



The Royal College of **Pathologists**  
Pathology: the science behind the cure

# **RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme and Medical Training Initiative (MTI): guidebook for sponsorship schemes**

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# 1. Introduction

All doctors practicing in the UK including international medical graduates (IMGs) are required to be registered with the General Medical Council (GMC). There are 4 routes to GMC registration for IMGs:

- [a pass in the PLAB test](#)
- sponsorship by a GMC-approved sponsor, e.g. the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPATH)
- [an acceptable postgraduate qualification](#) (including FRCPATH by examination)
- [relevant European qualification](#).

RCPATH is a GMC-approved sponsor and administers two sponsorship schemes: the RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme and the Medical Training Initiative (MTI). The aim of the sponsorship schemes is to support IMGs with obtaining registration with the GMC, enabling access to training opportunities in the UK.

Please note that IMGs who would like to work in the UK as a consultant will need to apply via the [Portfolio Pathway](#) route (formerly CESR) leading to GMC specialist registration.

## 2. Overview of sponsorship schemes

**The average processing time is 4–6 months for both the RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme and MTI scheme.**

No processing of applications starts until RCPATH has received the £50 admin fee.

### 2.1. RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme

#### 2.1.1. Full registration

The RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme is for IMGs who have already secured a training post when submitting their application for sponsorship for full registration with GMC. Under this scheme, the IMG's work visa (usually via the Skilled Worker route) is sponsored by a UK



NHS trust. There is no fixed time limit imposed by the scheme itself, as long as the IMG continues to meet the visa eligibility criteria and any conditions set out in their sponsorship agreement with the UK NHS trust. RCPATH supports the IMG with the pre-registration process for full GMC registration, but the training post is salaried/funded by the NHS trust, and the IMG will need to contact their UK employer for guidance on their visa sponsorship.

### **2.1.2. Pending status letter – for IMGs who have not secured a training post**

IMGs who have not secured a training post can apply to RCPATH for a pending status letter, confirming their eligibility for GMC registration on appointment to a suitable training post. The 'pending status letter' is valid for 12 months from the date of issue and can be used when applying for appropriate training posts in the UK.

Please see [Appendix 2: RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme – pending status letter](#) for details on the application process.

## **2.2. MTI scheme**

The MTI scheme is for IMGs who have secured a suitable training post in an NHS hospital for a fixed period (between 6 and 24 months) before returning to their home country. Under this scheme, the IMG's temporary work visa (always via the Temporary Work – Government Authorised Exchange visa route) is sponsored by the [Academy of Medical Royal Colleges](#) (AoMRC), with RCPATH acting as the professional sponsor for pathology trainees. The employing NHS trust must ensure the training post does not disadvantage UK trainees, that it provides appropriate educational and training content, and that the training post is funded to an appropriate level. Funding to support a training post can come from any source other than the IMG's own funds such as a home country employer, university, government, a UK trust or a combination.

RCPATH supports the IMG with the pre-registration process for full GMC registration and the AoMRC application process for a Certificate of Sponsorship, which the IMG will need for their visa application with their employer.

Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists (FRCPath) by examination is recognised by the GMC as an [acceptable postgraduate qualification](#). IMGs who are applying for the MTI scheme and have passed FRCPath by examination can [apply for full GMC registration](#) before submitting their MTI application to RCPATH.



Please see [Appendix 3: FRCPATH by examination – MTI application process](#) for details and [Appendix 1: Overview of sponsorship schemes – application process](#) to read about the differences between the scheme processes.

### 3. Approved practice settings

All doctors practicing in the UK (including IMGs) who have been granted full registration with the GMC must work in a practice setting approved by the GMC for the first 12 months after registration; these settings are known as approved practice settings (APS).

All designated bodies in the UK are recognised as APS. A designated body is an organisation such as an NHS trust with established clinical governance processes, including appraisal and revalidation systems that help doctors maintain professional standards.

An APS is designed to provide public protection with systems in place for the effective management of doctors by supporting the provision of relevant training and continuing professional development, systems to identify and act on concerns about a doctor's fitness to practise, and providing regulatory assurance.

