

'Typical' questions you may get asked on an application form:

The application form is loosely based on the principles of Good Medical Practice. The kinds of categories routinely assessed on an application form can therefore be pre-empted to a degree. Practising how you might answer these kinds of questions in advance can act as *excellent* preparation for when you apply formally. These are **SAMPLE** questions only based on the categories listed on the **PERSON SPECIFICATIONS** for different specialties:

Commitment to the specialty

- Why are you motivated to pursue further training in this particular specialty?
- How do your skills and attributes demonstrate you as a suitable candidate for a higher career in this field?
- What evidence can you demonstrate which shows your insight and capabilities into this specialty which may be over and above your regular daily activities? (please give dates/places relating to the evidence)
- What efforts have you made recently to further your knowledge of this specialty – what have you learned from this and how do you feel it has developed your suitability for this particular specialty?
- What are your medium to long term goals in relation to this specialty?

Clinical, technical, academic and research skills

- Describe an example from this specialty where your clinical judgement had a significant impact on patient management. What did you do and what was the outcome on the patient?
- Summarise your clinical skills in relation to this specialty – what have been the most challenging aspects for you? Where do you need to improve?
- What is the importance of medical research? Please use examples which illustrate your response either from your own experience or from published research
- Please list any undergraduate and/or postgraduate academic achievements to date

Publications

- Please list any publications/abstracts you have
- Please list any presentations/posters at conferences
- Which of your research activities has made the greatest impact on you and why?
- What research and/or audit activities have you been involved with? Please describe your level of involvement and outcome

Personal skills

Communication

- Describe a situation where your communication skills made a difference to patient care – what skills did you demonstrate and how do you think they affected the outcome?
- Describe a recent example from this specialty when your communication skills affected a positive outcome for a patient. How did you learn that your skills had been helpful? What did you learn from this experience?
- Give an example where you found it difficult to understand the concerns of a patient or carer. What impact did this have and what feedback did you receive as a result?

Empathy and sensitivity

- Describe a time where you had to communicate with people who had differing levels of understanding about the situation – what strategies did you use to adapt and how did you know your approach was successful or not?
- Describe a time when you needed to explain a sensitive and embarrassing issue with a patient – what impact did this have on the patient – what strategies did you use?

Team working

- Describe a recent experience of working in a multi-disciplinary team where a challenging clinical situation was apparent. What approach did you take in this situation and how did your behaviour enable the team to overcome the situation?
- Offer an example from your experience where a team was not functioning to its potential. How did you know this was the case? What steps did you take in the situation and how did this affect the outcome?

Organisation and planning

- People organise their time in different ways. Describe a recent example where your organisation and planning skills were effective. What made them effective and what strategies did you use? What was the outcome of the situation as a result?

Judgement under pressure

- Give an example where you had to make a clinical decision under pressure – how did you handle this?

Vigilance and situational awareness

- How do you identify risks and anticipate potential problems in a clinical setting? What strategies do you use for identifying these – please give a recent example

Problem solving and decision making

- Describe a time when you had to interpret a large amount of information in order to solve a problem. What strategies did you use and how effective were they?

Teaching and training

- How would you go about presenting complex information to a varied audience – how do you decide on the content? Use an example to illustrate your response

Negotiation skills

- What kind of negotiation skills do you use with colleagues? What strategies do you use and how do they influence? Please illustrate your response using a recent example

Professional integrity

- Provide an example of a work situation where you needed to demonstrate your professional integrity – what did you do and how does it demonstrate integrity?

Probity

- Describe a time when you became aware of a clinical error, either by someone else or yourself – how did you deal with the situation and in what ways did your actions contribute to the outcome?