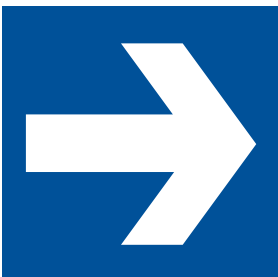


Medical Training Initiative Guide





The **Medical Training Initiative (MTI)** is designed to enable a small number of International Medical Graduates to enter the UK to experience training and development in the NHS for up to two years – before returning to their home country.

Under the scheme a number of places are made available for the training and development of overseas doctors – using training capacity not required for planned UK/EEA training numbers.

Employers do not sponsor immigration, instead these posts are approved by Deaneries and the relevant Medical Royal College for education and training.

The scheme operates under Tier 5 of the points based system for UK immigration, which permits entry to the UK for overseas nationals coming to undertake exchanges or education initiatives sponsored by government departments.

Immigration sponsorship is provided by NHS Professionals on behalf of the Department of Health.



The management of the MTI is a joint approach between medical Royal Colleges, Postgraduate Deaneries, NHS employers (Trusts) and NHS Professionals, with support from the Department of Health.

Each organisation has its own role to play within the scheme – as set out below.

Role of Postgraduate Deaneries

Postgraduate Deans, in consultation with local employers and Directors of Specialty Training, will establish the level of available training capacity to support MTI posts in their area each year.

All employers seeking Tier 5 sponsorship on behalf of an applicant must have an NHS Professionals Tier 5 Form counter-signed by the relevant Postgraduate Deanery.

Royal Colleges

The Royal College - for each specialty – will be responsible for setting the standards of practice in their specialty for entry to MTI posts, expected outcomes and will identify potential appointees.

They will be the route into the MTI for overseas doctors and will manage arrangements for expressing interest and applying for consideration as MTI candidates in their specialty.

The Colleges may also act as sponsor for an MTI applicant's GMC registration and licensing as an alternative to taking the PLAB assessment.

NHS Professionals

NHS Professionals will act as 'national scheme sponsor' issuing certificates of sponsorship to doctors appointed to posts approved under the MTI by the Dean, College and local employer.

The certificate of sponsorship will support application for entry to the UK under Tier 5.

They will ensure all of the requirements of the scheme have been met before sponsorship is provided and details are recorded of the employment.

Role of NHS employers (Trusts)

Local employers will liaise with their Deanery as to the number of MTI posts they will offer each year.

