

International Medical Graduate
Sponsorship Scheme

The arrangements for sponsorship of international medical graduates

AIMS OF COLLEGE SPONSORSHIP

1. To sponsor overseas doctors for registration with the United Kingdom General Medical Council (GMC);
2. To support and promote training for doctors from overseas whilst ensuring patient safety;
3. To support and foster links between postgraduate institutions in the UK and overseas.
4. To allow International Medical Graduates to come to the UK for a period of training in their specialty before returning to their own country.

THE CLINICAL SUPERVISOR

6. The Clinical Supervisor must be of good standing and a senior member of Imperial College academic staff. The Clinical Supervisor will act as tutor/mentor to the applicant throughout the period of sponsorship and will be required to submit interim and final reports on the applicant's progress. The College reserves the right to withdraw sponsorship should these reports be unsatisfactory.
7. The first contact **MUST** be made by the supervisor to offer the applicant a suitable post (Specialty Trainee (StR), Fellowship etc) in an approved practice setting as outlined by the General Medical Council ([Approved practice settings](#)), with the support of the Director of Postgraduate education.
8. The post offered by the Supervisor must be at the equivalent of StR 1 level or above for a minimum of six months and a maximum of two years. The supervisor must provide details of the post, including the educational value, whether it is paid or unpaid, and if paid source of funding.
9. The supervisor must conduct an interview with the applicant, either over the telephone or in person, to assess their suitability for the post using the structured interview questions (available from the postgraduate administrator). Notes from this interview must then be provided by the supervisor when the applicant is applying for sponsorship.

THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATE

12. Who can apply:

- A national of a country outside the UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland who graduated from a medical school outside the UK.

OR

- A UK national who has graduated from a medical school outside the UK, EEA or Switzerland
- AND
- Do not have EC rights ([EC rights factsheet](#))

13. An international medical graduate who has attempted and failed the PLAB test will NOT be considered for sponsorship by the College.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

14. Applicants should continue to practice clinically in their home country right up until they make an application for registration with the GMC. Applicants should also be engaged in medical practice for three out of the last five years including the most recent twelve months. If applicants are already in the UK, they must be able to explain how they are currently working clinically if they wish to apply.

15. Applicants should have evidence of their qualifications verified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)

16. The following requirements must be met by the applicant for entry onto the scheme:

a) Possession of a primary medical qualification recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) or the United Kingdom General Medical Council

b) Completion of a minimum of three years' full time equivalent postgraduate training, which must include:

- One year's internship; this can be multi-speciality, or based in one speciality.

AND

- At least one year in the speciality in which the doctor intends to work.

c) Engagement in medical practice for three out of the last five years including the most recent twelve months.

d) Achievement of a pass in the Academic Modules of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a score of at least 7.0 in each testing area and an overall score of 7.5

OR

e) Achievement of a pass in the medicine version of the Occupational English Test (OET) with a grade of at least 'B' in each testing area (speaking, listening, reading and writing)

(The only exception to the rule above is for doctors who have a passport AND a Primary Medical Qualification (PMQ) from a country where English is the first and native language. E.g. a doctor with a passport and a PMQ issued in South Africa)

f) Provision of the full names and contact details of two overseas Consultants with whom the applicant has worked within the last twelve months and the last two years to provide structured references.

g) Provision of a full curriculum vitae including details of previous training and experience, research and publications, participation in departmental audits and appraisals.

h) Evidence of financial support.

i) Payment of fee.

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APPLYING FOR ENTRY TO THE SCHEME AND GMC REGISTRATION

17. Before formal applications to the college the supervisor should establish the eligibility of the applicant for the scheme and make an offer of suitable employment. A structured interview should have taken place.

18. The first point of contact with the College regarding entry to the scheme should be made by either the applicant or the supervisor. The Initial International Sponsorship Scheme form for sponsorship should be completed and sent to the postgraduate team. Alongside this the supervisor must complete the Supervisor form and send this to the postgraduate team. If the applicant initially meets the requirements of the scheme the appropriate supporting documentation will be requested and full fee payable.

19. Once all appropriate documentation has been received by the college, and the applicant and Supervisor have satisfied the requirements set out in these regulations, the applicant will then initiate GMC online application. The GMC will undertake its own process of establishing eligibility for registration. The applicant will be required to provide the necessary documentary evidence and the appropriate fee payable to the GMC. The applicant will not be granted registration until he/she appears in person for an identity check at the GMC. The whole process will take approximately three months to complete.

WITHDRAWAL AND INELIGIBILITY

20. Any applicant who wishes to withdraw from the application process must do so in writing. Any applicant who is found to be ineligible for the scheme or for subsequent GMC registration will not be refunded.

These regulations are under continual review. It is recommended that applicants keep in regular contact with the College to ensure that they have the most up-to-date information. Any changes will be announced on the College website: www.imperial.ac.uk