Regardless of what route to full GMC registration is taken, it is required that doctors work in an APS until their first revalidation (unless the GMC directs otherwise). To lift the requirement to work within an APS, the GMC will require confirmation that doctors have satisfactorily completed 12 months' practice in such a setting.

Further information is available on the [GMC website](#) including a list of approved practice settings.

### 4. Acceptable training posts

It is a mandatory requirement that all training posts, whatever the specialty or sponsorship scheme, are in an APS.

#### 4.1. Pathology specialties

RCPATH can offer sponsorship for full registration in an APS for IMGs in the following specialties:



- chemical pathology
- histopathology (and associated subspecialties)
- diagnostic neuropathology
- forensic histopathology
- paediatric and perinatal pathology
- medical microbiology (including Combined Infection Training [CIT] and/or dual training with infectious diseases)
- medical virology (including CIT and/or dual training with infectious diseases).

## 4.2. Requirements for haematology and immunology specialties

RCPATH can only sponsor IMGs for haematology or immunology training posts through the MTI scheme (not the RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme) when applicants have secured a scholarship/official funding. The choice of MTI scheme depends on the nature of the training post; IMGs who have secured a clinically focused training post should go via the MTI scheme managed by the [Royal College of Physicians](#) (RCP), while IMGs who have secured a laboratory-focused training post may apply for the MTI scheme through RCPATH.

Please note that all enquiries related to sponsorship for haematology or immunology training where the IMG does not have funding should be directed to the RCP.

## 4.3. Type and title of the training post

**IMGs can only be sponsored into Honorary Supernumerary Training posts.** The title of the training post should indicate that it is a training post, and the job description should make clear that the IMG will be under continuous supervision during the training.

### What is an Honorary Supernumerary Training post?

An honorary supernumerary postgraduate medical training post in the NHS allows IMGs to gain clinical or pathology experience outside of the standard funded arrangements and in addition to the minimum staffing requirements for patient care. These training posts require IMGs to hold an honorary contract with their NHS employer. The IMG should be under continuous supervision by a qualified consultant.



Under no circumstances will the following posts be endorsed for the RCPATH sponsorship scheme or the MTI scheme:

- locum consultant
- locally employed doctor
- specialty doctor
- trust doctor
- observership/clinical attachment
- GMC-approved specialty training programmes\*
- any posts in private hospitals, companies or organisations.

\*It is a requirement that IMGs have full GMC registration prior to applying for a post in a GMC-approved specialty training programme. Since full GMC registration obtained through the RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme (and the MTI scheme) is granted after an IMG has been offered a post, sponsorship is not a suitable route to obtaining GMC registration.

#### **4.4. Finding a training post**

RCPATH is not able to inform IMGs on whether there are available training posts and does not hold a list of vacancies; these placements are usually found on the [NHS website](#), [HSC Jobs in Northern Ireland](#), [NHS Scotland Careers](#), the [BMJ](#) and other jobsites.

## **5. Eligibility for the sponsorship schemes**

All IMGs applying for the sponsorship schemes are required to meet the following criteria (no individual exceptions will be granted):

1. not be a UK resident and live outside of the UK at the time of applying. IMGs must remain in active medical practice until registered with the GMC.
2. have been in postgraduate medical training or direct clinical practice for at least 3 out of the last 5 years:
  - 2 years must be in pathology; 1 of these 2 years must be in the pathology specialty in which the IMG wish to work in the UK



- observerships and clinical attachments do not count towards clinical or medical practice
3. have been engaged in active medical practice for at least 10 months within the most recent 12 months:
    - a gap of a maximum of 2 months is allowed in the last 12 months provided the IMG continues to meet the existing requirement of 3 years medical training or direct clinical practice within the last 5 months (see pt. 6.2.)
  4. not exceeded the following training gaps allowed for IMGs in any 12-month period:
    - up to 5 weeks annual leave
    - no more than 20 days of sick leave
    - parental or adoption leave
  5. have passed an English language test, achieving either of the required test scores, taken no more than 2 years ago, and the scores must be achieved in the same test:
    - International English Language Testing System (IELTS) [Academic](#) scores of minimum 7.5 overall and 7.0 in each sectionor
    - Occupational English Test (OET) test, [Medicine](#) version with scores of minimum B in each section
  6. hold a valid Certificate of Good Standing:
    - the certificate is only valid for 3 months from the date it is signed. It must be valid when RCPATH approves the application and during the GMC registration application.
  7. hold a Primary Medical Qualification (PMQ):
    - [recognised by the GMC](#) and [verified](#) through the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)
  8. have evidence of completion of an internship
  9. demonstrate that they have achieved competencies equivalent to those necessary to have satisfactorily completed the UK Foundation Year 2 (please see the competencies



in the [Foundation Programme curriculum](#)) and be able to practice at entry level trainee (e.g. ST1). This requirement will also be verified through references.

