

9th International Medical Summer School

31st July to 4th August 2017, University Place, University of Manchester

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What are the aims and purposes of the International Medical Summer School?

This week-long event is aimed at helping medical undergraduates/newly qualified doctors develop a strong clinical, academic and research portfolio that will help them to pursue a career in a competitive surgical or medical speciality on completion of medical school/internship. It will also help medical students/doctors get an overview of different clinical specialities and obtain essential knowledge about the speciality they wish to pursue as a career.

2. Please tell me more about Doctors Academy?

Doctors Academy is one of the world's largest providers of independent and innovative medical education and training that complements the programmes offered by medical universities and hospitals. The aim of the Academy is to promote medical education, disseminate information, and exchange knowledge, technical and technological expertise between the professionals working in varied health care settings in resource-rich and resource-poor nations. As part of this mission, Doctors Academy undertakes a diverse range of educational activities and clinical skills training programmes for medical undergraduates and postgraduates from all parts of the globe. These include various regional/national training and study days, World University Anatomy Challenge, National University Anatomy Challenges, The International Medical Summer School, Academic Winter Conference, The International Academic and Research Conference, surgical skills workshops, laparoscopic colorectal surgery master class, and preparatory and revision courses for exams. These events are structured on a cost-neutral basis to ensure affordability and maximum benefit for the students/doctors. The educational activities are undertaken both

independently and in conjunction with a number of organisations including the UK Royal Colleges, Universities, Hospitals and a variety of other charities, societies and institutions.

3. How is the summer school structured?

On day 1 of the event, Consultants from various specialities will provide the delegates with an overview ('taster') of different specialities. This will be particularly beneficial for those who are yet to decide on a particular speciality and wish to get a better understanding of the various career options.

On days 2 and 3, in addition to essential theoretical information about individual specialities, there will be the following workshops and skills sessions: Fundamental Surgical Skills, Intermediate and Advanced Surgical Skills, Fundamental Skills in Laparoscopy, Insertion of Chest Drain, Essentials of Trauma Management, Performing and Interpreting an ECG, Essentials of Life Support, Basic Orthopaedic Principles, Airway Management and Essential Procedures in Anaesthesia, Practical Skills in Paediatrics and Neonatology (including life support), Obstetrics and Gynaecology workshop, Basic principles in Ultrasound Examination and Workshop and Ophthalmology Workshop.

Day 4 will provide the delegates with pertinent information on various academic/research aspects such as intercalating and carrying out clinical and basic science research (leading to MSc/MRes/MPhil/PhD). This day will also cover aspects related to undertaking clinical audits, oral and poster presentations, and publications, as well as discuss the pertinent aspects of academic training/academic career. The highlight of the day will be World University Anatomy Challenge.

On the morning of the final day, the delegates will be given necessary information on developing and nurturing a portfolio, recent advances and future of certain specialities, and tips on entering a specialist training programme. In the afternoon, there will be parallel sessions on careers outside the traditional curriculum such as Conflict and Military Medicine, Space Medicine, and International Medicine and Public Health.

The medium of communication is English.

Start and finish times:

Starts: 8.45 am on Monday.

Finishes: 4.30 pm on Friday.

There are social events planned for every evening to take advantage of the long days during the British Summer.

4. How do I choose my speciality?

On day 1, you will be divided into three broad groupings - 'Medicine', 'Surgery' and 'Other Specialities' - which will be provided you with a broad overview of all the individual sub-specialities. Medicine includes all its sub-specialities. Surgery includes all its sub-specialities and obstetrics a&gynaecology. Other specialities include anaesthesia, critical care, emergency medicine, radiology, psychiatry, oncology, paediatrics and family practice [general practice]. You can choose one of the options when you register.

From day 2, you will be placed in the group that comprises your speciality (e.g., neurosurgery, cardiology, plastic surgery) and will be given an in-depth knowledge and information regarding the speciality of your choice. During the registration process, you will be asked to choose your broad career choice (i.e., from the three areas mentioned above) and then you will be asked to choose from one of the eight streams as below) that comprise the different specialities. There are only 25 places available in each stream (speciality grouping).

5. What are the various specialities and how are they grouped?

All major clinical specialities are covered and they are grouped as streams in order to ensure exposure to maximum number of specialities for every candidate attending the school.

