

JASME e-Newsletter

October 2009

Volume 1, Number 7

<http://www.asme.org.uk/jasme/>

In this issue

- **Editor's note**
- **Hot stuff**
 - Conferences & meetings
 - Useful websites
 - Resources
 - Don't forget to keep an eye on...
- **Announcement: publication opportunity!!!**
- **Announcement: joining JASME**
- **Academic foundation programme application process: interview with Terence McLoughlin**

Contributors: Lina Fazlanie, Terence McLoughlin
Reviewers: Lina Fazlanie, Dr Paschalis Kapsomenakis
Editor: Ourania Varsou
Design: Mark Pickett

Editor's note

JASME is a constantly evolving organisation, aiming to provide accessible and comprehensive information in the field of medical education and academic research. This is the seventh issue of our monthly e-Newsletter and we hope that you find it useful and interesting. Our newsletter is also available online at <http://www.asme.org.uk/jasme/whatsnew.htm>. If you would like to write for the JASME e-newsletter, please send your ideas and articles to jasmenewsletter@googlemail.com.

Hot stuff

Conferences & meeting

- ASME (Association for the Study of Medical Education)
 - ASME Annual Scientific Meeting 2010 – Medical Education: Innovation in a Traditional World
 - 21 to 23 July 2010
 - Robinson College, Cambridge, UK
 - <http://www.asme.org.uk/conferences-a-courses/forthcoming-conferences/asm-2010.html>
- AMEE (Association for Medical Education In Europe)
 - AMEE Conference
 - 4 to 8 September 2010
 - Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC), Glasgow, UK
 - <http://www.amee.org/index.asp?tm=59>

Useful websites

- BMA (British Medical Association)
 - <http://www.bma.org.uk/>
- GMC (General Medical Council)
 - <http://www.gmc-uk.org/>
- IFMSA (International Federation of Medical Students' Association)
 - <http://www.ifmsa.org/>
- Medical Research Council (MRC)
 - <http://www.mrc.ac.uk/index.htm>
- MedSin
 - <http://www.medsin.org/>
- Money 4 Medical Students
 - <http://www.money4medstudents.org>

Resources

- Medical Education
 - <http://www.mededuc.com/>
- Understanding Medical Education
 - http://www.asme.org.uk/pub_ume.htm
- The LancetStudent.com
 - <http://www.thelancetstudent.com/>

Don't forget to keep an eye on...

- ASME
 - <http://www.asme.org.uk/index.html>
- JASME
 - <http://www.asme.org.uk/jasme/>
- JASME Facebook group
 - <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?sid=0dc9b4672d1ec00b69050706ccc888d5&qid=2222238701>
- Foundation Programme website
 - <http://www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/pages/home>

Announcement: publication opportunity!!!

Hello everyone!

We are currently looking for enthusiastic medical students and junior doctors, to write articles for our monthly e-newsletter. These can include announcements (maximum 150 words), viewpoints (maximum 200 words), short editorials (maximum 400 words) and interviews (maximum 1,000 words). We will welcome all types of submissions, on any topic that has attracted your interest, especially articles related to medical education and academic or scientific research.

You can submit your work as often as you want, even on a one-off basis. All submitted articles are peer-reviewed by the editor, the reviewers and the committee.

This is an amazing opportunity to get published!

If you want to write for us, please send your ideas or articles to: jasmenewsletter@googlemail.com and o.varsou@googlemail.com.



Thank you 😊

Announcement: joining JASME

Are you interested in medical education and academic/scientific research?

If yes, then join JASME!!!



Who can become a JASME member?

All full-time medical/healthcare students

Why should I join JASME?

Receipt of our monthly e-newsletter

Regular mailing about ASME and JASME activities

Online subscription to Medical Education and The Clinical Teacher

Places on our forthcoming courses and workshops

Access to dedicated and experienced research mentors

How can I become a JASME member?

Join online

Send your application form by post

How much will it cost me?

Only £10 per year

I am already a JASME member

This is great!

Invite your friends to join as well

For more information on how to join JASME and our membership benefits, please visit: <http://www.asme.org.uk/membership/individual-membership-application.html> or <http://www.asme.org.uk/join-jasme.html>

This is a real bargain!!!
Join JASME today 😊

Academic foundation programme application process: interview with Terence McLoughlin

By Lina Fazlanie, 3rd year medical student, University of Sheffield

In this month's newsletter we are taking the opportunity to interview an AFP applicant, who has been through the process and successfully secured himself one of these very limited posts.

Terence McLoughlin has kindly offered to answer a few questions on his experience, in the hope that it may give our readers an insight into the AFP application form and interview. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Terence for contributing to this article and congratulate him on obtaining the AFP post.

Firstly Terence, what made you want to apply for an AFP job?

