

Approval of foundation programme training and new programmes for provisionally registered doctors outside the United Kingdom

What is this statement for?

1. To set out criteria for approval of:
 - a. Foundation Programme training outside the UK (training as a provisionally registered doctor in foundation year 1 (F1), or a fully registered doctor in foundation year 2 (F2)).
 - b. New programmes for provisionally registered doctors outside the UK.
2. This statement confirms that UK medical schools, in partnership with the local postgraduate dean/foundation school or local education and training board (LETB), may continue, with our prior approval, to be responsible for an individual's training as a provisionally registered doctor outside the UK leading to the award of a Certificate of Experience. We expect that approval of training as a provisionally registered doctor outside the UK will be the exception rather than the norm for this period of training.

Who is covered by this statement?

3. Medical schools that allow graduates who are foreign nationals to complete basic medical education in their home country and subsequently sign a Certificate of Experience allowing the doctor to apply to us for full registration.
4. Medical schools that allow graduates including British nationals to undertake F1 outside the UK, for example, in the Malta Foundation Programme.
5. Postgraduate deans/foundation schools or LETBs that allow doctors to undertake F2 training outside the UK.

6. Medical schools with undergraduate programmes delivered in part or in full outside the UK, under the auspices of a UK university, that lead to the award of a UK PMQ.

Current legal position – Medical Act 1983

7. Section 10A of the Medical Act allows us to recognise programmes for provisionally registered doctors and in doing so we may determine the content, standard, assessment arrangements of programmes and the arrangements for certification that a person has satisfactorily completed a programme for provisionally registered doctors and is able to apply for full registration. We determine the duration of programmes and the bodies that are responsible for programmes and, where different, the bodies by which a person is to be employed or engaged while participating in a programme.

8. The first year of the UK Foundation Programme is recognised as acceptable for provisionally registered doctors who are graduates of UK medical schools. The UK Foundation Programme Curriculum is approved as meeting our outcomes for provisionally registered doctors.

Foundation Programme training outside of the UK

9. Doctors wishing to undertake F1 training outside the UK must obtain prospective written approval from their medical school, in partnership with the local postgraduate dean/foundation school or LETB.

10. Doctors wishing to undertake F2 training outside of the UK must obtain prospective written approval from the postgraduate dean/foundation school or LETB in which they are completing F1.

11. For programmes starting in August 2016, we will require that an individual's Foundation Programme training undertaken outside the UK must be prospectively approved by the GMC. Medical schools (for F1) and postgraduate deans/foundation schools or LETBs (for F2) must apply to the GMC for prospective approval before they confirm an individual's Foundation Programme training outside the UK.

12. We will not retrospectively approve training.

13. The criteria for approving Foundation Programme training outside the UK (training as a provisionally registered doctor in foundation year 1, or a fully registered doctor in foundation year 2) is set out in paragraphs 23 to 40.

New programmes for provisionally registered doctors outside of the UK – transitional arrangements

14. The Act empowers us to recognise programmes for provisionally registered doctors if they provide such doctors with an acceptable foundation for future practice as a fully registered medical practitioner.

15. For holders of a UK PMQ, the only route to full registration with us is satisfactory completion of an acceptable programme for provisionally registered doctors evidenced by a Certificate of Experience. The route for registration for international medical graduates, the Professional Linguistics and Assessments Board (PLAB) tests, is not available to graduates with a UK PMQ under the current legislation.

16. However, graduates of UK medical schools from programmes delivered outside the UK may not be able to access the UK Foundation Programme, and it may not be possible to deliver Foundation Programme training in some countries.

17. Until the Medical Act is amended to enable us to recognise separately undergraduate medical programmes delivered by UK universities outside the UK, all holders of a UK PMQ must successfully complete a programme for provisionally registered doctors evidenced by a Certificate of Experience to be able to apply to us for full registration. Medical schools may therefore seek recognition of a discrete new programme for provisionally registered doctors training outside the UK to enable completion of basic medical education through the award of a Certificate of Experience.

18. For programmes starting in August 2016, we will require that an individual's programme is prospectively approved by the GMC.

19. We will not retrospectively approve training.

20. The criteria for approving a discrete new programme for provisionally registered doctors training outside the UK who hold a GMC assured UK PMQ delivered outside the UK, until such time as the Act is amended to distinguish such qualifications from those delivered in the UK, are set out in paragraphs 41 to 59.

When does this statement come into effect?

21. It applies to doctors who commence training as a provisionally registered doctor/foundation year 1 or a fully registered doctor in foundation year 2 outside of the UK from August 2014.

22. It applies to medical schools that want recognition and approval of a discrete new programme for provisionally registered doctors undertaken outside of the UK from August 2014.

