

New and Traditional Environments, Standards and Accreditation: Calculating Costs and Promoting Benefits

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Schools within the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science [1403 staff]

- Medicine & Surgery
- Human Development
- Medical Molecular Science
- Community Health Sciences (including Physiotherapy)
- Nursing
- Biology (incl. genetics)
- Biomedical Sciences
- Pharmacy

	Income	Students	Research Income
Faculty of medicine & Health Sciences	£81.8 million	5,280	£23.7 million
University of Nottingham	£286 million	24,312	£65 million

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The Widening Participation Agenda – Towards Equity and Diversity

- An elite university
- An elitist university

THE  TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES



- We are “committed to making high quality educational provision available to a student body that reflects the diversity of our nation”.
 - An extensive programme of activities is underway with school-age and mature students
1. raising aspirations to university study
 2. providing effective entry pathways for students currently under-represented
 3. maintaining high retention through financial, academic and pastoral support

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Admissions policy of medical schools

From Professor Terence Stephenson

Sir, I find your leading article (“My son the doctor”, September 3) simplistic. The under-representation of white men at medical school is only part of the picture. Black men are equally under-represented.

An assessment process which takes a snapshot at a single point in time — at the age of 17, in the case of most potential UK medical students — may discriminate against those who would make the best doctors after they qualify, from 25 to 65.

We know that boys mature later than girls, physically and socially. Your exhortation that boys “simply have to apply themselves a little harder at school” ignores this.

The late-developing, gauche male sixth-former might be tomorrow’s leading brain surgeon, but may not compete at 17 with a mature young woman at either A-level examinations or interview.

The challenge for all UK medical

schools is to develop an admissions system that spots the best doctors long term, irrespective of gender or ethnic origin, not the best science students and violin players at 17.

The practice of medicine does need a high level of academic ability, but good doctors must also be both sceptical and curious, good communicators, trusted, dedicated and compassionate.

Nottingham has a new graduate entry stream for medical students with competitive admission by aptitude testing rather than A-level or degree performance. Interestingly, although more than half of applicants are women, more than half of places go to men.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE STEPHENSON
(Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences,
Nottingham University),
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September 6.

Widening Participation to Medicine

- There is a particular need to address Widening Participation to Medicine in the UK
- High entry grades and popular perceptions of elitism can deter disadvantaged groups from applying to study Medicine
- It is socially important for the medical profession to reflect its community

Widening Participation to Medicine

- in 2000, social classes I/II accounted for only 31% of the population but 76% of applicants to Medicine.
- school education is very significant for A-level results: from independent schools 48% of pupils attain 25 or more points at A-level (Grade A=10 points, Grade B 8 etc), but only 21% at state schools do so.

Differing Levels of Participation in Medicine

- While lower social classes are under-represented in Medicine, some 'disadvantaged' groups are over-represented
- Minority ethnic groups comprise around 10% of the UK population but around 20% of the Medicine intake
- However, Afro-Caribbeans are significantly under-represented in Medicine

Collaboration with the University of Lincoln

- The University of Nottingham is developing a new course with the University of Lincoln to enhance the diversity of the student population
- The Certificate in Science for Health Professionals
- First intake planned for 2005

Aims and Objectives of the Course

- To address the under-representation of disadvantaged groups in Medicine and medical-related courses
- To ensure students from those groups reach the same academic level as those on the traditional routes

Certificate in Science for Health Professionals

- A one-year course at the University of Lincoln to bring students to the appropriate standard to study at Nottingham:
 - Medicine
 - Physiotherapy
 - Dietetics
 - Nursing
 - Midwifery
 - Pharmacy

Progression Routes & Safety Net

- For students who attain above 60% on the Certificate there are a number of places guaranteed on the lead-on courses at Nottingham
- Students may also stay on at the University of Lincoln to take the BSc in Health Studies

Entry Criteria

- There are both academic and non-academic entry criteria
- Applicants require A-levels (or equivalent qualifications) but at lower grades than for the traditional route
- However, this is definitely not a lowering of standards

Methods of Assessing Disadvantage

- Townsend Deprivation Index
 - As assessment of material deprivation based on Census data
- Jarman Underprivileged Area Score
 - Incorporating eight variables including unemployment levels and the number of one-parent families
- University of Nottingham Admissions Pilot Project
 - Takes into account both home background and school performance to assess deprivation

Methods of Assessing Disadvantage (cont.)

- Eligibility to receive the Education Maintenance Award for 6th form students, or in receipt of means-tested benefit
- Percentage of free school meals per school
- Living in an area that has a postcode in the lowest 20% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation

Methods of Assessing Disadvantage (cont.)

- Attending a school with below average A-level results and progression to Higher Education
- Other personal disadvantaging circumstances, e.g. recent family bereavement

Student Support

- Successful applicants are helped to find relevant work experience prior to starting the course
- Contact with University of Nottingham throughout the Lincoln year
- Enhanced level of pastoral support throughout the course
- Means-tested bursaries for all the students at the University of Nottingham

Costs

- Staff time to develop and implement the course
- Financial costs (ca. £5000) for marketing materials
- Means-tested bursaries to be in place for all students at University of Nottingham from 2006

Benefits



- Students are given the opportunity to realise their potential
- Education collaboration between universities
- Society as whole
 - A body of healthcare professionals that better reflects society
 - Greater social justice

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Mr John Clayton

Dr Ron Dixon

Ms Rachel Spencer

Mr Don Blackburn

Dr Shamus Fagbemi

Mr Mark Baron

- Reserves

Aims and Objectives of the Course (cont.)

- To focus recruitment especially on:
 - Nottinghamshire (which has a very low rate of progression to Higher Education)
 - Lincolnshire (which has a shortage of health professionals)

Non-academic Entry Criteria

- Stringent measures are in place to ensure this is not a 'backdoor' route for 'failed Etonians'
- Applicants complete a Supplementary Application Form for their personal circumstances to be accurately assessed
- Applicants' social and educational environment is used to assess their level of disadvantage

The Selection Process

- Applicants need to fulfil both the academic and non-academic entry criteria
- All shortlisted candidates are interviewed by staff from both universities
- The interview is designed to assess the potential of these students