

General
Medical
Council

Assuring readiness for practice

A framework for the MLA

Medical Licensing Assessment
gmc-uk.org/mla



Assuring readiness for practice: a framework for the MLA

1. From 1 May 2024 the GMC will require a Medical Licensing Assessment ('MLA') to test core knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to practise safely in the UK. The MLA will have two parts (see paragraph 6). Each part of the MLA will be provided by a UK university on the GMC's list of awarding bodies* for students' final summative assessments and will be regulated by the GMC.
2. The MLA will make it possible to demonstrate that graduates from each UK awarding body have met an agreed standard of proficiency and are well prepared to practise medicine as Foundation Year 1 doctors. The MLA will also provide assurance that anyone who obtains a UK medical degree has shown that they can meet a common and consistent threshold for safe practice before they are licensed to work in the UK.[†]
3. The Medical Act 1983, as amended, gives the GMC the function of promoting high standards in, and co-ordinating all stages of, medical education.[‡] It requires the GMC to determine the extent of knowledge and skill required to obtain a primary UK qualification ('UKPMQ') and secure that the instruction given is sufficient to equip candidates with that knowledge and skill.[§] The GMC is also required to determine the standard of proficiency required from candidates during examinations leading to a UKPMQ and secure the maintenance of that standard.^{**}
4. Accordingly, from the academic year 2024-25, a medical degree awarded by a UK university on the GMC's list of awarding bodies must include a pass in the MLA to be recognised as a PMQ.^{††}
5. The holder of a UKPMQ, whose fitness to practise is not impaired, is entitled to provisional registration with a licence to practise medicine from the GMC in order to participate in the UK Foundation Programme.^{‡‡}

* Section 4(1) of the Medical Act 1983, as amended.

[†] In 2024 the GMC's Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board test for international medical graduates will become MLA-compliant.

[‡] Section 5(1) of the Medical Act 1983, as amended.

[§] Section 5(2)(a) of the Medical Act 1983, as amended.

^{**} Section 5(2)(b) of the Medical Act 1983, as amended.

^{††} Inclusion of the MLA will be a necessary, but not sufficient, ingredient for a UKPMQ. Graduates of UK medical schools will continue to need to show they possess the knowledge, skills and behaviours set out in '[Outcomes for graduates](#)'.

^{‡‡} Section 3(1)(a) of the Medical Act 1983, as amended.

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6. The two parts of the MLA are: an examination of applied medical knowledge (the 'AKT') and an assessment of clinical and professional skills (the 'CPSA').
 7. The awarding body's AKT will need to meet the GMC's 'AKT Requirements' (see annex B).
 8. The awarding body's CPSA will need to meet the GMC's 'CPSA Requirements' (see annex C).
 9. The content of the AKT and CPSA will be determined by the *MLA content map* published by the GMC (see annex A). The *MLA content map* sets out the scope of professional knowledge, skills and behaviours expected of MLA candidates.
 10. From 1 May 2024 bodies whose medical degree programmes lead to a medical degree awarded from academic year 2024-25, which include both parts of the MLA (meeting the 'AKT Requirements' and 'CPSA Requirements'*) and meet the GMC's published standards, requirements and outcomes for undergraduate medical education and training are able to be included within the list of bodies able to award UKPMQs.
 11. Transitional arrangements (see annex D) apply for a small cohort of medical students who passed their final assessments in the penultimate year of their degree programme in the academic year 2022-23, are out of programme in the academic year 2023-24, and will return to complete their final year and graduate in the academic year 2024-25 or 2025/26. These transitional arrangements apply only to the specific cohort described in annex D and are of no wider application.

Annexes

Annex A: *MLA content map*

Annex B: *Requirements for the MLA Applied Knowledge Test*

Annex C: *Requirements for the MLA Clinical and Professional Skills Assessment*

Annex D: *Transitional arrangements for out of programme medical students*

* Assessment as to whether both the AKT and the CPSA requirements are being met will take place via the GMC's Quality Assurance process, and we have published guidance for schools on this process.

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