



## Medical Training Initiative (MTI): *A guide for applicants*

The Royal College of Physicians' MTI scheme offers sponsorship for GMC registration and Government Authorised Exchange (GAE, previously known as Tier 5) visa support to enable international medical graduates (IMGs) to access short-term training opportunities in the UK. The scheme aims to facilitate access to training equivalent to core medical or advanced specialty training for overseas doctors so as to improve the management and treatment of patients around the world.

### **Before you apply the following criteria must be satisfied:**

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#### **Suitability of post**

Before contacting us, you should already have been formally offered a clinical post in the NHS, and the hospital should support your intention to obtain RCP sponsorship in order to take up the offered post.

The post should have appropriate training and educational content, as well as the approval of the regional postgraduate deanery/local education training board (LETB).

Posts should be at Internal Medical Training (IMT) equivalent or above for the duration of 6 months to 2 years (shorter posts may be considered).

#### *Private hospitals*

The MTI cannot sponsor posts based in private hospitals.

#### **Funding**

You should already have funding for your post from one of the following sources: (a) a scholarship, (b) official funding, or (c) a salary.

The funding should be equivalent to UK salary for the level of work being undertaken and must last for the duration of the post.

The RCP is not able to sponsor applicants who are self-funded.

#### **Qualifications and experience of the applicant**

Candidates must fulfil all of the following criteria:

- You must hold a **primary medical qualification** recognised by the GMC and verified by Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)
- You need to have a **postgraduate qualification** (MRCP (UK) part 1, MD or other higher degree in medicine or a medical subspecialty).
- You must have **3 years of post-qualification experience** (including 1 year's internship and at least 1

- year in the specialty in which you intend to train whilst in the UK).
- You must have been in **clinical practice for 3 out of the last 5 years including the 12 months prior** to GMC registration being granted. There should be no gaps in employment. Please note that the GMC does not consider clinical observerships as clinical practice. It is important that you remain in clinical practice throughout the application process.
- You must possess the **skills, competencies and understanding of medicine** at least equivalent to a UK graduate at the end of their IMT Year 1.

The RCP cannot sponsor doctors who have failed the Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) test.

### **Pre-registration verification of qualifications**

From 11 June 2018, all applicants seeking registration with a licence to practise will be required to have their primary medical qualification independently verified before being granted registration, if they:

- Qualified at a medical school outside of the UK, **and**
- Do not already hold provisional registration.

Verification will be carried out by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) through their online system, Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials (EPIC) service.

The timescale for verification varies and for this reason we strongly recommend you start the verification process as early as possible in order to avoid delays. Please visit the GMC website for detailed information on the process: [https://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/before\\_you\\_apply/31439.asp](https://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/before_you_apply/31439.asp)

### **English language requirements**

#### ***International English Language Testing System (IELTS)***

You need to have obtained a minimum overall score of 7.5 in the IELTS examination, with minimum scores of 7.0 in all categories. The scores should be obtained in one sitting. The test is valid for 2 years. Either the Academic or UKVI IELTS Academic is acceptable. The certificate must have the original stamp and test report form (TRF) number.

#### ***Occupational English Test (OET)***

You need to have taken the medicine version of the test with at least grade 'B' in each testing area (speaking, listening, reading and writing). The grades should be obtained in the same test. The test is valid for 2 years. For the certificate must have your candidate number.

**Exemption from IELTS or OET** – for sponsorship purposes, the only doctors that can be considered for test exemption are nationals of countries where English is the first and native language AND were awarded their Primary Medical Qualification from a country where English is the first and native language. **The GMC make the final decision regarding any exemptions from IELTS/OET.**

### **Evidence of good standing**

You must be able to provide a **certificate of good standing (CGS)** from the regulatory body in the countries where you have practised or held registration or a licence to practise in the last five years. The CGS must:

- cover all of your work in that country/state
- confirm that you're entitled to practise medicine in that country
- confirm that you've not been disqualified, suspended or prohibited from practising medicine
- confirm that the regulatory authority is not aware of any matters that call into question your good standing.

Please note that certificates of good standing are only valid for three months from the date that they are issued and must be valid on the date your application is approved by the GMC.

## The application process

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### RCP online portal

Once the candidate has secured a suitable post in the UK, they should create an account via the RCP [online portal](#) to start their application.

At the start of the application process, candidates are required to upload supporting documents and pay the initial fee (£300). A step-by-step guide with detailed instructions can be downloaded from the portal. Additional information can also be found on our [website](#) and [resources for applicants](#).

Following documents will be required as part of the application process:

- sponsor form (form will be provided by the RCP) and a covering letter, completed by your consultant or head of department in your home country
- reference form (forms will be provided by the RCP) and covering letter
- copy of your passport
- copy of your IELTS/OET certificate or details of exemption from the IELTS/OET
- copies of your medical qualifications – primary medical qualification and postgraduate qualifications
- translations of your medical qualifications, if they are not in English
- certificate of good standing (optional – original will be required by GMC)
- letter from the UK hospital confirming your appointment
- evidence of funding for the post
- your statement agreeing to the level of funding which you have received from any of the sources listed in the 'funding' section above

### Hospital pack

The employing organisation in the UK will submit the following documents:

- detailed job description and timetable/rota
- interview notes
- confirmed offer of employment
- a completed Hospital form (form provided by the RCP)

### RCP assessment of application

When we have all the necessary documents, your application will be sent to our panel for assessment, which usually takes up to 10 working days. If your application is successful, you will receive an email confirming this and providing instruction to begin the GMC registration process; RCP application fee will need to be paid at this stage (£720).

You will then need to complete the GMC online registration process through the sponsorship route. We will send copies of relevant documents requested directly to the GMC together with a certificate of sponsorship. The GMC has a fee that is separate to the RCP sponsorship fee.

### GMC identity check

Once the registration process is complete, the GMC will send you an email inviting you to attend the compulsory identity check.

If you require a Government Authorised Exchange (GAE) visa, then you will need to forward the GMC ID check invitation email to us in order to enable us to apply for the visa certificate of sponsorship. This is because GMC registration is a requirement for the GAE visa.

## Government Authorised Exchange (GAE) visa

The MTI scheme falls under the GAE visa, which is specifically designed for doctors coming to the UK to train for a maximum of 24 months. For GAE visa, we need to provide evidence regarding your post to the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC - the official visa sponsor) once the GMC has approved your application in order to get your GAE visa certificate of sponsorship (CoS) issued.

Once your GAE visa CoS has been issued it is your responsibility to apply for the visa via <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas>

You can apply for GAE dependent visas for your spouse and children if you would like them to reside in the UK with you. Please make sure you have read the UKVI requirements on this well in advance.

## Insurance and accommodation

Your employing hospital will be able to provide you with advice about medical defence insurance and accommodation. For further information you should contact the hospital's medical staffing / HR department.

## RCP Fees

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There is an initial fee payable when the application pack is submitted. Once approved for sponsorship there is an application fee. Payment can be made by online.

Initial fee (non-refundable)	Application fee
£300	£720

**\*Fees correct at time of printing 1 September 2024, subject to change**

## RCP support during your training

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During your training in the UK, the RCP will support you in the following ways:

- Induction – all MTI candidates are expected to attend an induction at the RCP. The induction is held virtually
- Free ePortfolio access – this is an electronic portfolio to log all your assessments and training whilst in the UK
- Free RCP associate membership for the first year and discounted rate for the second year – this comes with a number of benefits
- RCP certificate - at the end of training there is an RCP certificate available to all candidates who have successfully completed their placement and met the eligibility criteria
- Support for any issues that you might encounter relating to your training