



## **MBChB Admissions Disrupted Studies Policy: 2021+ entry cycle**

Dr Julian Burton  
Director of Undergraduate Medical Admissions

### **1. Introduction**

The University of Sheffield Medical School sets a rigorous academic standard for entry to the MBChB programme. Recognising that an applicant's academic studies may be disrupted by matters beyond their control, The University of Sheffield has a [Disrupted Studies policy](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/applying/disrupted) (<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/applying/disrupted>).

Applicants should read the guidance notes contained within the University's policy before submitting an application. This document sets out how the University's policy is applied to the MBChB Admissions Selection process.

### **2. When are Disrupted Studies applications considered?**

2.1 The MBChB Admissions Disrupted Studies Board meets twice each year.

2.2 For applicants whose studies have been disrupted prior to the UCAS application deadline, Disrupted Studies application forms are considered during stage 1 of the MBChB Admissions selection process. This takes place between 16<sup>th</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> November each year.

2.3 Applicants meeting the academic and UCAT minimum thresholds are ranked on the basis of their UCAT scores to determine who is invited to interview. The Medical School therefore regrets it is not usually able to consider disrupted studies applications relevant to whether the applicant meets the academic or UCAT thresholds if these are received after 6<sup>th</sup> November.

2.4 For applicants whose studies have been disrupted after the UCAS application deadline and before the sitting of their A Levels (or comparable qualifications), Disrupted Studies application forms are considered in the month prior to the UK A Level results day. This takes place between 18<sup>th</sup> July and A Level results day each year. Disrupted studies are not considered once an applicant has received their A Level grades.

### **3. The MBChB Disrupted Studies Board**

3.1 Disrupted Studies applications are considered by a Board that usually comprises:

- Director of Undergraduate Medical Admissions
- One or more Deputy Directors of Undergraduate Medical Admissions
- A senior academic member of the Academic Unit of Medical Education
- A member of the Student Support team
- The Admissions Officer

- 3.2 The board will consider each Disrupted Studies application in the light of:
- The applicant's attained and predicted qualifications as listed in their UCAS application
  - UCAS Referee's Statement
  - Sections 4-9 of this document

- 3.3 For each disrupted studies application, the board will determine one of the following decisions:
- Disrupted studies are accepted and the applicant will be treated as though they had met the published academic standards, OR
  - Disrupted studies are rejected and the applicant will be treated as though they had not met the published academic standards, OR
  - Disrupted studies are not applicable as the applicant meets the published academic standards.

3.4 The decisions of the board will be recorded, and appended to the admissions applications on the University's Undergraduate Application Admin System.

#### **4 Disrupted Studies and GCSE Level qualifications**

- 4.1 An applicant will usually have their application progressed if:
- They meet the published GCSE and A Level academic standards despite their disrupted studies; OR
  - They have met the published GCSE and A Level academic standards despite their disrupted studies but have had to resit one or more GCSEs to do so.
- 4.2 We accept a single resit of each GCSE without considering disrupted studies. If more than one GCSE is repeated, all resits must be taken at the same time, and no more than 2 years after the first attempt.
- 4.3 An applicant who requires more than one resit to attain the required grade in a GCSE will normally be considered if the medical school agrees that studies were disrupted during the first resit.
- 4.4 An applicant who meets the A Level academic requirement will usually have their application deemed unsuccessful if:
- They have not met the required GCSE academic standard after resits AND have either not submitted a disrupted studies application OR their submitted disrupted studies application is not considered to be grounds for mitigation by the MBChB Disrupted Studies Board.
  - They have not taken the requisite number of GCSEs (or comparable qualifications). Disrupted studies are not usually accepted as mitigation where a candidate has not taken at least 5 GCSEs in accepted subjects.

## **5 Disrupted Studies and A Level qualifications**

5.1 An applicant will usually have their application progressed if:

- They meet the published GCSE and A Level academic standards despite their disrupted studies; OR
  
- They have met the published GCSE and A Level academic standards despite their disrupted studies but have had to resit one or more A Level qualifications to do so.

5.2 We accept a single resit of each A Level without considering disrupted studies. If more than one A Level is repeated, all resits must be taken at the same time, and no more than 2 years after the first attempt.

