

## **Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) Board and Panel appointments**

### **Notes for applicants**

#### *Background*

1. The General Medical Council (GMC) is a statutory body, set up in 1858. Our duties are defined in the Medical Act 1983 and the Medical (Professional Performance) Act 1995. The GMC is independent of government and receives no grant from public funds. Our income comes from fees paid by doctors on being granted registration and for the retention of their names on the register of medical practitioners. More information about the GMC is available on our website at <http://www.gmc-uk.org/>.

#### **The PLAB Test**

The PLAB test is the main route by which International Medical Graduates (IMGs), who have acceptable Primary Medical Qualifications, demonstrate that they have the necessary skills and knowledge to practise medicine in the UK. The test is set at the level of a doctor successfully completing Foundation Year 1. Before entering Part 1 of the test, candidates must have obtained appropriate scores in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test, a maximum of two years previously.

The test is in two parts:

- a. Part 1 is a three-hour, 200-item extending matching question (EMQ) and single best answer (SBA) question examination. Candidates can take this part of the test in centres around the world. The exam is currently held four times a year in London and twice a year overseas.
- b. Part 2 is a 14-station objective structured clinical examination (OSCE). This exam is taken at the GMC Clinical Assessment Centre and is offered on the basis of demand. The Centre is based at our new offices in Manchester.

Candidates must pass Part 2 within three years of passing Part 1. A pass in the test is valid for three years. Further information about the PLAB test is available on our website at <http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/plab/index.asp>

The Board's purpose is to oversee the two examination panels and to develop and review methods of assessing, to the appropriate standard, the knowledge and skills determined by the Registration Committee under section 23(2) of the Medical Act 1983; to conduct tests in accordance with these methods; and to oversee the development of each examination.

### *Terms of Service*

2. Terms of service will be for an initial probation period of six months. Board members are then offered a three year appointment, subject to meeting the annual commitment requirement.
3. A further term of three years may be offered to those members who have undertaken the responsibilities of the Board and continued to meet the commitment required.
4. Members will need to commit a minimum of three days a year. Candidates will be self-employed and enter a contract for services with the GMC.
5. In addition to meeting the competencies described in the Person Specification enclosed, all members are expected to adhere to the GMC Members' Code of Conduct and must declare any interest that might jeopardise their suitability for appointment (any actual or perceived conflicts of interest will be fully explored by the interviewing panel at the shortlisting or interview stage).
6. Applicants will be paid the sum of £310 as a daily fee, payable by the GMC under the contract for services.

### *How to apply*

7. To find out more about these roles and to apply please visit our website at <http://www.gmc-uk.org/> and see the associated documents *PLAB Panels Notes for applicants*, *PLA Board Job description* and *PLA Board Person specification*. You will be required to complete an application form.
8. We are fully committed to making the Board appointments accessible. We can provide application forms in an alternative format and adjust the appointment process to meet your needs. Initial advice on access issues is available by emailing [accessrecruitment@gmc-uk.org](mailto:accessrecruitment@gmc-uk.org) and can also be detailed in the appropriate section of the application form. If you have specific access requirements, we can appoint a named member of the PLAB Test Section to liaise with you to ensure that your requirements are met.
9. Completed application forms should be sent preferably by email to [PLABtestsection@gmc-uk.org](mailto:PLABtestsection@gmc-uk.org) or by post to the PLAB Test Section, General Medical Council, Regent's Place, 350 Euston Road, London, NW1 3JN. The closing date for receipt of applications is Monday 6 September 2010.

*Process*

10. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted around four weeks after the closing date and invited to attend an interview at the GMC offices.

11. Appointment is conditional on the outcome of the interview and the receipt of satisfactory references.