There is the following additional eligibility criterion for IMGs applying directly for full registration with the GMC:

1. have secured an Honorary Supernumerary Training post in an NHS hospital.

There is the following additional eligibility criteria for IMGs applying for the MTI scheme:

1. have secured an Honorary Supernumerary Training placement in an NHS Hospital (between a minimum of 6 month and a maximum of 24 months)
2. have secured a scholarship/official funding from any source other than the IMGs own funds such as a hospital, organisation or government (IMGs must be paid at least UK National Minimum Wage).

Please see [Appendix 4: Overview of eligibility criteria](#) to get an overview of the eligibility differences between the RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme and the MTI scheme.

## 6. Supporting documentation

The following supporting documentation is required, when applying for either the RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme or the MTI scheme. No individual exceptions will be granted.

The evidence listed below should be sent to RCPATH ([international@rcpath.org](mailto:international@rcpath.org)) in **one email** (please do not send RCPATH any documentation via postal services).

The documents should be saved so the file names correspond with the list below, followed by your last name, e.g. *1. Passport\_LAST NAME, 3. CV\_LAST NAME, 4. IELTS or OET\_LAST NAME, 5. CoGS\_LAST NAME*, etc.

### 6.1. Passport

A scan/copy of your passport clearly showing both the photo ID page and signature page.



## 6.2. Name change (if applicable)

In the event of a name change since your PMQ was issued, you must submit either a statement explaining the reason for the name change or submit relevant evidence, e.g. a marriage certificate.

## 6.3. CV

Your CV should demonstrate your eligibility for one of the sponsorship schemes (please refer to section 5).

It should list your undergraduate, internship and postgraduate medical training in date order starting with your medical degree. Your postgraduate medical training should list each post, specialty, the hospital/organisation where it took place and a short description of your training. Please include any gap in training with details, e.g. parental leave, extended sick leave, etc. Preferred date format is: DD.MM.YYYY

## 6.4. English language test certificate

You will need to demonstrate that you have passed one of the following English tests, achieving either of the required test scores, no more than 2 years ago:

- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – [Academic](#) version: scores of minimum 7.5 overall and at least 7.0 in all four sections
- or
- Occupational English Test (OET) – [Medicine](#) version: with scores of minimum 'B' in each section.

Please note that the scores must be achieved in the same test; we only accept one certificate (either IELTS or OET), which must be from the most recent test taken and be in date at the point of registration with the GMC.

## 6.5. Certificate of Good Standing

You will need a Certificate of Good Standing from each medical regulatory authority you have been registered or licensed with in the last 5 years. You will need to do this even if you've not worked in that country.



Please note that each certificate is only valid for 3 months from the date it is signed. It must be valid when we approve your application and be in date at the point of registration with the GMC.

## **6.6. Verification of PMQ certificate**

Your PMQ certificate must be verified by the Educational Commission for Foreign medical Graduates (ECFMG). Please visit the [GMC website](#) for detailed information on the process.

RCPATH will accept as proof either:

- an EPIC report verifying your PMQ through the ECFMG online system (MyIntealth)
- or
- the email from ECFMG confirming that the EPIC report was sent to GMC alongside a scan of the PMQ certificate (screenshots or PDF files will not be accepted). The email should be forwarded to [international@rcpath.org](mailto:international@rcpath.org).

## **6.7. Internship certificate or letter of experience**

The certificate/letter from the relevant hospital/university must include any specialties undertaken, confirm attendance dates and confirm that conduct was satisfactory. Please provide a translation if necessary.

