

## Supplementary Appendix

**Supplementary Table 2** – the detailed breakdown of the nationality of the respondents to the survey

Nationality	Number of Respondent
American	9
Australian	5
Bahraini	3
Bangladeshi	1
Belgian	1
Brazilian	1
British	12
Bruneian	1
Burmese	3
Canadian	23
Chinese	16
Cypriot	3
Dutch	2
Egyptian	3
Fijian	1
Finnish	2
French	4
Gambian	1
German	2
Ghanaian	1
Greek	2
Hong Kong	36
Indian	62
Iranian	2

Iraqi	1
Irish	4
Italian	3
Japanese	4
Jordanian	2
Kenyan	1
Libyan	3
Luxembourger	1
Malaysian	76
Maldivian	1
Maltese	1
Mauritian	2
Namibian	1
New Zealander	1
Nigerian	2
Polish	2
Portuguese	1
Romanian	2
Russian	1
Sierra Leonean	1
Singaporean	21
South Korean	4
Spanish	1
Sri Lankan	2
Swedish	3
Swiss	2
Taiwanese	2
Tanzanian	1

Thai	6
Trinidadian or Tobagonian	1
Turkish	1
Zimbabwean	2

**Supplementary Table 3: Factors attracting international students towards a UK medical school.**

<b>Facilities, Opportunities and quality of the medical curriculum</b>	<p><i>"Yes, Indian med schools don't have facilities equivalent to UK medical schools "</i></p> <p><i>"The quality of education and the historical cities in the UK itself</i></p> <p><i>"The course here is much more clinically oriented than in Europe. It is also less heavy on the student, giving the students an opportunity to have a life outside of their medical school."</i></p> <p><i>"Research opportunities (such as PhD intercalation)</i></p> <p><i>"Quality of education and job opportunities "</i></p> <p><i>"Prominent research landscape across the board, and a variety of UK-based educational materials"</i></p> <p><i>"Different curriculum +supportive tutor and student relationship+research opportunities"</i></p> <p><i>"better teaching facilities, course structures"</i></p> <p><i>Good quality of medical education and medical work in the UK!"</i></p> <p><i>"Academic scholarship opportunity "</i></p> <p><i>"Because of its well equipped medical schools and trained medical professionals that lecture In most of these medical schools."</i></p>
<b>Prestige and recognised internationally</b>	<p><i>"International community, high level of education "</i></p> <p><i>"Reputable degree with top class education "</i></p> <p><i>"I can immediately study medicine and it's only for 5/6 years. Prestige"</i></p> <p><i>"Better reputation and more recognised than the medical schools in Singapore. "</i></p> <p><i>"An MBBS degree from the UK is more internationally recognised. "</i></p> <p><i>"The degree is accepted in many other countries so it would be easy to travel."</i></p> <p><i>"Viewed as a prestigious place to study medicine "</i></p> <p><i>"validity of the degree in other countries, support to students, structure of post grad training"</i></p> <p><i>"The UK medical degree is very well valued around the world, including in India and the UAE (My country of residence) "</i></p> <p><i>"Studying in English seemed the most helpful internationally. "</i></p>
<b>Post-graduate prospects</b>	<p><i>"The degree is valued internationally and can increase bargaining power amongst graduates to ask for higher salaries in overseas countries."</i></p> <p><i>"Higher job opportunities in the future "</i></p> <p><i>"More career opportunities after completing a UK degree"</i></p> <p><i>"Better future career options. "</i></p>
<b>Overseas experience and study culture</b>	<p><i>"Yes, to gain more exposure by studying abroad"</i></p> <p><i>"love to stay in the uk for a couple more years"</i></p> <p><i>"To experience something new/different"</i></p> <p><i>"I love the country, always did."</i></p> <p><i>"exciting experience</i></p> <p><i>"I enjoy the learning culture in UK much more than in my home country"</i></p> <p><i>"perhaps the diversity within the school environment "</i></p>

