

MSC Summer Schools

Eligibility criteria and weighting

Eligibility

Health Education England established eligibility criteria as part of the initial tender. The specification is included in Annex 1.

To ensure we can operate these in practice we have established greater definition to the eligibility criteria. The eligibility criteria have been reviewed and apply to the recruitment process for summer schools in 2021.

Eligibility criteria

Due to the way the programme is funded, students living outside of England are not eligible for the programme.

To be eligible for the programme the students must be currently studying at a state school and:

- In, or have been in local authority care¹

Or hold a minimum of two of the following:

- Studying in a state school that achieved below the national average Attainment 8 score at GCSE or had attended to the age of 16²
- Studying in a state school that achieved below or well below the national average Progress 8 score or had attended to the age of 16³

¹ Experience of local authority care is defined as being looked after by a local authority, foster parents/other family members, at home with their parents under the supervision of social services, in a residential children's home or in another residential setting such as school or secure unit, or someone who has experienced a period of three months in the care of the local authority within the last ten years.

² We will use the England average score of Attainment 8 to be 46.7 out of 90. This is the latest statistic for 2018/19 the average score for 'Attainment 8' (which measures pupils' performance in 8 GCSE-level qualifications). This is available at <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/>

³ This will be any school that gets below 0 (zero) as its Progress 8 score.

- From a school with a high percentage of students receiving free school meals^{4,5}
- Living in a geographical area with low levels of progression into higher education⁶
- Are a young carer⁷
- From a family where the parents do not have a university degree from the UK or abroad
- In receipt of or eligible for free school meals or the 16-19 Bursary Fund or Discretionary Learner Support or Means Tested Benefit or Pupil Premium
- Be estranged from both parents or guardians and/or be an asylum seeker or refugee

The specification also expects participants on the programme to have:

- The potential to study medicine and be capable of achieving the minimum grades required for entry (whether that is for standard entry programmes or programmes with a gateway year)
- An interest in STEM subjects and be considering studying science in their post-16 studies and medicine post-18

Weighting

If we receive a large number of applications, more than the places available, we will use weighting criteria for those students that are deemed eligible.

Priority will be given to students from disadvantaged backgrounds (as defined by our basket of measures) that attend schools and colleges in the cold spots.

Depending on the eligibility criteria listed above we propose that the weighting criteria is:

Criterion	Weighting	Comments
In, or been in local authority care	15	This would ensure the student would automatically receive the maximum points.

⁴ The percentage of students' eligible for free school meals is 27.7% or above.

⁵ If this information is not available for their current school, for example they are now attending a college, we will accept the free school meal data for the school attended at age 16.

⁶ This is available at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/postcode-search/. When using POLAR we will use POLAR4. POLAR4 students from quintile 1 and 2 will automatically meet this criterion.

⁷ Young carers are defined as under the age of 18 who help look after someone in their family, or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol. There is no time limit on the amount of care they provide for their dependents, this is just above and beyond what is normally expected.

Criterion	Weighting	Comments
Studying in a state school that achieved below the national average Attainment 8 score at GCSE or had attended to the age of 16	1	
Studying in a state school that is below or well below average performance at Progress 8	2	
From a school with 27.7% or more students receiving free school meals	1	Only one score – it would not be cumulative
From a school with 37.7% or more students receiving free school meals	2	Only one score – it would not be cumulative
Living in a geographical area with low levels of progression into higher education (POLAR4 quintile 1 or equivalent)	2	Only one score – it would not be cumulative
Living in a geographical area with low levels of progression onto higher education (POLAR4 quintile 2 or equivalent)	1	Only one score – it would not be cumulative
From a family where the parents do not have a university degree from the UK or abroad	1	
In receipt of free school meals or the 16-19 Bursary Fund or Discretionary Learner Support or Means Tested Benefit or Pupil Premium	2	
Be estranged from both parents or guardians and/or be an asylum seeker or refugee.	2	Will get one score for one of these criteria.
Young carer	2	

Annexe 1: Health Education England specification

To be eligible for the summer school students will need to be able to demonstrate at least two of the criteria below:

- Studying at, or had attended to the age of 16, a school that achieved below the national average Attainment 8 score at GCSE
- From a school with a high percentage of students receiving free school meals.
- Living in a geographical area with low levels of progression onto higher education
- In public care, have been in public care or are a young carer
- From a family where the parents do not have a university degree
- In receipt of free school meals or the 16-19 Bursary Fund or Discretionary Learner Support

In addition, participating students will have:

- The potential to study medicine and be capable of achieving the minimum grades required for entry (whether that is for standard entry programmes or programmes with a gateway year)
- An interest in STEM subjects and be considering studying science in their post-16 studies and medicine post-18.