

REFUGEE DOCTORS' PROGRAMME

Incorporates Assistance for
Dentists & Pharmacists

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ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

This programme is run by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and is designed to assist asylum seeking and refugee doctors to achieve registration with the General Medical Council via the PLAB examinations in order to be in a position to compete for posts in the NHS in the UK.

ELIGIBILITY FOR THE PROGRAMME

You will be eligible for the programme if you:

- live in Scotland
- Have refugee status, are currently applying for asylum or are appealing against the refusal of asylum.
- Have a qualification from a medical school recognised by the World Health Organisation. See www.gmc-uk.org

If you think you are eligible, please contact us to arrange an eligibility meeting at which you will be expected to produce evidence of your refugee status. If you are a doctor, dentist or pharmacist and think you are eligible for this programme, you should contact us – see page 4.

JOINING THE PROGRAMME

You will have a meeting with the Associate Postgraduate Dean to have your previous training assessed, followed by an assessment at a local further education college to establish your English language needs. You will be expected to bring:

- Evidence of your status in the form of your documents from the Home Office,
- Documentary evidence of your professional qualifications if you have them in your possession,
- A copy of your CV

When your educational needs have been assessed, you may then be asked to sign a Learning Contract which will highlight what is expected of you as a member of the Refugee Doctors' Programme.

The formal stages of the programme are outlined below, but staff are available throughout the programme to offer you help and advice.

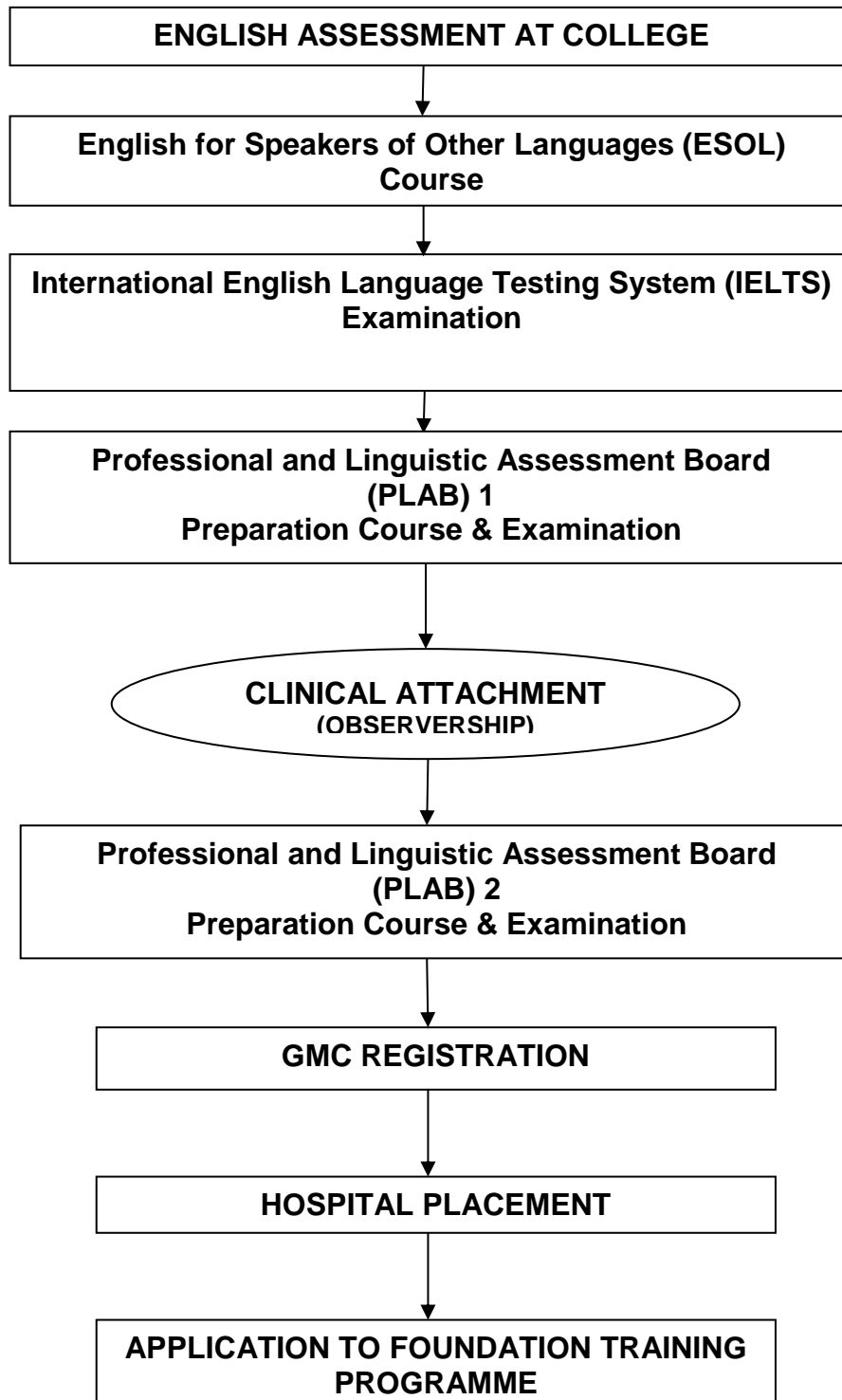
CONTACT:

