



Information for UK medical students

General
Medical
Council

Medical
Licensing
Assessment

If you're graduating in the academic year 2024–25 or beyond, you'll need to pass the Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA) as part of your UK medical degree before you can join the medical register. This guide gives you information about our plans to introduce the MLA and what it means for you.

What is the MLA?

It's a two-part assessment made up of an applied knowledge test and a clinical and professional skills assessment. You'll sit both parts at your own medical school on dates chosen by them.

1 The applied knowledge test (AKT)

This is planned to be an on-screen exam, with multiple choice questions. It will test your ability to apply medical knowledge to different scenarios.

2 The clinical and professional skills assessment (CPSA)

This is a practical assessment of your clinical skills and professionalism. Each medical school calls the CPSA something different – for example, an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) or Objective Structured Long Examination Record (OSLER). We will set requirements that all CPSAs must meet.

What does it mean for me?

The MLA will show, for the first time, that graduates from each UK medical school have demonstrated that they can meet a common and consistent threshold for safe practice.

We understand that the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has put significant pressure on the UK's health system, doctors, medical schools and students. Because of this, we've decided to develop the MLA to a revised timeframe.



This means that if you graduate in the academic year 2023-24 or before, the MLA won't affect you. But you might be able to take part in a pilot.

If your final year will be 2024-25 or after, the MLA will be embedded in your UK medical degree.

If you pass both parts, and you meet the other requirements to pass your degree, you'll graduate with a degree that we recognise. That means it's one we'll accept to register you with a licence to practise. If you don't pass, you'll have opportunities to retake.

How do I prepare?

Your degree course is the best preparation for the MLA – you won't need to learn anything beyond what's already covered in your medical school's curriculum.

Our website gives you more information about the topics and areas that your AKT and CPSA assessments could cover – known as the [MLA content map](#). This is based on [Outcomes for graduates](#), which sets out what newly qualified doctors from UK medical schools must know and be able to do. Every medical school already has to make sure their graduates are meeting these outcomes – so schools are preparing students already!

How much will this cost?

Students in the UK won't have to pay us anything extra to take the MLA. Universities will cover the costs, including from course fees. Some medical schools charge for resits, and these fees may apply to anyone resitting the MLA as part of their degree requirements.

Keep updated on the latest developments on our website gmc-uk.org/MLA and sign up to *GMC news for students* at gmc-uk.org/newsletters.

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If you have any questions or feedback on the MLA, we're happy to help – please email us at mla@gmc-uk.org.