

England-KSA International Post-Graduate Medical Training Scheme 2021/22



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NHS Health Education England (HEE) is the strategic workforce planning and education and training body of the English National Health Service. It is responsible for supporting the NHS workforce through the development and commissioning of education and training programmes to support the system in ensuring the NHS has the right numbers of staff, with the right skills, in the right place.



University Hospitals Birmingham, which is by most measures one of the largest teaching and educational institutions in England, and is the delivery partner of Health Education England for the International Postgraduate Medical Training Scheme.



The production of these materials was funded by the British Council

The International Postgraduate Medical Training Scheme: summary

1. The NHS in England is one of the first and highest quality health systems providing Universal Health Coverage in the world. Underpinning the NHS is a clinical workforce educated and trained to world-class standards and some of the finest clinical learning environments.
2. With a long history supported by the Royal Colleges, the UK's medical specialty training is truly world class. International Postgraduate Medical Training Scheme (IPGMTS) aims to provide medical specialty training in England, giving the candidates a full replication of NHS competence-based training.
3. The IPGMTS enables overseas doctors, by arrangement with international governments, to undertake full speciality training to UK standards. This takes doctors from entry to the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) and recognition in the GMC specialty register, in England, before returning home to practice as consultants in their chosen field.
4. IPGMTS programmes can be in any of the 65 specialties or 31 sub-specialties accredited by the GMC. This includes: Anaesthetics, Cardio-thoracic surgery, General (internal) Medicine, Acute Internal Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Rehabilitation Medicine, Psychiatry (including sub-specialties), Renal Medicine, Respiratory Medicine, Clinical Oncology, and Allergy.
5. IPGMTS trainees are sponsored by overseas governments or institutions and are in addition to the UK's future medical workforce needs. Places are limited and only open via government to government agreements.
6. The scheme is sponsored by NHS HEE, the UK Government strategic workforce body of the NHS. The programme is delivered in partnership with University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, one the England's most prestigious university hospitals.
7. As part of delivering Vision 2030 up to 300 places will be sponsored by the Government of Saudi Arabia each year for doctors from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to train in the UK.

The NHS: the premier destination for healthcare education and training

8. Matching the healthcare needs of growing, ageing populations with the right supply of trained health professionals is a global challenge. Governments and healthcare organisations need better ways to deliver high-quality, accredited education and training, and many are turning to the UK for support. As part of the programme of work to deliver [Vision 2030](#) the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has partnered with the UK to open places on the prestigious International Post-Graduate Medical Training Scheme, sponsored by NHS Health Education England
9. The NHS is internationally renowned for the quality of its medical education and training. If you need to develop your skills as a medical expert, we have the institutions to make this happen. The IPGMTS provides candidates with a world class medical education and training programme
 - *tailored to individual needs*
 - *founded on proven systems for driving high quality and standards in the long-term*
 - *delivered in cutting-edge training facilities of the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust*
 - *focused on building the future medical leaders and educators of tomorrow*

Programme entry requirements

10. All doctors on IPGMTS programmes are working with UK patients and as such required to be fully registered with the GMC. In addition to a medical degree all applicants must meet all relevant GMC requirements. This includes demonstrating English language and clinical competence, and good standing in their country of origin.
11. English Language. Applicants must demonstrate their knowledge of English using either an acceptable International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or Occupational English Test (OET) certificate¹ from the last two years. These requirements are attached as Annex B.

¹ <https://www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/join-the-register/before-you-apply/evidence-of-your-knowledge-of-english>

12. Clinical competence. Applicants must demonstrate their clinical competence by showing three full years post-graduate experience on the CV, passing an interview panel, and meeting the benchmarking standard for the relevant UK post-graduate training
13. Good standing. A certificate of good standing from each medical regulatory authority they have been registered or licensed with in the last five years.