Please contact us at:

Email: rdp@nes.scot.nhs.uk

Tel: 0141 223 1620

ELIGIBILITY MEETING AT DEANERY



ARE YOU A DENTIST or PHARMACIST?

The programme principally assists doctors to obtain GMC registration. If you are a dentist or pharmacist you should contact us, however, please be advised that NES will only be able to assist you financially through ESOL & IELTS but not further to allow you to register with the relevant council.

Following your eligibility meeting, dentists will be referred to Glasgow Dental School for

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) is designed to improve English Language skills and prepare participants for further study or employment.

There are different levels of ESOL, from beginners (Level 2) to advanced (Level 6). Classes can be taken at Glasgow Clyde College or City of Glasgow College on either a full-time or part-time basis, with each Level taking a full academic year to complete.

Asylum seekers and refugees have their fees waived for ESOL classes and NES will provide you with a Zonocard (train, bus and underground combined ticket) for use to travel to attend classes.

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM (IELTS)

In order to be accepted on the PLAB assessment, you need to achieve Level 7 in each of the areas tested (speaking, listening, reading and writing) and Level 7 overall. From 18th June 2014, an overall score of 7.5 will be required. Doctors who have not studied for their degree in English and who intend to apply for a 2 year Foundation Programme through the UK Foundation Programme Office, are required to obtain a score of 7.5 in all elements of the IELTS examination. This is the standard set by the UK Foundation Programme Office. See eligibility section on www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk.

Why is such a high standard of English required?

- ❖ To ensure high standards of patient care
- ❖ To aid the doctor's professional development
- ❖ To facilitate team working in the work place

The IELTS exam

The exam is held at Glasgow Caledonian University which is located in the Cowcaddens area of the City. It will take approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes and is divided into 4 sections.

Listening	30 minutes
Reading	60 minutes
Writing	60 minutes
Speaking	10-15 minutes

The Test Centre will send the results of your examination within two weeks in the form of a Test Report Form. This will show a score for each of the four sections and then an overall score that is reached by adding the score for each section together and taking an average.

NES will pay for you to sit the exam on two occasions.

