MSC and DSC Summer Schools

Eligibility 2027

Eligibility

Due to the way the programme is funded, students living outside of England are not eligible for the programme.

To be eligible for the programme the students must be currently studying at a state school in England, and either be:

- In, or been in local authority care[i]
- Eligible for Free School Meals

Or hold a minimum of **two** of the following:

- An estranged student who is studying without the support and approval of a family network.
- An asylum seeker or refugee
- Studying in a state school that achieved below the national average Attainment 8 score[ii] at GCSE. If this is not available, applicants' previous school information can be used where they had attended to the age of 16
- From a school with a high percentage of students receiving free school meals[iii]. If this information is not available for their current school, for example they are now attending a college, we will accept the school the free school meal data for the school attended at age 16
- Living in a geographical area with greater levels of deprivation[iv]
- Living in a cold spot with low levels of progression to medicine or dentistry. These are areas in which there are low levels of application per 1,000 of the population. A list is included in Annex A
- Are a young carer aged under 18 who helps to look after someone in their family, or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol. To qualify as a young carer they must be caring above and beyond what is normally expected, there is no time limit on the amount of care they provide for their dependents
- From a family where the parents do not have a university degree from the UK or abroad

Participants on the programme must also meet the following academic criteria:

- An interest in STEM subjects and be considering studying science in their post-16 studies and medicine or dentistry post-18
- The potential to study medicine/dentistry and be capable of achieving the minimum grades required for entry (whether that is for standard entry programmes or programmes with a gateway year):
    - (Predicted) A-level grades BBC (or equivalent) for medicine and ABB for dentistry

- GCSE grades 4 or above in English and Mathematics (or equivalent) for medicine and 6 or above for dentistry

For students that studied outside the UK (and took their GCSEs/equivalent overseas) or are completing their A-levels online they would still need to meet two of the eligibility criteria.

Eligibility criteria will be weighted. Ranked applicants will then be prioritised according to the total score. The final decision on whether to offer a space on the programme will be at the discretion of the MSC and host summer school. In all cases, we would require the students to meet the eligibility criteria.

Annex A

Cold spots – Medicine

Local authority districts with low levels of progression to medicine and workforce shortages

Ashfield
Barnsley
Bath and North East Somerset
Blackpool
Bolsover
Braintree
Breckland
Brighton and Hove
Broxbourne
Burnley
Cannock Chase
Canterbury
Castle Point
Chesterfield
County Durham
Coventry
Crawley
Cumberland
Darlington
Derby
Doncaster
East Cambridgeshire
East Staffordshire
Eastbourne
Exeter
Fareham
Fenland
Gateshead
Gloucester
Gosport
Great Yarmouth
Halton
Harlow
Hastings
Havant
High Peak
Ipswich
Isle of Wight
Isles of Scilly
King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Kingston upon Hull, City of
Lancaster
Leicester
Lincoln
Mansfield
Medway
North East Lincolnshire
North Kesteven
North Norfolk
Norwich
Oxford
Portsmouth
Plymouth
Redditch
Rushmoor
Rutland
Sefton
South Holland
South Kesteven
South Tyneside
Southampton
Stevenage
Stoke-on-Trent
Swindon

Tamworth
Telford and Wrekin
Tendring
Torbay
Warrington
Wigan
Worthing
West Suffolk
Worcester
York

Cold Spots - Dentistry

Postcode areas with low levels of progression to dentistry

BA Bath
FY Blackpool
BR Bromley
CT Canterbury
CA Carlisle
CO Colchester
DL Darlington
DT Dorchester
DY Dudley
DH Durham
CB Cambridge
EX Exeter
HR Hereford
HU Hull
IP Ipswich
LA Lancaster
NR Norwich
PO Portsmouth
SP Salisbury
SS Southend
SG Stevenage
TA Taunton
YO York

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[i] Experience of local authority care is defined as being looked after by a local authority, foster parents/other family members, at home with their parents under the supervision of social services, in a residential children's home or in another residential setting such as school or secure unit, or someone who has experienced a period of three months in the care of the local authority within the last ten years.

[ii] We will use the England average score of Attainment 8 to be 46.2 out of 90. This is the latest statistic for 2025-26 the average score for 'Attainment 8' (which measures pupils' performance in 8 GCSE-level qualifications). Available at (https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/key-stage-4-performance/2025-26 and used in Compare the performance of schools and colleges in England - GOV.UK)

[iii] The percentage of students' eligible for free school meals is 25.7.% or above. Schools, pupils and their characteristics, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK

[iv] We will report on IMD and be looking for students living in IMD quintiles 1 and 2. IMD Lookup - https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2025