Information to prospective students

Following the offer of a place to study at Goldsmiths University of London, we are committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for students with impairments and health conditions. Goldsmiths will provide all reasonable support to enable students with impairments and health conditions to complete the course.

Your answers to this health questionnaire will help to ensure that your placement training will not put your health at risk and will also help to determine, in terms of fitness to fulfil the requirements of programme, your suitability to work in your chosen field.

1 Why is fitness to train an issue?

The reasons to address the issue of fitness to train centre around the requirement to:

- ensure the health, safety, well-being and educational progress of pupils/clients;
- provide an efficient service which will facilitate learning from pupils;
- manage any risk to the health of teachers/social workers/etc. which may arise from their duties including ensuring that those duties do not exacerbate preexisting health problems;
- ensure the health and safety of other staff is not adversely affected by a colleague being unfit;
- enable all, including those with disabilities, who wish to pursue a career in teaching/social work/etc. to achieve their potential within the bounds of reasonable adjustment.

2 Fitness criteria

To be able to undertake duties safely and effectively, it is essential that individuals:

- have the health and well-being necessary to deal with the specific types of duties (adjusted, as appropriate) in which they are engaged;
- are able to communicate effectively with children, parents, clients and colleagues;
- possess sound judgement and insight;
- remain alert at all times;
- can respond to clients/pupils' needs rapidly and effectively;
- are able to manage classes/groups;
- do not constitute any risk to the health, safety or well-being of those in their care;
- can, where disabilities exist, be enabled by reasonable adjustments to meet these criteria.

The decision on fitness will be considered using the above criteria and will be based on an individual's ability to satisfy those criteria in relation to all duties undertaken as part of the specific post and in relation to all the individual's health problems.

3 Consideration of questionnaires

Having considered the completed questionnaire (and evidence from a medical examination and specialist advice if appropriate) the doctor will classify the applicant in one of three categories:

A Those who are in good health or who have conditions which are not likely to interfere with efficiency on teaching/social work/etc.

B Those who are in good health but who suffer from conditions which are likely to interfere some extent with their placement, though these conditions are not serious enough to make the candidate unfit for the teaching/social work/etc. profession.

C Those whose condition is such as to make them unfit for their chosen profession. Applicants should not normally be included in this category unless they suffer from a psychiatric or physical disorder likely to interfere seriously with regular and efficient teaching/social work or other placement duties.
A ‘C’ classification should be given to an applicant who is not in a satisfactory state of health at the time of the examination but who may, after appropriate medical treatment, make a good recovery. It will be open to such applicants to make a fresh application once they are able to provide a satisfactory medical report following treatment. There is no appeals mechanism to the institution, however the applicant has the right to offer additional medical specialist advice to the College for the medical advisor to reconsider their decision.

4 IMPACT OF HEALTH STATUS ON FITNESS TO TRAIN: an extract from the advice provided for doctor’s responsible for assessing occupation health of teachers. (This information is provided for information only. Many of these issues are the same for social work entrants)

4.1 GENERAL

Any decision to find an applicant unfit to teach should only be made after it is clear that the criteria at paragraph 2 (above) cannot be met in full after the following have been addressed:

- Appropriate treatment for an appropriate length of time has failed to produce recovery.
- Other available treatment interventions have been proved to be unsuccessful.
- Restriction on the nature of teaching duties would still not enable the teacher to be declared fit.
- Reasonable adjustments would not be sufficient to allow the individual to be fit to teach.
- Providing a blanket list of conditions that are incompatible with teaching duties is not appropriate. Cases should be considered on an individual basis and, in most circumstances, consideration should involve:
  - Full investigation of the condition, including reports from doctor and Specialist as appropriate.
  - Reference to the criteria outlined above.

Discussion with senior or more experienced colleagues may be appropriate.