## **6.8. Postgraduate qualification certificate (if applicable)**

A scan of your postgraduate qualification (PGQ) certificate, which should be in the original language and include an authorised translated version if necessary.

## **6.9. Confirmation of PGQ by the Dean/Principal of postgraduate Institution (if applicable)**

The letter must include PGQ degree title, dates of attendance, confirmation of completion and confirmation that conduct was satisfactory. Your name must match that on the PGQ certificate (see section 6.8).



## **6.10. Recognition of PGQ by the relevant medical regulatory authority (if applicable)**

The letter must confirm that your postgraduate qualification and institution was recognised by them at the time of completion.

## **6.11. PGQ syllabus/curriculum**

This must be translated if necessary and signed by the relevant regulatory authorities.

## **6.12. Evidence of postgraduate medical training**

Letter(s) from hospital(s) confirming that training was undertaken in that/those hospital(s) in approved posts.

## **6.13. FRCPATH Part 1 exam (desirable)**

A pass in the FRCPATH Part 1 exam will be verified by RCPATH.

While it is desirable that you have passed the FRCPATH Part 1 exam when applying for either of the sponsorship schemes, it is possible to apply without it, but RCPATH would then expect evidence of an alternative postgraduate qualification (see sections 6.7. to 6.12.).

## **6.14. Contact details of referees**

The contact details of 3 referees (1 being your current employer) must be provided using the relevant RCPATH online application form ([RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme](#) or [MTI scheme](#)).

Please note that the referee's email address must be their professional email address; private email addresses will not be accepted. Referees will have 1 month to provide their reference.

**The following is only applicable to applicants who have already secured a training post in the UK. This applies to IMGs who are at the point of applying for full GMC registration, including those who have previously been issued with a pending status letter through the RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme.**



## 6.15. Job description

An official full description of the Honorary Supernumerary Training post offered by the UK NHS trust/hospital; it must specify 'Trainee' in the title of the post and that you will be under supervision during the entirety of the training post.

**The following additional documentation is only applicable to applicants for the MTI scheme.**

## 6.16. Funding letter

An attested copy of the letter confirming the full amount (in GBP/£) and the duration of funding is required. The letter is valid for up to **4 months from the date it was issued**.

Funding to support a training post can come from any source other than your own funds such as a hospital, organisation or government.

Please note that all IMGs participating in either of the Sponsorship Schemes **must be paid at least [UK National Minimum Wage](#)** (rates change on 1 April every year).

Honorary training posts that do not meet this financial threshold are **not permitted** by UK Visas and Immigration.

## 6.17. Job offer letter

A letter from the UK NHS trust/hospital on their official letterhead confirming the offer of the training post should include the title of the training post and a provisional start date, which must be fully confirmed after GMC registration is completed. All training posts must be for a minimum of 6 months. The letter is valid for **6 months from the date it was issued**.

## 7. Application fees

RCPATH charges the following administration fees to process all types of sponsorship scheme applications.

No application will be processed until the relevant fee(s) has been paid.



- **£50 administration fee payable on submission of any application (non-refundable)**

On receipt of an online sponsorship application form and the supporting documentation, RCPATH will acknowledge receipt and send the IMG a payment request via email.

- **£300 pre-registration fee, payment immediately prior to GMC registration\***

If they meet all the criteria, the IMG will be asked to pay a £300 scheme fee in order to proceed with either the RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme for full registration or the MTI scheme.

\*For the pending status letter process, this fee is payable prior to RCPATH issuing the letter.

## 8. Pre-registration identity check with the GMC

All applicants for GMC registration are required to complete a GMC identity (ID) check as part of the pre-registration process and registration will not be granted until the ID verification is complete.

The GMC will invite applicants to complete an ID check using their free and secure app. It is required that the ID check is completed within maximum 3 months of receiving the invite. The GMC will not extend the time limit for the ID checks for any reasons and are likely to refuse applications not completing this within the time frame.

Further information and guidance on ID checks is available on the [GMC website](#).

### GMC – Good medical practice

IMGs are required to make themselves aware of the GMC's [Good medical practice](#); an ethical framework that sets out the principles, values and standards of professional behaviour expected of all GMC-licensed doctors practising and training in the UK.



