# Supporting Your Students To Apply Competitive Subjects– Delivered by Simon Jenkins (Head of Student Recruitment and Admissions) & Peter Talbot (Admissions Manager)

## The aim of this session was to give teachers and advisors an overview of the courses which commonly receive many applications each year, and how to support students to write a strong application in order to be offered a place on these types of courses.

## Law

### *Academic Profile* – 112-120 UCAS Points, no specific subjects required.

### For those applying to Law courses, some universities may ask for a test to be sat before entry however this does no apply to Edge Hill. Academics like to see a real interest for the subject which is demonstrated through the personal statement. Essay writing subjects can also benefit students wanting to study Law as this develops skills such as reasoning and articulation.

### ***Ways to demonstrate interest and boost subject knowledge –***

### Reading newspapers will allow students to articulate arguments

### Reading current affairs articles by subscribing/turning on notifications on news reports to stay up to date with the current climate.

### Work experience where feasible/ demonstrating transferable skills.

### Experiences are also a great way to demonstrate enthusiasm for the subject – visiting courts would give students a great example as to how court proceedings take place and give show them what the environment is lifke.

### Subject Taster Days – Allowing students to visit universities and take part in higher level taster sessions linked to their area of interest.

## Engineering

### *Academic Profile -* 112-120 UCAS Points (BEng – 3 year Undergraduate)

### 112-128 UCAS Points (MEng – 4 Year integrated Masters)

### 72-96 UCAS Points (STEM Foundation Year)

### A Level Maths is necessary for those students on a tradition a Level Path. For those studying BTEC Engineering, or a relevant T Level then admissions teams will look at the amount of Maths content covered within those qualifications before making an offer.

### ***Ways to demonstrate interest and boost subject knowledge –***

### Similar to Law, students who are applying to Engineering don’t have the opportunity to Interview for Engineering, so the Personal Statement is the only chance to stand out. Studying Physics and help demonstrate enthusiasm for the subject within the Personal Statement, but it is not a necessary subject to gain entry onto the course.

### Visiting museums and showing awareness of the evolution of Engineering would be a great way of demonstrating interest for the subject, and any relevant hobbies they may have outside of school.

## Teacher Training

### *Academic Profile –* 112 – 120 UCAS points.

### GSCE Maths, English & Science required and grade 4 / C.

### Functional Skills Not accepted as equivalent.

### In addition to achieving the grades needed for these courses, students applying to teacher training degrees will also be interviewed for their suitability for the role and if given a formal offer form the university will need to agree to a DBS clearance.

### ***Interviews –***

### Interviews are held online currently for Edge Hill and students will be send interview guidance beforehand. There is also more information available to them for this on the website.

### Students may be asked to complete a pre-interview test such as a short video. During the interview students will be assessed on current education issues and their suitability for the role.

### ***What makes students stand out?***

### Teacher training courses are less competitive than Healthcare courses but have limited capacity due to universities needing to secure placement opportunities so it is important for students to get experiences which allow them to demonstrate their enthusiasm.

### It is important for students to:

### Know the role of a teacher properly – this can be achieved by chatting to current teachers, keeping up to date with current teacher issues, and being familiar with person specifications within advertised job roles. Many students talk about teaching just being about working with young being – having a better of awareness of the actual role of a teacher will make an applicant stand out.

### Get work experience placement hours – this can be a great discussion point in interview.

### Practice mock interviews as much as possible – the main area interviewers look at during interviews is how the applicant generally comes across therefor the more practice an applicant has beforehand, the more likely they are to appear confident and well prepared.

### **Additional Teacher Training Options –**

### PGCE is an alterative route to becoming qualified as a teacher if a university doesn’t offer direct entry into the role the student is looking for.

### PGCEs are relatively competitive so an awareness of the above is also needed for these types of courses.

### A pilot scheme has been launched this year within undergraduate courses at Edge Hill, to give students the opportunity to work in schools on informal placements for them to the experience of what it could be like to study on a PGCE. This scheme is expected to get rolled out further across the university going forward.

## Midwifery

### *Academic Profile –* 120-128 UCAS Points

### Specific subjects must include either Biology, Human Biology

### Psychology, Health & Social Care or Sociology.

### For those studying BTEC, Biology or Human Biology must be

### Included at level 3.

### T Levels have to be Health Care or Health Care Science.

### Due to Midwifery being one of the most competitive courses offered at Edge Hill, and likewise at other universities, the Personal Statement is key for applicants wishing to get an interview for this course.

