



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

Important guidance for all doctors applying for sponsorship for GMC registration with exemption from PLAB – Certificates of Good Standing

This guidance was revised in January 2008 and supersedes previous guidance on this issue.

Both the Royal College of Pathologists and the General Medical Council (GMC) take very seriously the need for doctors to show evidence that they are in good standing prior to beginning posts and medical training in the UK. It is a requirement that doctors produce Certificate(s) of Good Standing (CGS) relating to practice overseas for an initial period of GMC registration to be granted.

All doctors seeking GMC registration by whatever route, including through this College's sponsorship scheme, **must** provide valid and in-date evidence of their good standing at the point of registration being granted the GMC. Registration will not be granted without such evidence.

A CGS **must** be issued by the regulatory body (e.g. the Medical Council of India) in the country where the doctor obtained their primary medical qualification **and** in any other countries where they have practiced in the five years preceding the application for registration. CGSs must confirm that the doctor is entitled to practice in the relevant jurisdiction, that they have not been suspended, disqualified or prohibited from practicing and that the regulatory authority is not aware of any matters that call into question a doctor's good standing.

The GMC regard CGSs to have validity for three months from the date of issue regardless of any validity that the issuing organization may attach to the certificate. All CGSs presented in support of an application for registration must, as such, have been issued within the three months prior to the date of GMC registration being granted.

The General Medical Council has an online list of authorities approved to issue certificates of good standing, which is accessible at <https://webcache.gmc-uk.org/cgs/cgsIndex.jsp>. Only certificates from the authorities on this list will be accepted. If there is no authority listed for a particular country or state, doctors should contact the GMC.

Doctors seeking clarification on policy regarding CGSs should, in the first instance contact the GMC directly.

**The Royal College of Pathologists
Training and Educational Standards Department
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