International Postgraduate Medical Training Scheme: Outline

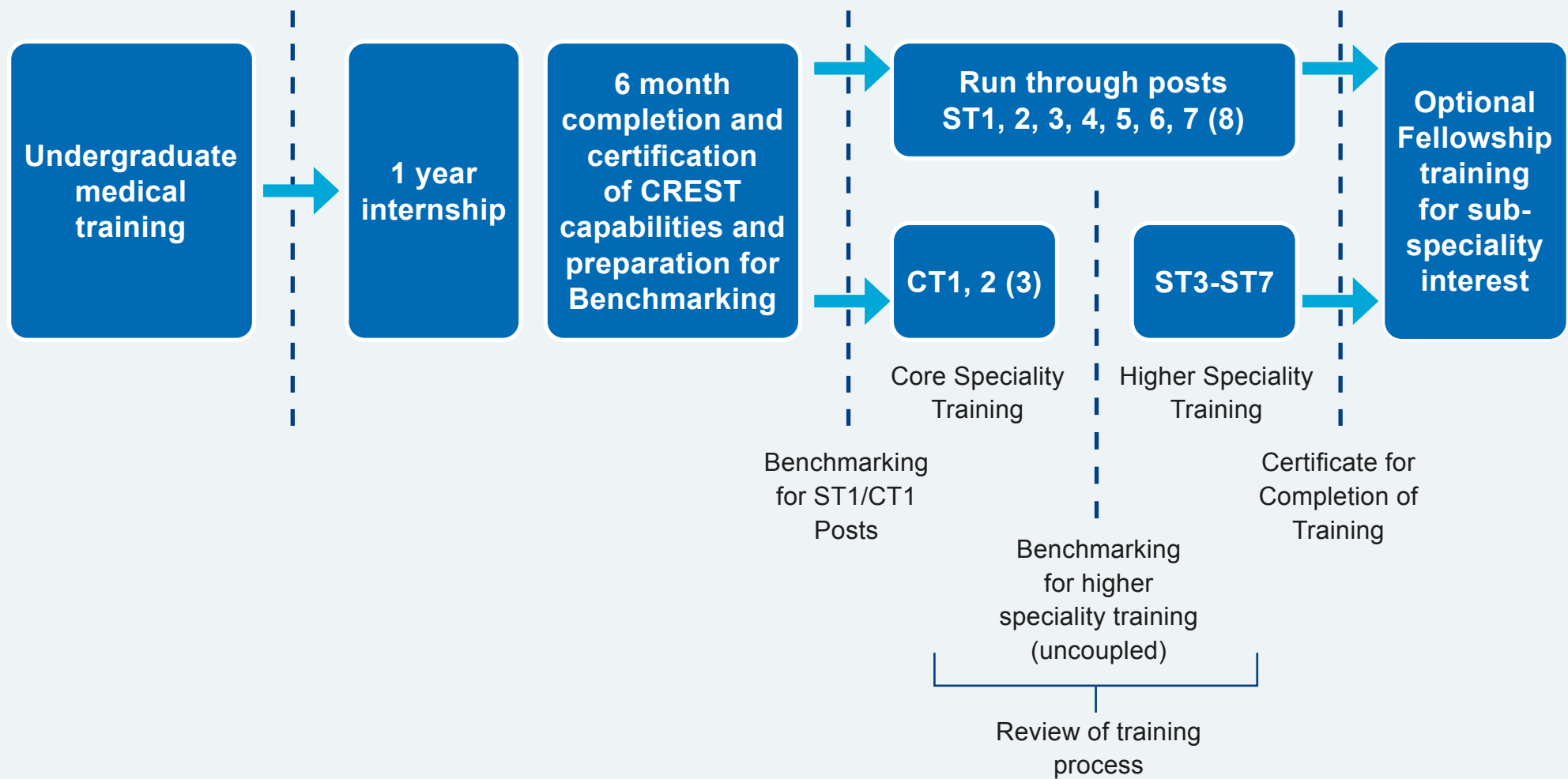
14. The International Postgraduate Medical Training Scheme (IPGMTS) enables overseas doctors, by arrangement with international governments, to undertake full speciality training, from ST1/CT1 through to the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) and recognition in the GMC specialty register, in England before returning home to put their new skills into practice in Saudi Arabia.
15. The programme is a full replication of the NHS competence-based speciality training scheme and is delivered to the same high quality and standards as training for our own doctors.
16. While all doctors training as part of the IPGMTS are performing “hands-on” care equivalent to UK trainees all IPGMTS posts are in addition to those needed for the UK’s future consultant requirements and fully funded by the partner Government.
17. IPGMTS programmes can be in any of the 65 specialties or 31 sub-specialties accredited by the GMC². The UK’s medical royal colleges and faculties set the curricula for specialty and GP training courses.
18. The GMC approve curricula and assessment systems for each training programme. HEE fund and quality assure the educational provision and learning environment in-line with the GMC standards.
19. This includes: Anaesthetics, Acute Internal Medicine, Allergy, Cardio-thoracic surgery, Clinical Oncology, Emergency Medicine, General (internal) Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, Psychiatry (including sub-specialties), Rehabilitation Medicine, Renal Medicine, Respiratory Medicine.
20. Depending on the curricula agreed with the GMC speciality or sub-specialty each training programme can range from 3 to 8 years.