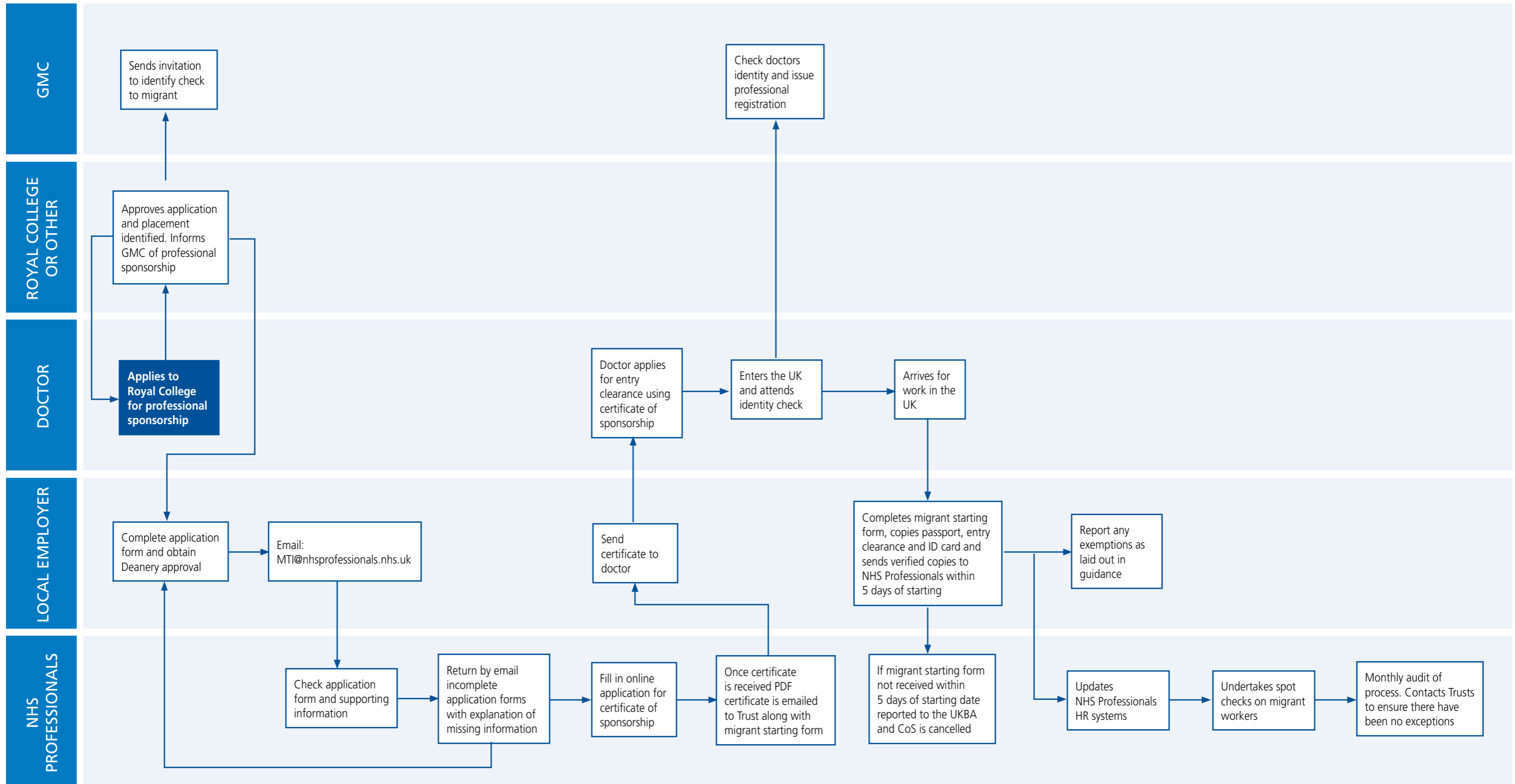
They will work with Deaneries and Colleges to design MTI posts with suitable education and training. Employers will issue contracts of employment ensuring that a final interview has taken place with selected candidates before appointment.

The NHS employment check standards will apply in full.

In addition, they will also monitor and report (to NHS Professionals) any absence issues or concerns.



Tier 5 certificate of sponsorship application process





If you're an **NHS employer** that has identified, with the Deanery and College, an MTI role and suitable appointee, please follow the steps highlighted in this section.

Initial Steps

1. Complete an application form and obtain Deanery approval
2. Email this approval and application form to NHS Professionals: MTI@nhsprofessionals.nhs.uk or send by post to the address at the back of this guide.

NHS Professionals will then complete its checks and issue a certificate of sponsorship.

The certificate will be sent to the employer, along with the Migrant Starting Form.

Final Steps

1. Employer to send certificate to Doctor – who then applies for clearance using the certificate of sponsorship
2. Once the doctor arrives in the UK the employer must ensure all relevant documentation is sent to NHS Professionals within five days of their start date
3. Finally the employer must report any exemptions or concerns to NHS Professionals.

If you're a **doctor** from overseas wanting to join the initiative, to experience working in the NHS, you can contact the relevant Royal College for your specialty.

Through the scheme you can enter the UK to take up MTI posts for up to two years – at the end of this period you will return home to your native country.

Here's a list of the participating Royal Colleges – up to date lists can be found by visiting the link for the GMC in the 'Useful Links' at the end of this guide.

