

Guide to MMI candidates on expectations regarding communication

We have produced this brief guide to help all candidates prepare for their MMI. This guide is focused on communication skills, which is one of the values and competencies we assess at the MMI. We are defining communication skills as the ability to clearly convey a message as well as demonstrate active listening. We focus on communication as it is a core skill which will, in some way, influence how you perform at every station. However, being an excellent communicator alone will not secure you a place at Warwick; we look holistically across all of the values and competencies.

To help you perform well at our MMI, you should:

- Answer the question asked by the assessor, rather than tell us what you have previously prepared! We do not want to know why you want to be a doctor or how much you know about WMS, because it is too easy to prepare a model answer for these questions.
- Expect to be challenged and to have to think about your answers.
- Be comfortable discussing, and able to enquire sensitively about someone's personal issues e.g. job, lifestyle, health or sexual orientation, and able to respond appropriately.
- Be able to consider multiple perspectives, including those that may be very different to your own.
- Be able to listen actively to what others are saying and respond appropriately.
- Be able to reflect on your work experiences, considering what you have learned about a career in the healthcare professions, and what you have learned about yourself and your suitability for such a career.
- Not be scared to admit that you have areas for development – we are admitting first year medical students, not qualified doctors!

Some thought-provoking TED talks to support your preparation

There are many ways of communicating effectively. The following videos are recommended (but not required) as examples to encourage you to reflect on what good communication is and why it matters. They are not a "how to" guide for communication skills.

In [this TED talk](#), Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie tells "the danger of a single story" – that if we hear only a single story about another person or country, we risk a critical misunderstanding.

Celeste Headlee gives us ten ways to have a better conversation in [this Ted talk](#).

In [this Ted Talk](#), Julian Treasure highlights five ways to listen better. Being able to listen well is vital to being able to respond well.