² <https://www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/join-the-register/before-you-apply/evidence-of-your-knowledge-of-english>

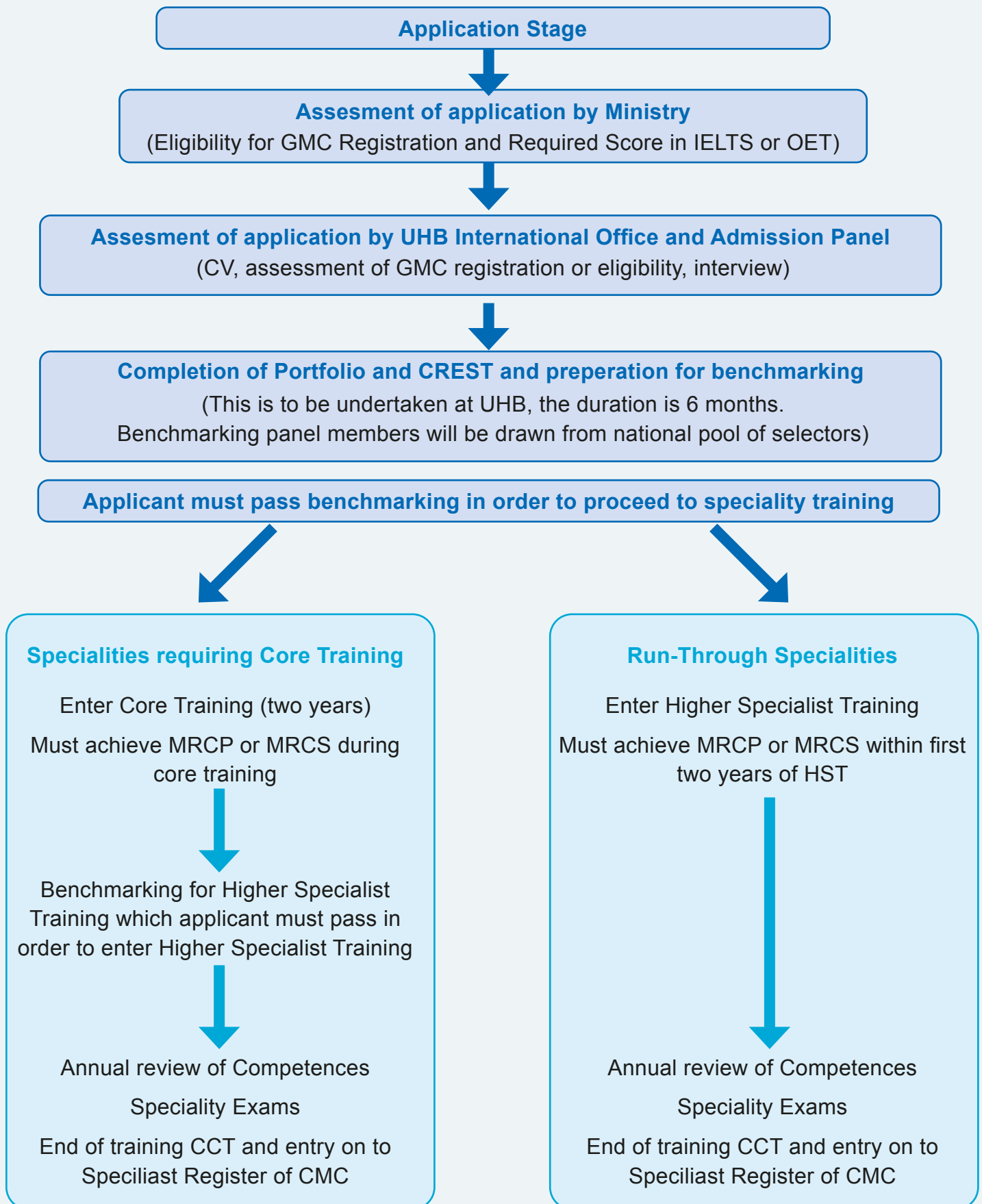
Training Programmes

21. Specialities offer one of two types of training programmes (see Figure 1 below); either **uncoupled** or **run through**.
22. In **uncoupled training** programmes, the specialty programme is **split** into two stages: **core training** and **higher specialty training**. At each stage they are benchmarked. Core training is broad based and thus allows the applicants flexibility to apply for higher specialty training in more than one speciality. For example, a core trainee may elect to apply for higher specialty training in general surgery and vascular surgery.
23. *Uncoupled specialties include: All branches of Internal Medicine, most surgical specialties, Anaesthetics, Emergency Medicine & Psychiatry.*
24. Core training can be 2 or 3 years in length depending on the specialty. The first year of core training is termed CT1, the second year CT2, and then CT3. When they move into higher specialty training, the designation changes from CT to ST (Speciality Training). Thus a doctor who has completed two years of core training in surgery will be designated ST3 when they move into general surgery after two years.
25. In **run-through training**, doctors apply for the first year of the programme which is called ST1 (Specialty Training year 1). There is no further application, benchmarking or selection process after this. Once a run-through training programme is started, progression is subject to successful achievement of the outcomes for each year and is assessed by means of the annual review of competencies, the ARCP (Annual Review of Competency Progression), by the Postgraduate Deanery. The trainee has to provide a portfolio of evidence for the ARCP. Reports from their Educational and Clinical supervisors are taken into account.
26. *Run through specialties include: Paediatrics, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, Radiology, Cardiothoracic surgery & Neurosurgery.*

Figure 1: Overview of Specialty Training in the UK



FLOWCHART OF INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL TRAINING SCHEME



Application Dates

27. Three application rounds are available for applicants from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in with start dates in 2021/22.

Round	Application Window	Interviews	Start Date
1	09 Dec – 23 Dec	Dec-Jan	April 2021
2	March – April 2021	May 2021	August 2021
3	Oct – Nov 2021	Nov 2021	February 2022

Application Process