During my BSc, prior to starting medicine, I took the opportunity to do summer placements at the University of Wisconsin and with the United Nations as a research associate. I also really enjoyed my dissertation, so I knew that if the opportunity to mix clinical work and research came along I would grab it with both hands. I knew that research would have to form part of my job description during a possible career in surgery, so what better way than the AFP!

Could you please explain where you applied and how you found out about the deadlines for the various deaneries?

I applied for North East Thames. The foundation programme website has a section specifically for academic jobs and it is very easy to navigate around. It also gives you the individual deadlines and interview dates for each deanery.

What made you choose this deanery and was this the only one you applied for?

I did my Phase 3a option with the London Air Ambulance (HEMS), based at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, so I knew I wanted to work in this region eventually as I enjoyed it so much. The area is culturally diverse with many communities and has a real positive buzz to it. The 2012 Olympic Games are based in North East London, so I thought it would be a great place to work as a junior doctor during such a significant time. They also offered phone interviews, as these coincided with our elective time, which was imperative if I was to complete my trauma elective in Cape Town.

Was there an element of choice in the type of AFP job you got and was there much variety?

There is a great variety of jobs on offer. I chose academic surgery. This is surgery-based for the two years, with a four month placement in FY2 supporting surgical consultants with staging of biopsies and so on in histopathology. However, depending on which deanery you choose, the options can range from public health in deprived areas and medical education to medical management and lab-based work. Many of the AFPs also give you the opportunity of completing papers, audits and professional qualifications (e.g. MSc) in a very short time.

Was there much difference in the application process between the various deaneries you applied for?

The forms are in many ways similar to the UKFPO application. However, all the AFP forms I saw had placed more emphasis on your academic qualifications and achievements as well as your motivation to incorporate academia into your career.

Please explain what sort of questions you had to answer in your application and what you think the medical educationalists are looking for in the form.

They want to see a well-rounded academic, who is proactive and has already pursued academic interests from an early stage at medical school. All the application forms wanted evidence of peer-reviewed publications, presentations at a national or international level and prizes/bursaries.



However, do not be scared off by these. I would still recommend going for an AFP, if you possess qualities and a real motivation to pursue such a career pathway.

What advice would you give to those filling out the application form?

Start early! The AFP jobs are all allotted before the UKFPO process starts. Information will be available early from 2010 onwards, so you need to check the foundation programme website regularly.

I understand that your interview was undertaken over the phone. Could you explain to our readers, why this was the case and how easy or difficult this made your application?

Unfortunately, the elective time for Sheffield medical students is during the majority of the interview dates (South Yorkshire AFP process starts later than the rest). I could not apply for some of the London deaneries, as they refused phone interviews. However, North East Thames allowed it.

A phone interview, in my opinion, is a lot harder than face-to-face. My interview was during my elective in Cape Town, so the time difference (GMT + two hours) was not too bad. However, my phone line was not very clear and I was interrupted by hospital staff during the interview, which did not help my concentration! Furthermore, you cannot engage with the interviewers or pause like you can in a face-to-face interview, which can be quite frustrating.

What sort of questions were you asked at the interview and what advice would you give to medical students for their interviews?

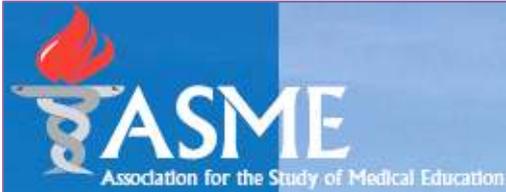
My interview comprised of 50 minutes of questioning, over the phone, by two consultants from the Royal London Hospital. The interview included ethical dilemmas, clinical scenarios, academic prowess, journals I had been reading and general statistical questions.

Is there any general advice you would like to give to medical students wishing to apply for an AFP job?

Prepare early and be proactive, as the jobs are competitive. However, if you want this, it is worth all the hassle.

Thank you very much again Terence, we wish you all the best with your final exams and the AFP job.

Thanks Lina!



Annual
Scientific
Meeting
2010

Robinson College
Cambridge, UK

21 - 23 JULY 2010

Medical Education: Innovation in a Traditional World

Robinson College, Cambridge, UK

21 - 23 JULY 2010

The programme will include pre and intra-conference workshops; keynote presentations, in particular The Lord Cohen Lecture; parallel/concurrent sessions; posters, policy fora, the award of the Sir John Ellis Student Prize and the Richard Farrow Gold Medal. The 2010 Lord Cohen Lecture will be delivered by Charlotte Ringsted, Professor of Medical Education, Copenhagen University, Denmark.

For more information and call for papers please visit the ASME website:

www.asme.org.uk

or contact:

Jennifer Bowser, Administrator,
ASME, 12 Queen Street,
Edinburgh, UK, EH2 1JE
(jenniferb@asme.org.uk)
+44 (0)131 225 9111

Annual Scientific
Meeting 2010