- *College of Emergency Medicine*
- *Commonwealth Scholarship Commission*
- *Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine*
- *Royal College of Anaesthetists*
- *Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists*
- *Royal College of Ophthalmologists*
- *Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health*
- *Royal College of Pathologists*
- *Royal College of Physicians of London*
- *Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh*

Any **Royal Colleges** interested in taking part in the MTI scheme will need to contact the Department of Health in the first instance. Colleges that are not already a 'sponsor' for General Medical Council registration will also need to approach the GMC.

As posts that can be used for MTI will need to be identified, a College starting a scheme will need to discuss the workforce implications with the Postgraduate Deaneries and how these posts will be appointed to.

Q. Do IMGs coming here as part of MTI require GMC registration or similar, is that something the Royal Colleges have to verify?

Royal Colleges can provide professional sponsorship of candidates to the GMC, and facilitate a non-PLAB route to GMC registration; a key feature of the MTI scheme.

More generally, we should be aware that as well as the relevant RCs that process/administer/vet MTI applications, there are a number of other bodies, based in employers (predominantly small training/research units) from whom the GMC accepts this type of professional sponsorship (that allows candidates a non-PLAB route to UK registration).

Q. Which Royal Colleges are running the MTI scheme?

DH is funding the expansion of the MTI scheme by increasing the financial support to the Royal Colleges that administer the scheme.

A list of participating Royal Colleges can be found in the 'Useful Links and Contacts' section at the end of this guide.

There are a number of other

bodies, that also run the MTI scheme based in employers (predominantly small training/research units) from whom the GMC accepts this type of professional sponsorship.

It is anticipated that more Royal Colleges will run the MTI scheme in future years.

Q. How will IMGs qualify for the MTI?

Admission to the MTI is through the Royal Colleges and the other bodies from whom the GMC accept professional sponsorship. The MTI is suitable for training at all levels, especially individuals seeking a period of higher training in more senior training posts such as ST5, 6 or 7, who wish to hone their skills. It will be for each College or Faculty to set down the process for assessing the professional suitability of each applicant.

Q. How long will they be able to stay?

Participation in the MTI will not lead to settlement in the United Kingdom. MTI permits will be granted for the period of training to a maximum period of 24 months, after which the individual will be expected to return home. There is no prospect of a UK career via this route.

Q. What happens when they return?

These posts make use of spare training capacity in the NHS. The purpose of the MTI is to offer overseas doctors from low and middle-income countries more opportunities to secure vital training and work experience in the UK. Service delivery in the NHS is not predicated on MTI posts.

Q. What about existing schemes for IMG training in the UK?

Many medical Royal Colleges, and other organisations such as the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission, currently run 'sponsorship schemes' for IMGs. These include:

- International Paediatric Training Scheme (Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health)
- International Sponsorship Scheme (Royal College of Physicians)
- International Doctors' Training Programme (Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists)

Colleges will continue to be able to run their schemes as they have done in the past, with a few minor changes to the paperwork required by NHS Professionals for candidates who require a Tier 5 visa.

➔ **USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS**

Approved sponsors for GMC registration

You can find a list of approved sponsors by following the link below:

www.gmc-uk.org/other_links.asp#1

Guidance on GMC registration

Registering as a doctor - guidance for graduates from medical schools in countries outside the UK and EEA who have been selected for sponsorship under an arrangement approved by the GMC.

www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/registration_applications/join_the_register/img_sponsorship_p1.asp

Advice to IMGs on working in the UK

www.bma.org.uk

Advice for NHS employers

www.nhsemployers.org

Information on the NHS

The structure and history of the NHS is described in more detail on the NHS Choices website:

www.nhs.uk/aboutnhs/pages/about.aspx

The NHS Medical Careers website gives details of the specialties and various roles of doctors in the NHS

www.medicalcareers.nhs.uk/Pages/AboutUs.aspx

NHS Professionals' Contacts

Postal Address:

MTI Scheme, NHS Professionals, 69-71 Clarendon Road
Watford WD17 1DS

Email: MTI@nhsprofessionals.nhs.uk

www.nhsprofessionals.nhs.uk