## **GMC – Welcome to UK practice**

IMGs are strongly advised to attend the GMC's free workshop – [Welcome to UK practice](#) – to learn about the UK's medical practice, and the chance to connect with other internationally qualified doctors.

## **9. Related content/other resources**

The resources are arranged in alphabetical order.

### **Academy of Royal Medical College (AoMRC)**

- [About the AoMRC MTI scheme](#)
- [MTI scheme FAQs](#)

#### **AoMRC for IMGs**

- [Immigration health surcharge](#)
- [Fraud warning](#)

#### **AoMRC for NHS trusts/hospitals**

- [MTI employer responsibilities and reporting obligations to the AoMRC](#)
- [Deanery approval of MTI placements](#)
- [MTI forms](#)

### **Educational Commission for Foreign medical Graduates (ECFMG)**

- [Contact details for ECFMG](#)

### **GMC**

- [GMC registration application route tool](#)

### **UK visas and immigration**

- For RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme: [Health and Care Worker visa](#) (please contact your UK employer for advice).



- For MTI scheme: [Government Authorised Exchange visa \(Temporary Work\)](#) (please contact AoMRC or your UK employer for advice).



# Appendix 1: Overview of sponsorship schemes – application process

Progressing to each stage of the relevant scheme requires the **IMG to have met all criteria** and the process is dependent on the **previous stage having been successfully completed**.

Please see section [5. Eligibility for the sponsorship schemes](#) and section [6. Supporting documentation](#) for full guidance.

Process stages	RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme – full registration*	MTI scheme
<b>1. Securing a training post</b>	NHS trust recruits IMG	
<b>2. RCPATH application</b>	IMG collates and submits relevant scheme application and supporting documents to RCPATH and pays £50 admin fee	
	RCPATH reviews application and collects references ensuring all criteria are met	
<b>3. GMC registration</b>	IMG pays RCPATH the £300 scheme fee	
	RCPATH submits Sponsorship Registration Certificate to GMC	
	IMG completes GMC application for full registration	
<b>4. Visa application</b>	NHS trust issue Certificate of Sponsorship for visa application	RCPATH starts and manages AoMRC application (IMG and trust assists when requested by RCPATH)



		AoMRC process application and issues Certificate of Sponsorship for visa application
	IMG applies for relevant work visa (usually a Skilled Workers visa through the Health and Care Visa route)	IMG applies for work visa (always a Temporary Work – Government Authorised Exchange visa)
<b>5. Employment and reporting</b>	IMG completes GMC identity check	
	IMG commence training post	
	Trust completes relevant reports to UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)	Trust completes relevant AoMRC reports

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## Appendix 2: RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme – pending status letter

IMGs who have not secured a training post can apply to RCPATH for a pending status letter, confirming their eligibility for GMC registration on appointment to a suitable training post. The ‘pending status letter’ is valid for 12 months from the date of issue and can be used when applying for appropriate training posts in the UK.

### Applications process – pending status letter

The overall aim and process of applying for a pending status letter is similar to applying for RCPATH sponsorship for full registration directly. IMGs will need to update their RCPATH sponsorship application when they have secured a training post enabling them to gain full registration with the GMC. IMGs applying for a pending status letter are still required to meet all relevant criteria listed under section [5. Eligibility for the sponsorship schemes](#).

Progressing to each stage of the scheme requires the **IMG to have met all criteria** and the process is dependent on the **previous stage having been successfully completed**.

Process stages	RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme – pending status
<b>1. RCPATH application – pending status</b>	IMG collates and submits an RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme application and supporting documents to RCPATH and pays £50 admin fee
	RCPATH reviews application and collects references ensuring all criteria are met
	IMG pays RCPATH the £300 scheme fee
	RCPATH issues a pending status letter for the IMG to secure a training post within the next 12 months



<b>2. Securing a training post</b>	NHS trust recruits IMG
<b>3. RCPATH application – update to full registration</b>	IMG informs RCPATH of job offer, and collates and submits supporting documents to RCPATH*
	RCPATH reviews the updated application and collects updated references ensuring all criteria are met
<b>4. GMC registration</b>	RCPATH submits Sponsorship Registration Certificate to GMC
	IMG completes GMC application for full registration
<b>5. Visa application</b>	NHS trust issues Certificate of Sponsorship for visa application
	IMG applies for relevant work visa (usually a Skilled Workers visa through the Health and Care Visa route)
<b>6. Employment and reporting</b>	IMG completes GMC identity check
	IMG commences training post
	Trust completes relevant reports to UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)

\*Update sponsorship application to full registration – supporting documents. When an IMG has secured a training post using a pending status letter, they are required to send RCPATH any additional supporting documentation. This should cover either activities undertaken since the pending status letter was issued or documents that have become out of date during that time.



