

Name of Document:	Admissions Appeal Board Policy and Procedure
Responsible area:	Admissions
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Summary of changes since the previously published version	Page
Insertion of a paragraph defining the scope of the policy	1
Addition of a time limit to appeal a decision	2

Scope

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Student Admissions and Recruitment Policy and covers admissions decisions to courses for which DGHE is the registering provider. Admissions appeals to courses delivered under franchise with a partner institution shall be considered under the policies of the partner institution.

Terms of Reference

1. The Higher Education Management Team (HEMT) shall appoint an Admissions Appeals Board with delegated power in the matter of appeals by applicants against a decision to reject their application.

2. The Admissions Appeals Board may only consider a request from an appellant that the decision to reject their application be reviewed on the grounds that:

a) There exists new evidence, which can be corroborated, and could not have been brought to the attention of the College prior to the selection process.

b) There is evidence of a procedural irregularity connected directly with the selection process undertaken by the College.

c) That the decision of the College is, on the basis of the information available, unreasonable.

d) There is evidence of prejudice or bias on the part of those involved in the selection process.

Note: Due to the level of competition for places and limited availability there will inevitably be occasions when an applicant disagrees with a selection decision. Appellants must therefore

ensure that their appeal is covered by the grounds set out above. Appellants are encouraged to raise any issues in the first instance with the relevant Admissions Officer.

Composition of Admissions Appeals Board

The Admissions Appeals Board will have the following membership:

Chair: Appointed by the Higher Education Management Team (HEMT)

One member of academic staff from the same department

One member of academic staff from a different department

In attendance: Head of Admissions or Registrar

Note: The members of the Board shall not include any person who was involved in the selection or interview process which came to the decision against which an appeal has been made, or who has a close personal or academic connection with the appellant.

Timing of Appeals

Appeals which are referred to the Admissions Appeals Board shall normally be held within two weeks from the submission of the appeal.

Submission of Appeals

In the first instance applicants who wish to query the decision of the College should raise it directly with the relevant Admissions Officer (as detailed in the Appeals Procedure). If this proves to be unsatisfactory then the procedures set out below should be followed.

a) The appeal must be lodged in writing and must fully detail the grounds for and the nature of the appeal; no additional grounds may be cited, nor substantive points made, at any later time in the consideration of the appeal.

b) In the case of an appeal the applicant must submit their Written Appeal with all corroborating evidence to admissions@dghe.ac.uk within 10 working days of the initial decision.

Consideration of Appeals

a) Appeals shall be considered by the Board through discussion and scrutiny of evidence.

b) The Chair shall be permitted to request further information if deemed necessary.

c) Evidence to be presented to the Board shall include:

- i. A copy of the appellant's Appeal Letter
- ii. The appellant's supporting documentation/evidence
- iii. A copy of any written statements provided by members of
- iv. College staff or other persons
- v. A copy of the College's admissions policy and appropriate programme handbooks, where relevant
- vi. A copy of the Admissions Appeal Board Policy
- vii. A copy of any other relevant documents.

Procedure at the Meeting

The Board shall make every attempt to conclude its proceedings at the one meeting and must be quorate.

The Board may invite representations, oral or in writing, from any person it thinks fit and may, if necessary, adjourn the meeting for this purpose.

Decision of the Board

The Board may either dismiss the case or require reconsideration of the original decision.

The appellant will be informed of the decision of the Admissions Appeals Board in writing.

The Board's decision is final.

After the Decision

Where the Admissions Appeals Board has recommended reconsideration of the original decision, the Chair of the Admissions Appeal Board will take one of the two following courses of action:

- a) Offer the candidate a first or repeat interview.
- b) Offer the candidate a conditional or unconditional place in line with the Admissions Policy.