Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors affecting medical students in formulating their specialty preferences in Jordan

Version: 1 Date: 23 November 2007

Reviewer: Trevor W Lambert

Reviewer’s report:

General

The paper is of interest because it refers to a medical education setting i.e. Jordan about which there are few accounts written.

The paper is very clearly and well written.

The response rate is very good.

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The references 1-13 in the Background section are rather out of date and I think some more up to date references should be sought and used. Reference 3 does not appear to be cited in the text. Some of the later references in the Discussion would also be better replaced by more up to date equivalents.

2. (Table 1) It is not clear in Table 1 what the p values indicate. I assume they are from chi-squared comparisons of the men and women – if so, please indicate this by a footnote which explains.

3. (Table 2) The title of the table should make it clear that the data are not longitudinal – in other words, the 2nd, 4th and 6th year data were collected in 2006/7 from different years of entry.

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Minor Essential Revisions

1. (Page 6) The meaning of the sentence ‘The specialties of radiology, psychiatry, public health, family medicine, basic sciences and ENT were less attractive to most students.’ is unclear.

2. The phrase ‘none of’ is incorrect English. For example, ‘none of male students’ should read ‘no male students’. This occurs in two or three places.

3. (Page 9 line 3) ‘it self’ should read ‘itself’.

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Discretionary Revisions
None.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.