

ADOS Consortium Student Selection Criteria

This document details and explains the criteria used when selecting Students for the ADOS training course. As participating numbers are limited (capped at 12 Students per course) there is a need to describe the basis upon which selection is based in order to allocate places fairly. Places on the programme are appointed by the Consortium and in partnership with NHS Education for Scotland (NES).

In no particular order, selection criteria will account for:

1. Geographical spread
2. Knowledge and skill level
3. Service need
4. Range of disciplines
5. Equal opportunities

1. The course is directed at professionals involved in the diagnosis and assessment of autism in either children or adults. Selection processes will aim to secure places for Students from a wide geographic area, providing regular opportunities to all participating health boards in Scotland – though we do not guarantee a precise mapping of training spaces to health boards for every course. The training programme should act as an initiative to sustain autism diagnosis service providers regardless of region.

2. Training to clinical reliability on the ADOS is appropriate for NHS employees at “skilled” level, with good knowledge and clinical experience of autism. Potential Students should be able to demonstrate an appropriate knowledge base to be able to engage effectively with the course, and support from a Line Manager to engage with the course itself, and with pre and post-course work.

3. As there is a need for trained personnel within autistic diagnostic services, this course is not intended solely for professional development. Instead, to be considered, applicants must be based in a service in Scotland where there is a requirement for ADOS assessment with patients, or as part of clinical research.

4. There is a growing necessity for practitioners with ADOS related skills and this need is not specific to discipline. Therefore attendees on the course will be selected based on a wide range of professions including Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and specialists from other related disciplines. Places will also be awarded to researchers, recognising the crucial role research takes in provision of best clinical practice, but this will be a small minority of trainee spaces.

5. Lastly, the ADOS Consortium is committed to equal opportunities for all in the workplace. We will be vigilant to ensure that Students will not be discriminated against when it comes to protected characteristics. This includes discrimination due to age, disability, gender reassignment, marital and civil partnership status, pregnancy, race, religious beliefs, gender and sexual orientation. Places offered to Students will be offered objectively, deploying the criteria above.

To enable us to apply these criteria we seek applications from Students and a statement of support from their line manager.