### **What makes a Midwifery Personal Statement stand out?**

### A real understand of the role is very important – this can be developed by volunteering experience, reading journal articles, being aware of current issues within the sector. Ultimately, admissions teams are looking to see if the applicant can give a better insight into the role than what the average person would be able to.

### Many students focus too much on personal rationale for wanting to study the course linking to looking after siblings, watching TV shows – this is not something admissions would want to see as these things are not linked to the true role o the midwife.

### It can be a starting point for students to turn on their notifications for the BBC News app which can send sector updates as they come out.

### **Work Experience.**

### It is often the case that mature students apply for Midwifery courses after working in Health Care for a period. However, the department does not favour these applicants and whether or not an applicant gets invited to interview is how well they write their personal statement, and demonstrate their transferable skills and knowledge within their application.

## Paramedic Practice

### *Academic Profile –* 112-120 UCAS Points.

### There are no specific subjects required for this course, however like Midwifery it is important for applicants to demonstrate their rationale and transferable skills within their Personal Statement to get invited to interview. Within the Personal Statement, an applicant can impress by showing their awareness of the demands of the paramedic. Often applicants will neglect to mention the role of the paramedic within the wider NHS, however this demonstrates really could sector knowledge – this can be developed by exploring the impact paramedics have on the wider structure of the NHS and how the Core values can be related specifically to this role and others e.g. nurses.

### Interview

### During interview, applicants are assessed on Personal, Intellectual and Presentational values – this can be practiced through mock interviews.

### Interviewer may ask applicants about their knowledge surrounding the core values of the NHS.

### In addition to understanding the role of a paramedic generally, it is also important for the applicant to demonstrate an awareness of the course demands, such as following the pattern of a mentor and working night shifts.

### Enthusiasm is also key within these interviews.

### Once an applicant has been interviewed, they will need to be prepared to wait for a result of the application. This is so the department can interview everyone and then give out offers which reflect the capacity allowance on the course whilst considering how each applicant has performed. The department aims to have interviews completed by the end of March.

### How can a student stand out?

### The department recognise that ‘high achieving’ students may not be the most suitable for the role of a paramedic due to the hands on nature of the role, so it is important for students to expand their experience to support their application.

### This can be achieved through –

### Work experience in a care setting

### St Johns Ambulance

### Experiences that allow students to interact with others frequently

### First aid qualifications.

## Nursing

### *Academic Profile -* 104 -112 UCAS Points

### Compared to Midwifery there are a lot more spaces on this course, so the department can be less strict when looking through the personal statements for nursing degrees as they have the capacity to interview more applicants.

### Children’s nursing is the most competitive course out of the 4 nursing courses we offer – often if an applicant isn’t successful for children’s nursing the department offer them a place on an alternative nursing degree instead which is something for applicants to be aware of.

### Less applications for Mental Health Nursing and Learning Disability Nursing.

### Interview

### During the interview for nursing courses applicants are assessed on how the generally come across.

### An applicant is expected to have a good aware of the NHS core values and how they can demonstrate this.

### Work experience in a care setting will give applicants a good talking point and will give them more evidence to back up their rationale.

## Medicine

### *Academic Profile-* AAA including Chemistry and Biology*.*

### BBB (Foundation Year)

### The main Medicine course is 5 years long and applicants across the UK can apply. The Medicine with foundation year is only available for students in the Northwest of England to apply to and students must meet further Widening Participation access criteria which can be found on our webpage.

### The order of each stage of the application is highlighted on the presentation slides, but in summary an applicant is assessed on:

### Their predicted grades

### GCSE Grades

### UCAT Score

### Personal Statement

### Multiple Mini Interviews - 8 Interview stations

### How to prepare for applying to Medicine:

### Work placements experience is key – this can be in any care setting

### Sector awareness including the realistic role of the doctor

### UCAT practice tests – recommend doing this under timed conditions as this will be assessed during the real test.

### Read articles looking at different topics across the discipline

### Take part in mock interviews to improve confidence

### It is also key or the applicant to be able to reflect on their own experiences and to talk about these experiences as examples for how they embody the core values of the NHS and why they would be a suitable student on a Medicine degree.

### For more information on entry requirements, please visit our course pages at edgehill.ac.uk. If you have any specific queries regarding equalisations or specific circumstances, please contact admissions@edgehill.ac.uk