	<i>"Life experience" ; "Better life" ; "Work life balance"</i>
<b>Convenience and language</b>	<p><i>"Partnered medical school with university back home "</i></p> <p><i>"Studied in British system</i></p> <p><i>All education was tailored to eventually study university in the UK</i></p> <p><i>English speaking medical curriculum "</i></p> <p><i>"Studying A-Levels in sixth form, it's sort of an "expectation" that using that you would go to the UK for further education"</i></p> <p><i>"It was just easier for me to apply to a UK medical school rather than an Indian medical school, as Indian medical schools are more competitive."</i></p> <p><i>"not as fluent in mother tongue"</i></p> <p><i>"More fluent in english than in home country language</i></p> <p><i>"More familiar with the system; language"</i></p> <p><i>"Language"</i></p> <p><i>"I've studied here a long time and my native language is nowhere near good enough at University level.</i></p> <p><i>"I would like to study medicine in English."</i></p> <p><i>"I speak English better than I do french/Flemish/German so couldn't study in Belgium "</i></p> <p><i>"I am used to UK's NHS and education system, which helps with my studies "</i></p> <p><i>"easier to apply from UCAS since I did my A-Levels in the UK so easier to apply within the system rather than apply to a university in my home country, India.</i></p> <p><i>"Easier pathway for international students to study medicine in comparison to other countries"</i></p> <p><i>"Direct start without premed"</i></p> <p><i>"Already studying in the UK "</i></p> <p><i>"Studied in a British school prior to this so led to pursuing further education here "</i></p>
<b>Time saving</b>	<p><i>"Undergraduate course vs postgraduate back home. Would end up saving 3 years."</i></p> <p><i>"Time saving in terms of graduating"</i></p> <p><i>"The pathway to becoming a doctor is the most straightforward. Getting accepted into a medical program straight out of high school automatically puts me on the path to becoming a doctor and ensures that I gain relevant clinical experience throughout my undergraduate years."</i></p> <p><i>"The duration of the course is shorter compared to other countries."</i></p> <p><i>"Takes less time to do it in the UK. "</i></p> <p><i>"Shorter training years compared to other countries"</i></p> <p><i>"Shorter length for qualification compared to other countries"</i></p> <p><i>"In Canada, you need an undergraduate degree in order to apply to medical school."</i></p> <p><i>"In Canada, the process to become a doctor is significantly longer, and slightly harder (since more qualifying exams need to be written)."</i></p> <p><i>"Medical school in North America employs the 4 + 4 model of undergraduate + graduate medicine (MD). Studying in the UK was a way to guarantee becoming a doctor in a shorter period of time."</i></p>
<b>Politics</b>	<p><i>"Our country has too many doctors. I wish to work in the UK and experience world-class education."</i></p> <p><i>"Politics in HK"</i></p> <p><i>"The major issue in Malaysia for medical graduates is the biased and unfair system of awarding contracts to houseman officers. We do not know how they determine who is awarded the positions as the process is not transparent. There are many other issues such as the ratio of number of doctors produced to the number of patients in Malaysia is also one of the highest in the world as we simply just have too many medical schools especially from the private sector"</i></p>

*and not enough positions to compensate for them. Thus many medical graduates in Malaysia face the prospect of going jobless after completing their clinical training.”*

#### Supplementary Table 4a – 4m

**Supplementary 4a:** Perceived/ known tuition fees paid by international students upon completion of a medical degree by pre-medical student, medical student and medical school graduates.

Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test, p value<0.001

Categories	Pre-Medical	Medical	Post-graduate
Pre-Medical		<0.0001	0.0067
Medical	<0.0001		0.8934
Post-graduate	0.0067	0.8934	

**Supplementary 4b:** Perceived estimated total cost of medical training required to produce a doctor by pre-medical students, medical students and medical school graduates.

Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test, p value<0.001

Categories	Pre-Medical	Medical	Post-graduate
Pre-Medical		<0.0001	<0.0001
Medical	<0.0001		0.3400
Post-graduate	<0.0001	0.3400	

**Supplementary 4c:** Perceived clinical and academic opportunities by pre-medical students, medical students and medical school graduates.

Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test, p value: 0.01

Categories	Pre-Medical	Medical	Post-graduate
Pre-Medical		0.5804	0.0435
Medical	0.5804		0.0049
Post-graduate	0.0435	0.0049	

**Supplementary 4d:** Perceived financial prospects by pre-medical students, medical students and medical school graduates.

Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test, p value: 0.32

Categories	Pre-Medical	Medical	Post-graduate
Pre-Medical		0.3779	1.0000
Medical	0.3779		0.3896
Post-graduate	1.0000	0.3896	

**Supplementary 3e:** Perceived family reasons by pre-medical students, medical students and medical school graduates.

Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test, p value: 0.07

Categories	Pre-Medical	Medical	Post-graduate
Pre-Medical		0.2185	0.0394
Medical	0.2185		0.1873
Post-graduate	0.0394	0.1873	

**Supplementary 4f:** Perceived quality of life by pre-medical students, medical students and medical school graduates.

Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test, p value: 0.01

Categories	Pre-Medical	Medical	Post-graduate
Pre-Medical		0.5804	0.0435
Medical	0.5804		0.0049
Post-graduate	0.0435	0.0049	

**Supplementary 4g:** Perceived impact of role model advice by pre-medical students, medical students and medical school graduates.

Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test, p value = 0.02

Categories	Pre-Medical	Medical	Post-graduate
Pre-Medical		0.0697	0.0114
Medical	0.0697		0.1357
Post-graduate	0.0114	0.1357	

**Supplementary 4h:** Perceived political landscape in the UK by pre-medical students, medical students and medical school graduates.

Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test, p value < 0.001

Categories	Pre-Medical	Medical	Post-graduate
Pre-Medical		0.0002	0.0503
Medical	0.0002		1.0000
Post-graduate	0.0503	1.000	

**Supplementary 4i:** Perceived ACT Levy by pre-medical students, medical students and medical school graduates.

Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test, p value < 0.001

Categories	Pre-Medical	Medical	Post-graduate
Pre-Medical		<0.0001*	0.0026*
Medical	<0.0001*		0.9065
Post-graduate	0.0026*	0.9065	

**Supplementary 4j:** Perceived value for money by pre-medical students, medical students and medical school graduates.

Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test, p value <0.001

Categories	Pre-Medical	Medical	Post-graduate
Pre-Medical		<0.001*	<0.001
Medical	<0.001*		0.0054*
Post-graduate	<0.001*	0.0054*	

**Supplementary 4k:** Perceived willingness to work for NHS for at least 5 years by pre-medical students, medical students and medical school graduates.

Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test, p value = 0.96

Categories	Pre-Medical	Medical	Post-graduate
Pre-Medical		1	1
Medical	1		1
Post-graduate	1	1	

**Supplementary 4l:** Perceived more likely to work in UK by pre-medical students, medical students and medical school graduates.

Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test, p value = 0.92

Categories	Pre-Medical	Medical	Post-graduate
Pre-Medical		1	1
Medical	1		1
Post-graduate	1	1	

**Supplementary 4m:** Perceived more likely to study medicine in UK by pre-medical students, medical students and medical school graduates.

Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test, p value = 0.05

Categories	Pre-Medical	Medical	Post-graduate
Pre-Medical		0.0329	1.0000
Medical	0.0329		0.3279
Post-graduate	1.0000	0.3279	

**Supplementary 4n:** Perceived more financial support should be given by pre-medical students, medical students and medical school graduates.

Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test, p value = 0.01

Categories	Pre-Medical	Medical	Post-graduate
Pre-Medical		0.2580	0.1189
Medical	0.2580		0.0081
Post-graduate	0.1189	0.0081*	

**Supplementary Table 5** shows the results of the thematic analysis conducted from the responses in the free text box asking whether there were any additional concerns amongst international students coming to the UK to study medicine.

