**ESM 1: Search strategy**

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| **Database** | **Search Query** |
| PubMed | ("education, medical"[MeSH] OR "students, medical"[MeSH] OR "medical school\*"[tiab] OR "medical student\*"[tiab] OR "medical educat\*"[tiab]) AND ("interviews as topic"[MeSH] OR "interview\*"[tiab]) AND ("school admission criteria"[MeSH] OR "admission\*"[tiab] OR "student select\*"[tiab]) AND english[63] |
| EMBASE | (medical education/exp/mj OR medical school\*:ti,ab OR medical student\*:ti,ab OR medical educat\*:ti,ab) AND (interview/exp/mj OR interview\*:ti,ab) AND (school admission/exp/mj OR admission\*:ti,ab OR student select\*:ti,ab) AND [64]/lim |
| ERIC | (DE("medical education") OR AB("medical school\*") OR TI("medical school\*") OR TI("medical student\*") OR AB("medical student\*") OR TI(“medical educat\*”) OR AB("medical educat\*")) AND (DE("interviews") OR AB("interview\*") OR TI("interview\*")) AND (DE("admission (school)") OR DE("admission criteria") OR DE("selection") OR AB("admission\*") OR TI("admission\*") OR AB("student select\*") OR TI("student select\*"))  |
| CINAHL | (MH("Education, Medical+") OR AB("medical school\*") OR TI("medical school\*") OR AB("medical student\*") OR TI("medical student\*") OR AB("medical educat\*") OR TI("medical educat\*")) AND (MH("Interviews+") OR AB("interview\*") OR TI("interview\*")) AND (MH("School Admissions+") OR AB("admission\*") OR TI("admission\*") OR AB("student select\*") OR TI("student select\*")) AND LA("English") |
| PsycINFO | (DE("Medical Education") OR DE("Medical Students") OR AB("medical school\*") OR TI("medical school\*") OR TI("medical student\*") OR AB("medical student\*") OR TI(“medical educat\*”) OR AB("medical educat\*")) AND (DE("Interviews") OR DE("Interviewing") OR DE("Interviewers") OR AB("interview\*") OR TI("interview\*")) AND (AB("admission\*") OR TI("admission\*") OR AB("student select\*") OR TI("student select\*")) |
| Web of Science | (TI="medical school\*" OR AB="medical school\*" OR TI="medical student\*" OR AB="medical student\*" OR TI="medical educat\*" OR AB="medical educat\*") AND (TI="interview\*" OR AB="interview\*") AND (TI="admission\*" OR AB="admission\*" OR TI="student select\*" OR AB="student select\*")  |