If you’re graduating in the academic year 2023-24 or beyond, you’ll need to have a degree that includes passing the Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA) 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 will 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, which your medical school will run. 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?

If you graduate in the academic year 2022–23 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 2023–24 or after and you plan to register with us to practise medicine, your degree will need to include the MLA.

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!

In the future, you’ll have an opportunity to get familiar with the way the on-screen testing works. And we’ll also provide sample questions so that you can understand the format of the test.

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.

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