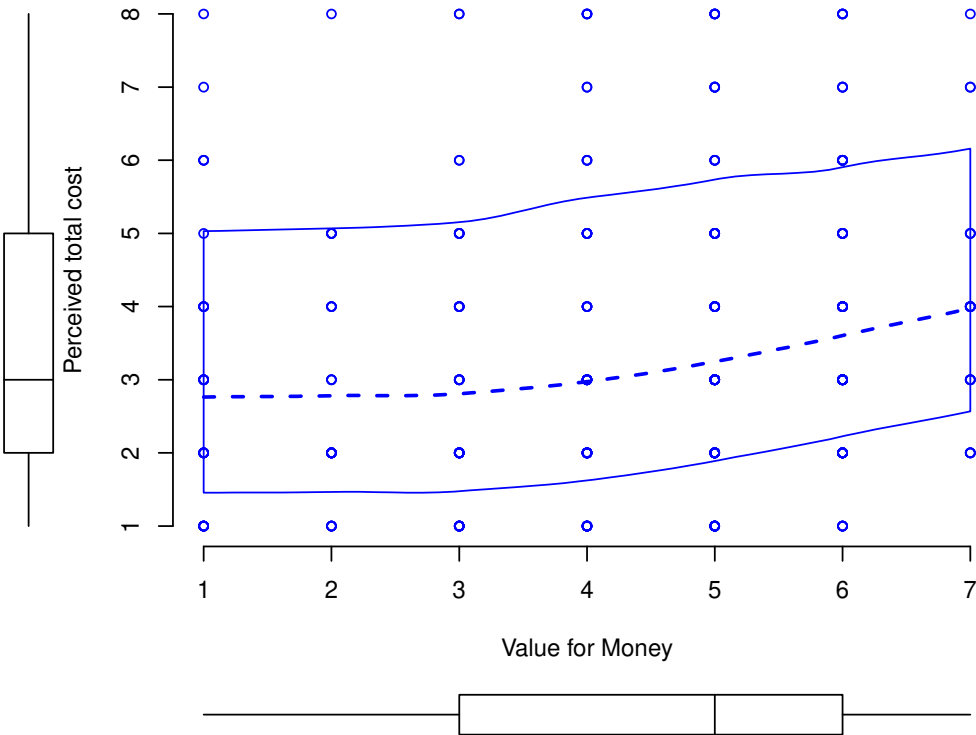
Themes	Individuals %
Impact of COVID-19 on the curriculum	2.2%
Lack Of University Support/guidance	5.5%
Culture shock/fitting in	6.6%
Post-graduate working conditions and job prospects	7.7%
Racism	11.0%



Cost Of Degree	16.5%
Other	9.9%
No Concerns highlighted	49.9%

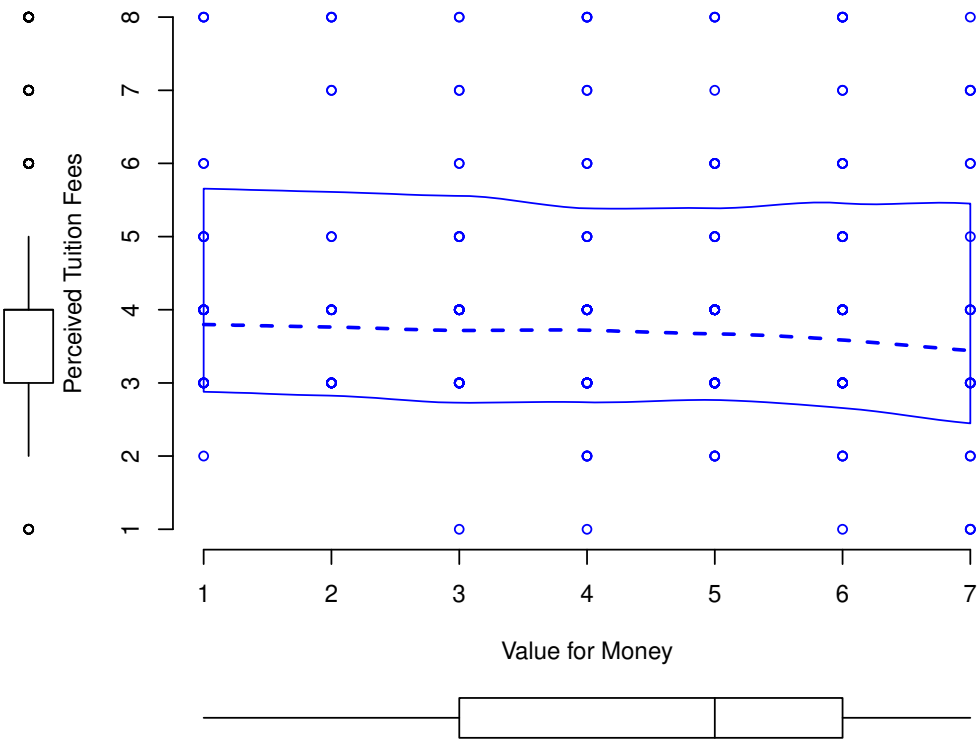
Supplementary Figure 1

Supplementary 1 is a graph comparing the perceived value for money of a UK medical degree with for perceived total cost to train a medical student to become a doctor among pre-medical students, medical students and post-graduates. The X-axis represents Groups 1-7; Group 1 : Strongly disagree, Group 2 : Disagree, Group 3 : Somewhat disagree, Group 4 : Neutral, 5 : Somewhat agree, Group 6: Agree, Group 7 : Strongly agree. Y-axis represents Group 1-8; Group 1 : Less than £50,000; Group 2 : £50,000 - £100,000, Group 3 : £100,000 - £200,000, Group 4 : £200,000 - £300,000, Group 5 : £300,000 - £400,000 , Group 6: £400,000 - £500,000, Group 7 : £500,000 - £600,000, Group 8: More than £600,000.