Reaching your full potential

(i) The demand of IELTS

On being admitted to this programme, you will deserve congratulations twice over: firstly for qualifying as a doctor, dentist or pharmacist, and secondly for learning English. You may feel confident that, having succeeded continuously in your education up until now, obtaining IELTS 7 or 7.5 will not represent a problem for you. However, achieving this is not simply a question of learning a body of knowledge or of being able to make yourself generally understood. It is, rather, a question of learning the living English language, as it is spoken and written in the UK, to a very high level of proficiency. It will demand many learning hours spent:

- In the classroom, with an ESOL teacher
- In the library, both writing practice essays and reading publications such as the *Guardian*, *The Herald*, the *Economist* and the *New Scientist*, as well as perhaps 'graded' readers (novels with the more obscure words taken out).
- Out and about in Glasgow, meeting a variety of English speakers in a variety of contexts.

(ii) Real-world English

In addition to taking the ESOL and IELTS courses, you are encouraged to develop your language skills through volunteering and work placements which can be arranged through Volunteer Glasgow and Bridges Programmes. These experiences will see you using and testing your language skills outside the classroom and in everyday situations.

Volunteering will also help you to make new friends, gain work experience, get references, learn new skills and receive training, and become more confident.

Unlike paid employment, you are permitted to volunteer at anytime regardless of your immigration status.

PROFESSIONAL AND LINGUISTIC ASSESSMENT BOARD (PLAB) EXAMINATIONS

PLAB 1 Preparation Course

Once you have achieved the required IELTS standard you should apply to take the PLAB 1 Preparation Course which is a residential course held in Manchester. You can attend either the short course (10 days) or the long course (20 days). When you have completed the course you can apply to sit the PLAB 1 exam which is held in Manchester.

NES will pay for accommodation, travel and luncheon vouchers to assist with the costs for the course. If you choose to participate in the long course, you will need to pay for the additional accommodation and difference in course fees yourself.

PLAB Part 1 examination

If you have refugee status, the General Medical Council (GMC) will pay the PLAB Part 1 examination fee for you on two occasions. If you are an asylum seeker NES, will meet the cost. NES will meet the cost for travel and accommodation for the exam and will also provide luncheon vouchers.

Clinical Attachment

A hospital attachment allows you to **observe** how doctors practice medicine in the UK and gives an insight into medical, legal and cultural traditions in this country. These attachments are very helpful in their preparation for the PLAB 2 course and examination and are vital for references which will be required for employment as well as providing a good way to establish useful contacts for the future.

What is a clinical attachment?

For the purposes of these guidelines, a clinical attachment is defined as a period of time when a doctor is attached to a clinical unit, with a named supervisor, with the broad aims of gaining an appreciation of the nature of clinical practice in the UK and of observing the role of doctors and other health care professionals in the National Health Service (NHS).

The Refugee Doctors Programme team will arrange a clinical attachment for you after you have passed the PLAB 1 exam. The attachment will be for a period of up to 3 months.

PLAB 2 Preparation Course & Exam

You can apply to take the PLAB 2 Preparation Course as soon as you have successfully completed PLAB 1. Like the PLAB 1 course, this is a residential course held in Manchester which lasts for 15 days. When you have completed the course you can apply to sit the PLAB 2 exam which is held in Manchester.

NES will pay for accommodation, travel, luncheon vouchers and course fees and will also meet the cost of the PLAB 2 exam on two occasions.

The PLAB examinations are set at a level comparable with a Foundation Trainee in their first appointment in a UK hospital. It focuses on the core knowledge, skills and attitudes required to effectively deal with conditions commonly seen by Foundation doctors, and on the management of life-threatening situations. Full details of the content, duration and format of the PLAB examinations can be obtained from the General Medical Council – www.gmc-uk.org

GMC REGISTRATION

Either Provisional or Full registration with the GMC is required before any doctor can practice in the UK. In order to obtain this a doctor must be able to prove that they are capable of medical practice, and must -

- ❖ Be in possession of a primary medical qualification which is accepted by the GMC (i.e. qualification from a university or college listed on the World Health Organisation Directory of Medical Schools)
- ❖ Be able to prove that they are capable of medical practice by successfully completing the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) examinations.