28. All applicants should apply via the Ministry of Education portal, including their CVs and copies of relevant documentation such as their English Language Certificates. The portal can be found at All applicants should apply via the Ministry of Education portal, including their CVs and copies of relevant documentation such as their English Language Certificates. The portal can be found at <https://ksp.moe.gov.sa>.

University Hospitals Birmingham Foundation Trust

29. University Hospitals Birmingham, which is by most measures one of the largest teaching and educational institutions in England, is the delivery partner of Health Education England for the International Postgraduate Medical Training Scheme. It is one of the highest performing healthcare organisations in Europe with a proven international reputation for its quality of care, information technology, clinical education and training and research.

30. University Hospitals Birmingham has been the principal teaching hospital for the University of Birmingham Medical School providing clinical education and training to undergraduate medical students, dental students, postgraduate doctors and dentists and nurses for the last 200 years. There is a long tradition of training doctors, dentists and nurses from around the world. At the core of this tradition is University Hospitals Birmingham's philosophy that excellence of clinical care can only be delivered on the bedrock of education and clinical research.

31. University Hospitals Birmingham has several overseas organisations with which it has formal agreements for the provision of postgraduate medical education and training. The training is provided at a junior and senior level and is overseen by its International Institute.
32. It is because of this philosophy and its experience in providing education and training to overseas doctors, dentists and nurses that Health Education England has partnered with University Hospitals Birmingham to deliver the International Postgraduate Training Programme.

The International Office at UHB

33. The administrative arm of the International Institute at UHB is the International Office. All the administrative aspects of the International Medical Postgraduate Training Programme are managed by the International Office. Its specialist team guides applicants through the entire application process from first contact to arrival in Birmingham. Applicants receive advice and assistance with GMC registration, visa sponsorship and application, induction, Benchmarking and CREST completion. The focus of the International Office is to provide applicant support to enable an overseas doctor to settle in the UK so that they can focus on their training.

