



British Pharmaceutical Students' Association
The Official Student Organisation of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society

BPSA COVID-19 Statement:

Impact on the 2020 Oriel and NES Pre-Registration Recruitment Programmes

Dear Members,

You may have become aware of the decisions made by the Pharmacy National Recruitment Office for England and Wales and NHS Education for Scotland to remove Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) from the Oriel process this year, and to include Scottish pre-registration placements in the process. **This means the assessments will consist of the Situational Judgement Test (SJT) and Numeracy components only.**

We recognise this situation is not ideal, and we will do all we can to answer your questions, voice your concerns and ensure your experience is as fair and organised as possible. We'd like to specifically show our support to our members based at Scottish Schools of Pharmacy, who were not anticipating sitting Oriel at all.

We would like to make clear that this was not a decision that was taken lightly and all options were discussed, with Health Education England (HEE) and other stakeholders, at great length. Whilst we feel strongly that MMIs are an important part of the Oriel process, we agree that due to the lack of options available to facilitate them, removing them is an appropriate course of action in these unprecedented times. We have made our stance clear that MMIs should be included in the process for future cohorts and have been assured by HEE that they will be.

We expect you will have questions about how this will affect your assessment process, ranking and pre-registration placement and we will be working closely with HEE going forward to make sure you have regular updates and all the information possible to appropriately prepare for the Oriel process. We encourage comments, questions and concerns via our dedicated support email 'support@bpsa.co.uk'. We will use this feedback to influence how we advocate for you, aiming to minimise any issues that you may experience.

Next steps:

- **The updated Oriel handbook will be released on May 25th and you will find relevant information on the process there.**



British Pharmaceutical Students' Association
The Official Student Organisation of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society

- **Students wanting a pre-registration placement England and Wales should register for the process as usual.**
 - Information on recruitment in England and Wales can be found [here](#)
 - This page will also give you some information on the SJT and Numeracy assessments.
- **Students wanting a pre-registration placement in Scotland should register as per the Pre-Registration Pharmacy Scheme (PRPS) guidance.**
 - Information on recruitment in Scotland can be found [here](#).
- **You may apply to both the England and Wales recruitment process and the Scotland recruitment process, but will only sit one assessment if you do so.**
- **The BPSA will shortly be hosting a webinar in conjunction with HEE and this will give you an opportunity to ask questions and voice your concerns. Look out for further information from ourselves and HEE through your Schools of Pharmacy, BPSA emails and social media.**
- **The BPSA is also working with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) on ways to guide and support you through the Oriel process.**

We would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that both ourselves and HEE are doing all that we can to ensure this year's recruitment process is as fair and robust as possible. We have always advocated for your personal and professional wellbeing, and will continue to do so throughout both the Oriel process and COVID-19 pandemic.

We hope you are staying safe and wish you every success in your end of year assignments and Summer endeavours.

**Kind Regards,
On Behalf of the British Pharmaceutical Students' Association**

Regan McCahill
President 2019 - 2020