Stream 1 (General Surgery, Urology, Cardiothoracic Surgery)

Stream 2 (Plastic Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, ENT, Paediatric Surgery)

Stream 3 (Vascular Surgery, Neurosurgery, Radiology, Ophthalmology)

Stream 4 (Neurology, Psychiatry, Elderly Medicine)

Stream 5 (Cardiology, Nephrology, Respiratory Medicine)

Stream 6 (General Practice, Diabetes and Endocrinology, Dermatology, General Medicine, Gastroenterology)

Stream 7 (Anaesthesia, Critical Care, Emergency Medicine, Acute Medicine)

Stream 8 (Obstetrics, Gynaecology, Fertility Medicine, Paediatrics, Neonatology)

6. How will I benefit from attending the summer school?

The event is designed to provide you with focused information & knowledge about the speciality of your choice that will enhance your competitive advantage when applying for highly sought-after specialities in surgery or medicine. It will give you a better understanding of your speciality, provide you with a taster of the basic clinical and surgical skills and provide guidance on developing a strong portfolio through clinical audits, presentations and publications.

7. I am an International (non-UK) medical student. What will I gain by attending the summer school?

The UK is widely recognised to provide the highest standards of teaching in medicine, and in undertaking cutting-edge science and world class medical research. In addition to gaining essential knowledge and skills (in your chosen speciality), attending the summer school will provide you with:

- an insight of medical training in the UK
- essential facts regarding application to the General Medical Council (GMC) when choosing to do an elective placement or an observership programme with a clinical component (as well as an understanding of what a licence to practice from the GMC entails)
- an understanding of the postgraduate training opportunities that are on offer for International graduates in the UK
- an understanding on what UK NHS trusts expect/seek in an applicant from within the European Economic Area (EEA) or outside the EEA
- an understanding of the points-based system that is used in the UK to identify appropriately trained professionals who qualified outside the UK.

8. I am an International (non-UK) medical student from outside the European Union. How do I get a visa to travel to the UK?

On completion of your registration and payment, we will send you a formal letter of acceptance (letter of support) that you can use in the British Embassy in your home country to obtain your visa. You need to submit this letter along with your other relevant documents (such as flight schedule/tickets, bank statements, certificate from university/employer confirming your status). (We do not provide a sponsorship letter since such letter can only be given if we act as your guarantor/full sponsor by paying for travel and accommodation). Visa regulations & documents required differ between countries and on an individual circumstances. Therefore, we strongly advise you to speak to your travel agent or to the British Embassy directly and clarify the visa formalities. You can consider applying for the event after you are confident in obtaining the documents required by the Embassy.

9. Won't acceptance in the summer school guarantee a visa for travel to the UK?

Visa approval are the domain of governments and agreements between countries and it is not within our remit. We cannot make any guarantees that acceptance in the summer school will enable you to obtain a visa for you. The final decision rests with the British Embassy in your country & we can only help you by confirming your registration and payment in the form of an acceptance letter. All details regarding visa to travel to the UK can be obtained by following this link: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

10. What type of visa do I need?

Summer School is equivalent to an International Conference. Thus a visitor or a student visitor is what is suggested but please check with your local British Embassy. Please ensure that you do not apply for a student visa since such visa will be granted only if you are enrolled for higher studies with a university/institution. You are coming to the UK only for a week to attend a summer school and not to undertake higher studies.

11. Do I have to prepare for the event in advance?

No, you don't have to prepare for the event in advance. During the week, information will be provided and pertinent matters taught using a series of didactic and interactive lectures, workshops and patient simulations/models.

12. Do I need any formal certificate in English to attend the summer school?

You don't need any formal qualification or certificate in English language. The purpose of the summer school is to encourage participation of students/junior doctors from all countries in the world.

13. Do I need a letter of recommendation or reference from my university or hospital?

No, you don't need any letter of recommendation or reference.

14. What form of identification is required to attend the event?

Your university/medical school/hospital identification badge is acceptable. No other form of identity is required.

15. Am I eligible to attend the event?

This event is open to medical students and newly qualified doctors from all over the world. We accept students from year 1 medical school till internship (house surgeon/resident). You can attend this event as long as you are a medical student in a recognised university or a newly qualified junior doctor in a hospital.

16. I am a pre-medical/science student. Am I eligible to attend the event?

You are allowed to attend the event as long as you are: (i) more than 17 years old (ii) going into medicine or plan to get into medicine in the immediate future (iii) doing a science degree at the moment and intend to get into medicine as a graduate (through the graduate entry scheme).

17. Why is the speciality of my choice not in the programme?

Constraints on time, lecture room space, venue and cost mean that not all specialities can be covered by the event, and hence only the most competitive specialities are being considered. However, in order to benefit the widest possible audience, a few related specialities are grouped together in each programme. We are sorry if your speciality is not covered in this event.

18. Will I receive a certificate for attending the summer school?

Yes, you will receive a certificate for participation. The certificate will outline the speciality you attended (stream) as well as the workshops you participated in.

