BSc. (Hons) Operating Department Practice

Entry Criteria - Guidelines for English Language Requirement

The programme is delivered in the English Language and all applicants must have a good command of reading, writing and speaking in English. Where applicants have undertook their secondary education in a country that does not teach in the medium of English additional evidence of good command of English will be required as specified in University Regulation 1.

English language requirements are specified in Senate Regulations 1.10., 1.11., 1.12.1.13 and 1.14 and where appropriate an IELTS equivalent score of 6.5 is required. The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) tests competence in the English language.

To be eligible to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), students must be able to communicate in English to the standard equivalent to level 7 of the IELTS, with no element below 6.5 (HCPC, 2014).

Applicants who have qualified outside of the UK, whose first language is not English and who are not nationals of a country within the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland, must provide evidence that they have reached the necessary standard (HCPC, 2014). Please note that English language tests need to have been taken no more than two years prior to the start date of the course (UoL, 2015).

The assessment of listening, reading, writing and speaking English at level 7 is continuous throughout the program through the application of the SEEC credit level descriptors (2010), the QAA (2004) benchmarks for operating department practice, the use of marking rubrics for written assignments, examinations, presentations and group work (UoL, 2014). Mentors also make formative and summative assessment decisions on the student’s abilities to communicate within the clinical setting. The At Risk processes will identify any students that are not meeting the minimum requirement. Students will be supported in developing their English language through the personal tutor system or the English Language Teaching Unit.

If there is any doubt about a students’ English language ability, they may be referred to the Fitness to Practise Panel. The University of Leicester reserves the right to require students to achieve a satisfactory score in a recognised English language test, or to pass a test of competence, set and marked by the English Language Teaching Unit (UoL, 2015).