Criteria for approving an individual's Foundation Programme training outside the UK – F1 and F2

23. Medical schools and postgraduate deans/foundation schools or LETBs must publish their policy for approval of Foundation Programme training outside the UK.
24. Where a medical school allows F1 training outside the UK, it is responsible for putting in place an assurance arrangement, with the local postgraduate dean/foundation school or LETB, to make sure the programme meets the requirements in *Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training* (2015). Similarly, for F2 training outside the UK, the postgraduate dean/foundation school or LETB must have an assurance arrangement in place to maintain oversight of the programme.
25. An individual's application for Foundation Programme training outside the UK needs prospective approval by the medical school in writing (F1) and postgraduate dean/foundation school or LETB (F2).
26. An individual's Foundation Programme training outside the UK needs prospective approval by the GMC.
27. If a training programme is to be approved with a host organisation outside the UK, it must be regarded as equivalent to a Foundation Programme delivered in the UK.
28. F1 or F2 training must be for at least 12 months' duration and provide opportunities to meet the Foundation Programme outcomes.
29. The medical school, with the local postgraduate dean/foundation school or LETB, must assess the suitability of placements for Foundation Programme training. Placements must be substantive in at least two and ideally three but no more than four specialties, with job descriptions. Individual placement lengths may vary, with placements typically lasting four or six months. They should be long enough to allow foundation doctors to become members of the team and allow team members to make reliable judgements about foundation doctors' abilities, performance and progress. Placements should be no less than three months duration.
30. An agreement with the host institution should be in place confirming Foundation Programme training requirements will be met and that it will support the delivery of the Foundation Programme Curriculum and assessment arrangements.
31. The host institution must provide a named person (clinical tutor/programme director or equivalent) with overall responsibility for supervision for training and providing reports to the medical school or postgraduate dean/foundation school or LETB, and confirming that Foundation Programme requirements have been met.
32. The host institution must supervise the doctor in accordance with the requirements of *Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training* (2015) and the Foundation Programme Curriculum including providing a named

educational supervisor, and a named clinical supervisor for each placement. There must be a meeting with the relevant supervisors at the start of each placement to set out expectations for the placement and regular supervision meetings throughout the programme in line with the UK Foundation Programme requirements.

33. The host institution must agree that assessment of performance will be undertaken at the end of each placement by a named clinical or educational supervisor, informed by colleagues who have observed the foundation doctor's performance in the workplace, and report to medical school or postgraduate dean/foundation school or LETB.

34. The host institution must support the delivery of supervised learning events (SLEs) as set out in Foundation Programme Curriculum.

35. The requirements for the Foundation Programme Learning Portfolio must be completed, linking evidence to demonstrate how outcomes have been achieved, including a record of core procedures required for F1.

36. The supervised learning events and assessment of performance to demonstrate the learning outcomes in *Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training* (2015) must be demonstrated, assessed and recorded in English.

37. The host institution must convey immediately any significant concerns about a doctor's performance, health or conduct, to the medical school (F1) or postgraduate dean/foundation school or LETB (F1 and F2).

38. The host institution must maintain a record of absences (annual leave, sickness and study leave) as required by the GMC *Absence from Foundation Programme Position Statement*.

39. The medical school, informed by the end of year report and review of Foundation Programme Learning Portfolio, is responsible for deciding whether to award satisfactory completion of F1 (Certificate of Experience). This responsibility may be delegated to the postgraduate dean/foundation school or LETB, which is also responsible for deciding the award of satisfactory completion of F2 (Foundation Achievement of Competency Document).

40. Doctors in a programme for provisionally registered doctors must be registered with the General Medical Council.

Criteria for approving a new programme for provisionally registered doctors training outside the UK – transitional arrangements

41. We will consider applications from medical schools, in partnership with the local postgraduate dean/foundation school or LETB, to recognise a discrete new programme for provisionally registered doctors under Section 10A of the Act.
42. Medical schools must publish their policy for approval of a programme for provisionally registered doctors outside of the UK.
43. Medical schools must put in place an assurance arrangement, with the local postgraduate dean/foundation school or LETB, to make sure the programme meets the requirements in *Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training* (2015).
44. An individual's programme needs prospective approval by the medical school in writing, and by the GMC.
45. The programme must meet the standards for curricula and assessment systems. Assessment arrangements for the programme should be described and blueprinted against the curriculum.
46. The programme must be for at least 12 months' duration.
47. The content of the programme must provide sufficient practical experience to support acquisition and demonstration of the [outcomes for provisionally registered doctors](#).
48. Placements must be substantive and as a guide provide a range of experience in at least two and ideally three specialties, with job descriptions. Placements should typically last four or six months. Placements should be no less than three months duration.
49. An agreement with the host institution should be in place confirming programme requirements will be met.
50. There must be a named person (clinical tutor/programme director or equivalent) with overall responsibility for supervision of training and providing reports to the medical school and local postgraduate dean/foundation school or LETB, confirming that programme requirements have been met.
51. Supervision must be in accordance with the requirements of *Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training* (2015) including a named educational supervisor and a named clinical supervisor for each placement. There must be a meeting with the relevant supervisors at the start of each placement to set out expectations for the placement and regular supervision meetings during the year.

52. Assessment of performance must be undertaken at the end of each placement by supervisors informed by colleagues who have observed the foundation doctor's performance in the workplace.
53. The host institution must support the delivery of assessment arrangements for the programme.
54. A learning portfolio (e-portfolio or paper) must be maintained, linking evidence to demonstrate how outcomes have been achieved, including a record of core procedures required for provisionally registered doctors.
55. Learning [outcomes for provisionally registered doctors](#) must be demonstrated, assessed and recorded in English.
56. The host institution must convey immediately any significant concerns about a doctor's performance, health or conduct, to the medical school.
57. A record of absences (annual leave, sickness and study leave) must be maintained as required by the GMC *Absence from Foundation Programme Position Statement*.
58. The medical school, informed by the end of year report and review of a learning portfolio, is responsible for deciding whether to award satisfactory completion of programme (Certificate of Experience). This responsibility may be delegated to the postgraduate dean/foundation school or LETB.
59. Doctors in a programme for provisionally registered doctors must be registered with the General Medical Council.

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