN | UK Provider Reference Number |



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