5.3 An applicant who requires more than one resit to attain the required grade in an A Level will normally be considered if the medical school agrees that studies were disrupted during the first resit of that A Level.

5.4 An applicant who meets the GCSE academic requirement will usually have their application deemed unsuccessful if:

- They have not met the required A Level academic standard after resits AND have either not submitted a disrupted studies application OR if their submitted disrupted studies application is not considered to be grounds for mitigation by the MBChB Disrupted Studies Board.
  
- They have not taken the requisite number of A Levels (or comparable qualifications). Disrupted studies are not usually accepted as mitigation where an applicant has not taken at least 3 A Levels in accepted subjects. However, Disrupted Studies may be accepted as grounds to accept a third A Level taken in a separate sitting not more than 1 year after the first two.
  
- They have taken the requisite number of qualifications but have not met the published academic standards on the first sitting and have not yet taken/are not taking resits. Disrupted studies are not usually accepted as mitigation for failing to reach the required A Level standard.

5.5 Applicants with disrupted studies are usually required to attain the standard academic standard on re-resitting their qualification (i.e. the standard does not rise from Grade A to Grade A\*).

## **6 Disrupted Studies and Degree level qualifications**

6.1 An applicant will usually have their application progressed if:

- They meet the published A Level and Degree Level academic standards despite their disrupted studies; OR
  
- They have met the published academic standards but have had to resit one or more A level qualifications to do so.

6.2 Graduates may resit their A Levels before, during or after their Degree level studies. Resits should usually be studied over a period of no more than 2 years.

6.3 Applicants with disrupted studies are usually required to attain the standard academic standard on resitting their qualification (i.e. the standard does not rise from Grade B to Grade A)

6.4 A graduate applicant who has an upper second class or first class Bachelors degree will usually have their application deemed unsuccessful if:

- They have not met the required A Level academic standard after resits AND have either not submitted a disrupted studies application OR if their submitted disrupted studies application is not considered to be grounds for mitigation by the MBChB Disrupted Studies Board.
- They have not taken the requisite number of A Levels (or comparable qualifications). Disrupted studies are not usually accepted as mitigation where an applicant has not taken at least 3 A Levels in accepted subjects. However, Disrupted Studies may be accepted as grounds to accept a third A Level taken in a separate sitting not more than 1 year after the first two.
- They have taken the requisite number of qualifications but have not met the published academic standards on the first sitting and have not yet taken/are not taking resits. Disrupted studies are not usually accepted as mitigation for failing to reach the required A Level standard.

6.5 A graduate applicant who met the A Level requirements will usually have their application deemed unsuccessful if their degree classification does not meet the published academic standard for entry to the MBChB programme. Disrupted studies are not usually considered as mitigation for degree classifications that do not meet the published academic standard for entry to the MBChB programme.

## **7 Disrupted Studies at multiple qualification levels**

7.1 Applicants whose studies have been disrupted are usually required to demonstrate that they can meet either the required GCSE or the required A Level academic standards without adjustment other than a first resit.

7.2 Disrupted studies consideration is *not* needed for a first resit, or for resits in both GCSEs and A Levels. We consider disrupted studies for applicants who have not met the required academic standard after a first resit.

7.3 Disrupted studies consideration may be applied to either GCSEs or A Levels but not usually to both. Irrespective of whether an applicant's studies have been disrupted or not, their application will usually be deemed unsuccessful if they have met neither the GCSE nor the A Level standards.

## **8 Disrupted Studies and the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)**

- 8.1 An applicant who has disrupted studies accepted will usually have their application progressed if they meet the published academic criteria but were unable to take the UCAT for personal or health reasons (excluding reasons of geographic location).
- 8.2 An applicant who has disrupted studies accepted who has taken the UCAT will usually receive no adjustment to their score by the Medical School.
- 8.3 An applicant who has disrupted studies accepted who has taken the UCAT will usually not be exempted from UCAT ranking, unless the disrupted studies board considers that exemption from ranking is appropriate.
- 8.4 Disrupted studies are not normally considered for applicants unable to take the UCAT for geographical reasons.

## **9 Disrupted Studies and Widening Participation**

- 9.1 The policy set out above applies to all applicants, including those applicants applying through the Discover Medicine or Realising Opportunities schemes.

Policy Date: 04.05.2020

Review Date: 26.03.2022