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medicalstudent

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120 POSTS AXED



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The greatest nightmare of medical students after giving and passing finals is what kind of jobs they will obtain for their foundation years. The last three years have been marked with tremendous changes in the system, with catastrophic results, as evidenced by MDAP and

MTAS. Last year was heralded as an unexpected success, resulting in 92% of applicants getting their first choice; but with many people choosing strategically to avoid the debacle of the last years, this may not reflect universal satisfaction, particularly in London: Imperial students, in particular, were hard hit, with just over 60% getting their first choice, competition almost being two applicants per post for North West Thames Founda-

tion School.

This year's system was greeted with wary optimism, as the application system seems to have run smoothly and without any hitches: enough jobs are available for all applicants, as well as some vacancies.

No one was expecting the email sent out to all applicants by the UKFPO and Professor Gallen: due to the unforeseen understaffing of some of the foundation schools, 20 Founda-

tion Schools would have 6 posts removed before applicants are allocated to them. This can have salubrious results for undersubscribed deaneries, as more people will be shuffled towards them, their primary choices having fewer positions; but this is bad news for the more popular schools, such as the London ones. This change effectively means that 24 jobs will be removed from these most competitive deaneries. As these usually

produce more graduates than there are positions, this means that 6 applicants per London foundation school will not get their first choice. Medgroup, the committee of the student union presidents and BMA representatives of London's five medical schools, is strongly protesting this impromptu change, with student unions