Resources For International Doctors

N.B. Please check all details from the relevant organisations - rules and regulations change on a regular basis

In the UK the term International Medical Graduates (IMGs) refers to overseas doctors and refugee doctors whose primary medical qualification is from a medical school outside the UK and EU. This term also includes UK citizens who have trained in medical schools outside the UK and EU, and overseas doctors who have trained in a UK medical school but do not have rights of residence.

Doctors who have trained in EU medical schools and have worked in the EU countries are considered separately in the UK as they have rights similar to UK trained doctors.

Employment Prospects

It is strongly recommended that before you apply for the Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) test, (see below) or for certification from the GMC that you find out whether you have a realistic chance of obtaining the kind of work you want in the UK.

Wanting to work in the UK?

1. First confirm that your primary medical qualification is accepted by the General Medical Council (GMC), the UK’s medical licensing and regulatory organisation, for registration as a medical practitioner. Guidance is available at www.gmc.org.uk or by post from The Overseas Registration Department, General Medical Council, Regent’s Place, 350 Euston Road, London NW1 3JN.

2. The usual route into postgraduate training for IMGs is via the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) examination, for which a prerequisite is a pass in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Details on the GMC website. http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/plab.asp

3. Contact the relevant College or Specialty Association (e.g. Royal College of Surgeons, Royal College of Physicians etc.) whose addresses and websites will be available through any major search engine.

Much useful information is available from the International Department of the British Medical Association and the majority of medical posts and training programmes are advertised in the Careers section of the British Medical Journal see www.careers.bmj.com, and the NHS Jobs Site at www.jobs.nhs.uk; individual LETB/Deanery websites will also provide further information. Contact details for all LETB/Deaneris can be found at www.copmed.org.uk

Medical Training Initiative

The Medical Training Initiative (MTI) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-your-partner-for-healthcare-training/the-uk-your-partner-for-healthcare-training
is an immigration category within the Training and Work Experience Scheme (TWES), administered by Work Permits UK. The MTI allows overseas postgraduate doctors (International Training Fellows) to come to the UK for a maximum of two years for further training. It covers the schemes and arrangements sponsored or administered by the Medical Royal Colleges and similar organisations (e.g. Commonwealth Scholarships), as well as established fellowships in different specialties. More than 500 Drs have participated since the introduction in 2008.

The training must be of high quality with appropriate supervision, learning opportunities, assessment and appraisal. The presence of the fellow must not adversely affect the training opportunities of existing trainees on the programme. Salary must be provided at the level of at least the UK minimum wage, and if any service activities are undertaken by the fellow these must be remunerated at standard NHS rates.

Application must be made from overseas, and the doctor must return overseas at the end of a maximum of two years. There are also regulations regarding the length of time before the doctor is permitted to return to the UK. Full details are available on the government website: A supporting form signed by the supervising consultant and the LETB/Deanery must accompany any application. The Work Permits UK form MTI-1 must also be completed by the Medical Personnel Department of the employing hospital trust.

Clinical Attachments

Clinical attachments (observerships) are useful prior to working in the UK for the first time. These can only be arranged by direct contact with a Consultant or General Practitioner (GP). Try and contact the Clinical Tutor in the Postgraduate Centre of a hospital within your chosen geographical area. The Clinical Tutor should be able to advise which Consultants may be able to help. The LETB is not able to arrange clinical attachments for you. Each hospital will have procedures for approval of clinical attachments which you must follow, some may charge for clinical attachments.

Final Preparation for Employment – The GMC has recently recommended that Doctors form overseas have a tailored induction programme.

Useful Websites

- PLAB [http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/plab.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/plab.asp)

Job Vacancy Sites

- [www.careers.bmj.com](http://www.careers.bmj.com)
- [www.jobs.nhs.uk](http://www.jobs.nhs.uk)

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