IMGs must check the following documents to ensure that they are both up to date and in date:

- 6.1. passport (current)
- 6.2. CV (current)
- 6.4. English Language Test Certificate (less than 2 years)
- 6.5. Certificate of Good Standing (less than 3 months)
- 6.12. evidence of postgraduate medical training (current/most recent post)
- 6.14. contact details of referees including current educational supervisor
- 6.15. job description for training post in the UK.

Please see section [6. Supporting documentation](#) for full guidance.

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## Appendix 3: FRCPATH by examination – MTI application process

FRCPATH by examination is recognised by the GMC as an [acceptable postgraduate qualification](#), and IMGs who are applying for the MTI scheme and have passed FRCPATH by examination can [apply for full GMC registration](#) before submitting their MTI application to RCPATH. Please see an overview of the process of applying through the FRCPATH route in the table below.

Progressing to each stage of the MTI scheme requires the **IMG to have met all criteria** and the process is dependent on the **previous stage having been successfully completed**.

IMGs with FRCPATH are still required to meet all criteria listed under section [5. Eligibility for the sponsorship schemes](#).

Process stages	FRCPATH route – MTI scheme
<b>1. Securing a training post</b>	NHS trust recruits IMG
<b>2. RCPATH application</b>	IMG collates and submits an MTI scheme application and supporting documents* to RCPATH and pays £50 admin fee
	RCPATH reviews application and collects references ensuring all criteria are met
<b>3. Visa application</b>	IMG pays RCPATH the £300 MTI scheme fee
	RCPATH starts and manages the AoMRC application (IMG and trust assist when required by RCPATH)
	AoMRC process application and issues Certificate of Sponsorship for visa application



	IMG applies for work visa (always a Temporary Work – Government Authorised Exchange visa)
<b>4. Employment and reporting</b>	IMG commences training post
	Trust completes relevant AoMRC reports

\*Required documentation for MTI application – FRCPATH route. When IMGs have obtained full GMC registration and submit their MTI application to RCPATH, they will be required to also attach to their application any supporting documentation that covers activities undertaken during the period from when the IMG was fully registered with the GMC until they send RCPATH the MTI application. This documentation includes:

- 6.1. passport
- 6.2. CV (current)
- 6.5. Certificate of Good Standing (less than 3 months)
- 6.14. contact details of referees
- 6.15. job description for training post in the UK
- 6.16. funding letter for training post in the UK
- 6.17. job offer letter for training post in the UK.

Please see section [6. Supporting documentation](#) for full guidance.

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## Appendix 4: Overview of eligibility criteria

The table below provides an overview of the differences between the sponsorship schemes. Please see all details for each criterion in section [5. Eligibility for the sponsorship schemes](#).

Criteria	RCPATH Sponsorship Scheme – full registration	MTI scheme
Not be a UK resident and live outside of the UK at the time of applying	✓	✓
Been in direct clinical practice for a minimum of 36 out of the last 60 months	✓	✓
Been engaged in active medical practice for at least 10 of the most recent 12 months	✓	✓
Passed an English language test	✓	✓
Hold a valid Certificate of Good Standing	✓	✓
Hold a primary medical qualification (PMQ) recognised by the GMC and verified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)	✓	✓



Evidence of completion of an internship	✓	✓
Competencies: IMGs must show that they have achieved competencies equivalent to the UK Foundation Year 2 and be able to practice at entry level trainee (e.g. ST1)	✓	✓
Secured an Honorary Supernumerary Training post in an NHS hospital	No time limit on visa	Between 6 and 24 months
Secured a scholarship/official funding		✓

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