19. Is accommodation included in the event fee?

No, this event is conducted on a finite budget to ensure maximum participation from medical students/junior doctors from the UK and beyond. Thus accommodation costs aren't part of the event fee. However, we have negotiated with the Halls of Residence at Manchester University for the best possible and discounted rates. Accommodation in the form of self catered shared flats are available at a discounted price for attendees of the International Medical Summer School and International Academic and Research Conference. Manchester University Halls of Residence - Hulme Hall and Dalton Ellis - are located close to the Manchester Royal Infirmary (Hospital) and are approximately 15-20 minutes walk or 5 minutes bus ride from University Place. They offer single occupancy rooms with wash basins and shared bathrooms (Dalton Ellis also offers ensuite rooms) and both cater for breakfast. Bedding is provided. Prices range from £31 to £41 including VAT. Detailed information regarding accommodation options and the application form are available via this link: <http://www.hospitality.doctorsacademy.org/IMSSForm.aspx>. If you are not keen on staying in the university accommodation, you are free to arrange your own accommodation. This is not a mandatory residential event.

20. What type of social events may be available?

A wide array of social events, both formal and informal, are organised. This will include dinners, events, theatres, BBQs, discos and night outs. The student lead of your speciality will provide further information and guidance during the event. Specific information about individual events will be available in the website shortly before the event.

21. Are the evening social events included in the event fee?

No, the cost of attending the evening social events is not included in the fee. However, some of the cost will be subsidized by us.

22. What about lunch and refreshments?

Lunch and refreshments on all five days will be served at the venue (included in the event fee). Thus the delegates are required to prepare only breakfast and there are facilities within the Halls of Residence to do that.

23. Do I need to get any special equipment or material to the summer school?

No, you don't have to get any equipment or specific material to the summer school. All you need to get with you are your personal belongings for the week.

24. Is there a dress code?

No, there is no dress code for the week. You can wear semi-formal clothes as you wear to the medical school/university/hospital.

25. How far is Manchester airport from the venue/residences?

The venue/residences are about 15 minutes by taxi or 30 minutes by public transport (bus, train). It is very easy to reach the venue/residences from the airport. On the day before the summer school, our reception committee will be available in the airport from 2 pm to 10 pm to provide you with help and guidance to reach your residence.

26. Will I get a refund if I wish to cancel my participation or I am unable to attend the event because of unforeseen circumstances or if my visa is rejected?

Due to the complexity in the organization of the summer school as well the extensive administrative work required, cancellations are provided in a tiered manner (described below). This is due to the fact that advance or complete payments would have been done for the venue, catering and social events. In addition, all faculties would have been invited, workshops arranged, personalized registration packs completed, and course manual, name badges and certificate printed. Since many delegates travel from outside the UK, they have to make appropriate travel arrangements and thus plenty of notice is required for them to take a place following a cancellation.

- a. Request for cancellation received 90 days (three months) before the commencement of the summer school: Full refund minus 10% administration and registration charges.
- b. Request for cancellation received within 90 - 56 days (eight weeks) before the commencement of the summer school: Seventy-five percent refund.
- c. Request for cancellation received 56 - 42 days (six weeks) before the commencement of the summer school: Fifty percent refund.
- d. Request for cancellation received between 42 - 28 days (four weeks) before the commencement of the summer school or the conference: Twenty-five percent refund.
- e. Request for cancellation received within 28 days (four weeks) before the commencement of the summer school or the conference: You will forfeit the fee.

Please follow this link for detailed cancellation policy:

http://www.doctorsacademy.org/Downloads/Refund_policy.pdf

27. Won't I get a full refund if my visa to the UK is rejected?

As mentioned in the previous sections, refunds will be provided only if you inform us with sufficient notice. To avoid disappointment, we suggest that you apply for the visa at least 3 months in advance so that you will be eligible for maximum refund if your visa is rejected.

28. Please follow these links to obtain information on:

Feedback from previous students:

http://summerschool.doctorsacademy.org.uk/Content/Downloads/2013/Feedback_2013.pdf

Travelling to Manchester:

<http://summerschool.doctorsacademy.org.uk/Content/Downloads/2016/TravellingtoManchester.pdf>

Images from previous summer schools:

<http://summerschool.doctorsacademy.org.uk/Content/Downloads/Flash/general14.html>

29. Whom should I contact if I have a query related to the event?

Programme, format and lectures	:	info@doctorsacademy.org.uk
Accommodation	:	accommodation@doctorsacademy.org.uk
Social events	:	contact@doctorsacademy.org.uk
Event fee and/or refunds	:	finances@doctorsacademy.org.uk
General enquiries	:	info@doctorsacademy.org.uk

30. Where I can find more details about the summer school including details of previous events?

All information is available in our website (www.doctorsacademy.org) or you can follow this link:
<http://summerschool.doctorsacademy.org.uk/SummerSchool/>

Hope these answer all your questions. Thank you for your time. We look forward to seeing you soon.

With very best wishes,

International Medical Summer School

Organising Committee

Doctors Academy

www.doctorsacademy.org