



Tuesday 21 July 2009

Unleashing Aspiration – Press Release

The Dental Schools Council (DSC) welcomes the report 'Unleashing Aspiration' from the Panel for Fair Access to the Professions. UK Dental Schools are firmly committed to the widening participation agenda and the Dental Schools Council recognises the value of targeted initiatives to enable aspiring dentists to achieve their full potential, irrespective of socio-economic background.

All Dental Schools are committed to enabling and achieving fair access to the profession of dentistry with various programmes delivered across the country. Some schemes operate exclusively within Dental Schools, for example Glasgow, Peninsula and Sheffield, whilst others are led by the university, including Birmingham, Liverpool and Peninsula. Many programmes are run in collaboration with outreach teams and include local school-university partnerships, staff and student led school visits, summer schemes, taster days and mentorship.

At least five of the Dental Schools consider differential offers to students from a non-traditional background, notably Barts and the London, Birmingham, Bristol, King's College London and Newcastle. Other requirements differ – for example, at Newcastle lower offers may be made to students within their Partners Scheme, which includes students undertaking an assessed summer school as part of the programme. Eligible students tend to live in a government-defined 'Low Participation Neighbourhood' and may be in receipt of an Education Maintenance Allowance.

The Dental Schools Council's submission of evidence to the Panel is available on the Dental Schools Council website: www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk/news.htm. If you would like more information please contact Amy Stringer, Communications Officer on +44(0)20 7419 5427

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Notes to editors:

1. The Dental Schools Council represents the interests and ambitions of UK Dental Schools as they relate to the generation of national health, wealth and knowledge acquisition through research and the profession of dentistry. For information on the work of the Dental Schools Council please see www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk

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