4.2 REVIEW

Where an individual is considered to be fit, but has a condition which may progress so that ongoing fitness would be in doubt, Medical Advisers should recommend to the training institution or employing organisation, that the individual be reviewed at clearly defined intervals. The individual concerned should be advised of this and of the need to seek earlier review if the anticipated pattern of the illness changes.
Goldsmiths University of London
Occupational Health Form

CONFIDENTIAL

The completed questionnaire should be scanned and emailed to occhealth@gold.ac.uk

Or returned to:
Goldsmiths Occupational Health Form - Private, Admissions Office, Goldsmiths University of London, New Cross, London, SE14 6NW

PERSONAL DETAILS:

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<th>Previous or alternate names:</th>
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<th>Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Mx:</th>
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<th>Doctor's Name and Address:</th>
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<th>Hospital specialist Name and Address: (if applicable)</th>
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HEALTH AND FUNCTIONAL CAPABILITIES:

1. **Do you have problems with any of the following?**
   - Mobility e.g., walking, using stairs, balance
   - Agility e.g., bending, reaching up, kneeling down
   - Dexterity e.g., getting dressed, writing, using tools
   - Physical exertion e.g., lifting, carrying, running
   - Communication e.g., speech, hearing
   - Vision e.g., visual impairment, colour blindness, tunnel vision
   - Learning e.g., dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, impaired concentration

   **If yes to any of the above, give details e.g., extent of impairment, how you manage, necessary support needs.**

2. **Have you ever required special arrangements at school or work to accommodate a disability or health problem? e.g. special equipment, extra time in exams, part-time working**

   **If yes, give details**

   Where applicable please indicate whether or not you have informed your Admissions Tutor and/or the Disability team at Goldsmiths University about any impairment or disability that requires support during your training.

   **Admissions Tutor**
   - Yes [ ] No [ ]
   **Disability team**
   - Yes [ ] No [ ]

3. **Do you have any of the following?**
   - Chronic skin conditions e.g., eczema, psoriasis
   - Neurological disorders e.g., epilepsy, multiple sclerosis
   - Allergies e.g., to latex, medicines, foods
   - Endocrine disease e.g., diabetes

   **If yes to any of the above, give details e.g., when condition developed, severity, its effect on you, treatment.**

4. **Have you ever been affected by?**
   - Sudden loss of consciousness e.g., a fit or seizure
   - Chronic fatigue syndrome (or similar condition)
   - An illness requiring more than two week's absence from school or work
   - Mental health problems e.g., anxiety, depression, phobias, OCD, nervous breakdown,
     - personality disorder, over-dose or self-harm, drug or alcohol dependency
   - An eating disorder e.g., bulimia, anorexia nervosa, compulsive eating

   **If yes to any of the above, give details e.g., when condition developed, how long it lasted, its effects on you, treatment**
5. Have you ever been assessed or treated by a psychiatrist, psychotherapist or counsellor?  

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If yes give details e.g. when, reason, outcome

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6. Are you currently taking any medication or treatment?  

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If yes give details

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7. Do you have any disability or health condition not already mentioned for which you think you may require support during your training?  

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If yes give details

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**Declaration**

I declare that all of the statements and information I have made on this questionnaire are true to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that I am responsible for the expenses of any medical report which may be required and any fee associated with the completion of the form.

I give consent for Goldsmiths to approach my doctor and/or Specialist for further information if deemed necessary.

I understand that giving false information or failing to disclose any significant information could result in the withdrawal of my offer and any subsequent enrolment at Goldsmiths.

**Applicant Signature:**

**Date:**

Please take the completed form to your GP (Doctor) and request that they complete the section below. You will be responsible for any fee charged by your GP.
**Doctor Assessment**

Your patient has been offered a place to undertake a Fitness to Train programme at Goldsmiths University. All prospective students are required to complete a health questionnaire to enable the University to assess their medical fitness and where appropriate consider any reasonable adjustments or additional support needs. We require the doctor to verify the health information provided by applicants on the basis of their knowledge of the patient.

1. Are you the applicant’s usual doctor?  
   - Yes  
   - No

2. Are you a relative of the applicant?  
   - Yes  
   - No

3. Do you hold the applicant’s medical record?  
   - Yes  
   - No

4. According to your records and knowledge of the applicant, do the answers to questions in Section 2 appear correct? *(please add any comments below, if appropriate)*  
   - Yes  
   - No

5. Are you aware of any additional medical information which may be relevant to this application? *(If yes please provide details)*  
   - Yes  
   - No

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**Details**


**PLEASE NOTE. A medical examination is not required. Any fee required for completion of the form is the responsibility of the patient.**

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**Category A**  
Those who are in good health or have conditions which are not likely to interfere with efficiency on teaching/social work/etc.

**Category B**  
Those who are in good health but who suffer from conditions which are likely to interfere some extent with their efficiency in teaching either all subjects or certain specified subjects, though these conditions are not serious enough to make the candidate unfit for the teaching/social work profession.

**Category C**  
Those whose condition is such as to make them unfit for the teaching/social work profession.