NHS Health Education England: the NHS strategic workforce body

34. NHS Health Education England (HEE) has the statutory responsibility to ensure that the NHS workforce is available in the right numbers and has the necessary skills, values and behaviours to meet patients' needs and deliver high quality care.
35. As the NHS workforce organisation for England, HEE is uniquely placed to support the Saudi ambitions to become a global centre of excellence for healthcare. HEE does this by embedding global skills, learning and innovation, supporting local NHS organisations to engage in global activity as a way to attract and retain staff, bringing experienced overseas staff to work in the NHS on placements.
36. As well as playing a facilitative role to ensure the collective efforts and expertise of the NHS is coordinated and aligned to the overseas objectives of Government departments including the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and the Department of International Trade (DIT).

Annex A. English Language Requirements.

When applicants apply for registration with a licence to practise the GMC need to be satisfied you have the necessary knowledge of English to practise safely in the UK.

The GMC need to be confident you can communicate effectively in English, so you do not put the safety of your patients at risk.

Communicating includes speaking, reading, writing and listening. The GMC accepts two standardised tests IELTS and OET.

IELTS certificates must show that

- a. candidates took the academic version of the test.
- b. that they got a score of at least 7.0 in each testing area and an overall score of 7.5
- c. that they got these scores in the same test
- d. that they got these scores in your most recent sitting of the test

OET certificates scores must show:

- a. you took the medicine version of the test
- b. you got at least a grade 'B' in each testing area (speaking, listening, reading and writing)
- c. you got those grades in the same test
- d. you obtained the grades in your most recent sitting of the test.

Annex B: IPGMTS Supervising and Regulatory Authorities

Department of Health and Social Care

The Department of Health and Social Care of each country making up the United Kingdom has responsibility for overseeing the administration and implementation of the overarching training programme in their respective countries.

The General Medical Council

The General Medical Council (GMC) is a statutory regulatory body for doctors and maintains the official register of medical practitioners within the United Kingdom. A doctor has to be registered with the GMC and hold a licence to practise before they can work or train in the UK.

The GMC sets standards for postgraduate education and training and approves training posts, programmes and assessments. The GMC performs reviews and carries out monitoring activities to check that the standards for education and training are being met.

The GMC also maintains the Specialist Register which is a list of doctors who are eligible to take up appointment as a substantive consultant in the NHS. Doctors who have successfully completed a period of formal specialist training in the UK and obtained a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCT) are eligible to apply for inclusion on the Specialist Register.

Health Education England and Postgraduate Studies

Medical and Dental training in England is overseen by Health Education England (HEE) which has seven regional offices or Deaneries which are responsible for ensuring that the local training schemes deliver high quality training and fulfil the required outcomes for training set by the General Medical Council.

The provision of high quality medical and dental training is overseen by Health Education England through postgraduate Deaneries and local Education and Training boards. They support the education and training of more than 160,000 students and trainees across all healthcare professions.

Each 'Deanery' is headed by a Postgraduate Dean who is accountable to the GMC as the Responsible Officer for all doctors in training in HEE programmes in their Deanery. The functional teams within Deaneries include; Recruitment, Programme Management, Assessment of trainees, Quality of Education and Training, Faculty Support and Trainee Support.

Deaneries are also divided into 'Schools', with each School being responsible for the delivery of a training programme(s). Each School has a Head of School and a number of Training Programme Directors who each oversee a particular specialty programme. The Schools work with the functional teams and all are responsible to the Postgraduate Dean.

Each trainee doctor has a unique training number—the National Training Number (NTN)—which denotes their Deanery, and which is used to track their progress nationally through training until they achieve their Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training. Progress is assessed by means of Annual Review of Competency Progression being achieved: the ARCP.

The oversight of this process and the person who is directly responsible for their regional training outcomes is the Postgraduate Dean who is usually supported by a number of Associate Postgraduate Deans.

Royal Colleges

In relation to training, the Royal Colleges are primarily responsible for developing and overseeing the specialty curricula within these training programmes and for examinations. The curricula are delivered by the Postgraduate Deaneries. Trainees as the progress through their training are required to do various speciality examinations conducted by their relevant Royal College.