



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

The Royal College of Physicians' MTI scheme offers sponsorship for GMC registration and 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:

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 core medical training (CMT) equivalent or above for the duration of 3 months to 2 years.

Research posts

The RCP only provide sponsorship for posts where at least 50% of the time is spent in clinical training. We are unable to sponsor you for the clinical elements of postgraduate studies.

Private hospitals

The RCP will *not* sponsor applications for posts in private hospitals under any circumstances.

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 will not sponsor applicants who are self-funded.

Qualifications and experience of the applicant

You 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 having been 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 CMT.

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, EEA or Switzerland OR
- Are a national of a country outside the UK, EEA or Switzerland who graduated from a medical school outside the UK AND
- Do not already hold provisional registration with a licence to practice.

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

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 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 native language AND are practicing medicine in a country where English is a 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 in the last 5 years. The CGS must confirm *all* of the following:

- You are authorised to practise medicine in the relevant country.
- You have not at any stage been disqualified, suspended or prohibited from practising medicine.
- The regulatory authority is not aware of any matters that raise doubts about your good standing.

The CGS must be no more than 3 months old when you submit it to us.

The application process

If you fulfil all of the eligibility criteria, please email us your CV, and the completed initial and professional postgraduate experience (PPE) forms to mti@rcplondon.ac.uk. We aim to respond within ten working days.

Applicant pack

Once we receive your CV, initial form and PPE form, we will contact the supervising consultant in the UK and confirm the details of your post. We will then send you an application pack. You should complete the application form and send it to us with *all* of the following documents:

- sponsor form (form will be provided by the RCP) – this form needs to be completed by your consultant or head of department in your home country.
- two reference forms (forms will be provided by the RCP)
- copy of your passport
- copy of your IELTS certificate or details of exemption from the IELTS

- copies of your medical qualifications
- translations of your medical qualifications if they are not in English
- letter from the dean of the medical school from which you graduated
- copy of certificate of good standing
- 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
- initial fee of £100

Consultant pack

The UK consultant will submit the following documents:

- detailed job description and timetable/rota
- interview notes
- confirmed offer of employment
- a completed Trust form (form provided by the RCP)
- a letter to support the post from the training programme director or regional specialty adviser
- a completed and signed MTI Tier 5 application form (if applicable)

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 a letter via email confirming this which will also provide instruction to begin the GMC registration process and instruction to pay the RCP appointment fee (see below.)

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.

You will need to go to the GMC's office along with your original documents. The GMC will take a photograph of you to keep for their records. Full registration will not be granted until this identity check has been completed.

If you require a Tier 5 visa, then you will need to forward the GMC ID check invitation email to us in order to enable us to apply for the Tier 5 certificate of sponsorship. This is because GMC registration is a requirement for the Tier 5 visa.

Tier 5 visa

The MTI scheme falls under the Tier 5 government authorised exchange visa, which is specifically designed for doctors coming to the UK to train for a maximum of 24 months. For a Tier 5 MTI 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 Tier 5 certificate of sponsorship (CoS) issued.

CoSs will be issued by the AoMRC according to the priority system below:

1. DFID priority countries – 5 working days
2. Low and lower-middle income countries – 2 weeks
3. All other countries – subject to availability

Once your Tier 5 CoS has been issued it is your responsibility to apply for the Tier 5 visa via <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas>

The AoMRC certifies maintenance funding for all doctors requiring a Tier 5 visa. You can apply for Tier 5 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. The visa sponsor does not certify funding for dependents.

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

There is an initial fee payable when the application pack is submitted. Once approved for sponsorship there is an appointment fee. Payment can be made by cash (in person on arrival), cheque/bank draft or bank transfer. Cheques or bank drafts can be posted and should be made payable to the Royal College of Physicians. Bank details will be provided in the application pack.

Initial fee (non-refundable)	Appointment fee
£100	£700

RCP support during your training

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 on a quarterly basis
- 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
- Annual symposium – this is a clinical conference for all RCP MTIs held once a year
- Diploma in UK Medical Practice – this was established in 2016 in conjunction with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM). Participants are required to carefully document their training using the ePortfolio system, complete a range of continuing medical education sessions, and submit a written reflection piece at the end of their placement. The diploma is open to all candidates training in the UK for at least 12 months. There is a fee of £500 paid directly to LSTM
- RCP certificate - at the end of training there is an RCP certificate available to all candidates
- Support for any issues that you might encounter relating to your training