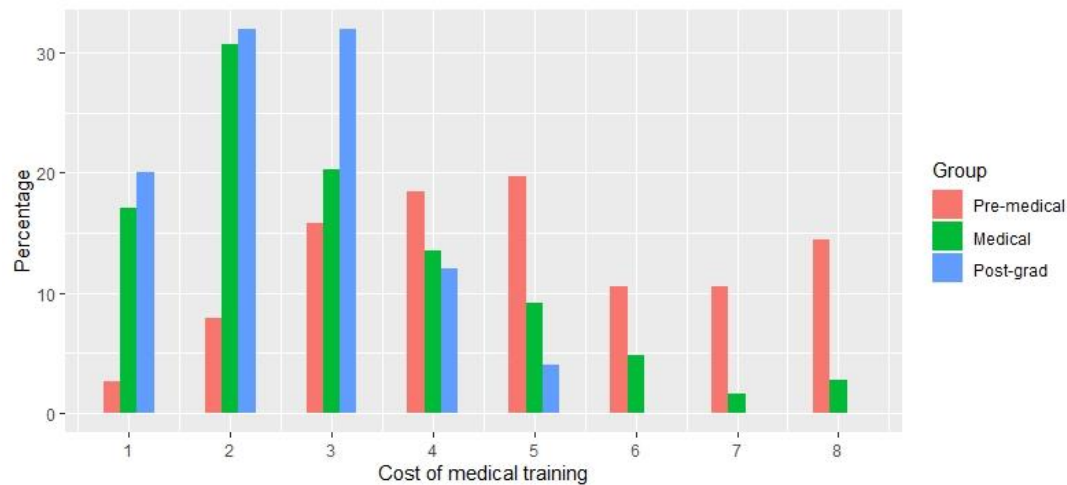
Supplementary Figure 2

Supplementary 2 is a graph comparing the perceived value for money of a UK medical degree with for perceived tuition fees paid among pre-medical students, medical students and post-graduates. The X-axis represents Groups 1-7; Group 1 : Strongly disagree, Group 2 : Disagree, Group 3 : Somewhat disagree, Group 4 : Neutral, 5 : Somewhat agree, Group 6: Agree, Group 7 : Strongly agree. Y-axis represents Group 1-8; Group 1 : Less than £50,000; Group 2 : £50,000 - £100,000, Group 3 : £100,000 - £200,000, Group 4 : £200,000 - £300,000, Group 5 : £300,000 - £400,000 , Group 6: £400,000 - £500,000, Group 7 : £500,000 - £600,000, Group 8: More than £600,000.



Supplementary Figure 3

Supplementary Figure 3 demonstrates a histogram for perceived cost of medical training among pre-medical students, medical students and post-graduates. X-axis represents Group 1-8; Group 1 : Less than £50,000; Group 2 : £50,000 - £100,000, Group 3 : £100,000 - £200,000, Group 4 - : £200,000 - £300,000, Group 5 : £300,000 - £400,000 , Group 6: £400,000 - £500,000, Group 7 : £500,000 - £600,000, Group 8: More than £600,000; y-axis represents Percentage responses.



Supplementary Figure 4

Supplementary Figure 4 demonstrates a histogram for perceived tuition fees paid among pre-medical students, medical students and post-graduates. X-axis represents Group 1-8; Group 1 : Less than £50,000; Group 2 : £50,000 - £100,000, Group 3 : £100,000 - £200,000, Group 4 - : £200,000 - £300,000, Group 5 : £300,000 - £400,000 , Group 6: £400,000 - £500,000, Group 7 : £500,000 - £600,000, Group 8: More than £600,000; y-axis represents Percentage responses.