Those doctors who have an acceptable postgraduate qualification recognised by the General Medical Council (GMC) may be exempt from PLAB but only if, in addition to the accepted qualification, the doctor has scored 7 in each of the four categories of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam. You should contact the GMC for advice on whether this applies to you.

For information about GMC registration, please see the GMC website: www.gmc-uk.org.

COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAMME AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Programme formally comes to an end when you obtain GMC registration. Once you have successfully completed PLAB and gained GMC registration, you will be able to undertake paid employment either in a training post or in a Locum Appointment for Service (LAS) position if your Home Office conditions permit you to do so. The type of work you can undertake will depend on whether you are granted Provisional or Full registration by the GMC.

Employment Opportunities with Provisional GMC Registration

If you are granted provisional GMC registration, you will need to undertake a Foundation Year 1 (FY1) post in an approved training post before you can be granted full GMC registration and a license to practice. All FY1 training posts in the UK are allocated through a national allocation scheme administered by the UK Foundation Programme Office. Please see www.foundationprogramme.scot.nhs.uk for details of how to apply. Applications are made online. Entry to foundation training takes place each August but applications are made in the October prior to this. If you are granted provisional registration with the GMC, FY1 is the only type of post you can undertake as doctors with provisional registration are not permitted to work unsupervised in locum posts.

Employment Opportunities with Full GMC Registration

If you are granted full registration with the GMC, you will not be eligible to apply through the national allocation scheme for an FY1 training post. Instead, you can apply for a 1 year Foundation Year 2 (FY2) training post. These posts commence each August. Each Foundation School in the UK advertises any available one year FY2 training posts in spring/summer. In Scotland, these are advertised in March on behalf of the Scottish Foundation School by NHS Education for Scotland. Applications are made online. See www.nes.scot.nhs.uk under 'Recruitment'. See www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk for links to other Foundation Schools in the UK.

If you have full GMC registration, you can also apply for Locum Appointment for Service (LAS) posts. These posts are not recognised for training. In Scotland, these are advertised by individual Health Boards on www.show.scot.nhs.uk under 'Vacancies' and 'Medical and Dental'. Applications are made online.

For information on specialty training programmes please see www.scotmt.scot.nhs.uk.

You will need to fulfil the following requirements should you wish to take up employment in a hospital in the UK:

- ❖ Provide your current GMC Registration Certificate
- ❖ Satisfactorily complete the relevant Health Board Occupational Health Screening procedures. This may include a health questionnaire and carrying out blood tests.
- ❖ Satisfactorily complete Disclosure Scotland (police check)

Even if you have been offered a post, this offer of employment can be withdrawn if you fail to satisfactorily complete the Occupational Health Screening and Disclosure Scotland clearance.

The recruitment process for the training programmes will leave a gap between application and appointment. During this gap, NES may be able to assist with organising a clinical attachment.

Below are the details of organisations who have been mentioned in this booklet as well as other organisations that may be helpful to you.

ADVICE

Scottish Refugee Council
Tel: 0141 248 9799

www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Refugee Survival Trust
Tel: 0141 353 5602

www.rst.org.uk

Migrant Help (for Asylum Seekers)
Tel: 0808 8000 630

<http://www.migranthehelpuk.org/>

British Council
Tel: 0161 957 7755

www.britishcouncil.org

Immigration Advice Service
Tel: 0141 530 5516

www.iasservices.org.uk

Hamish Allan Centre
Tel: 0141 287 1800

<http://open.glasgow.gov.uk/community/city/glasgow/listing/hamish-allan-centre/>

Shelter Scotland
Tel: 0141 649 2847

<http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/>

Jewish Council for Racial Equality
Tel: 020 8455 0896

www.jcore.org.uk

Council for Assisting Refugee Academics
Tel: 020 021 0880

<http://www.cara.ngo/what-we-do/>

UNITY Centre Glasgow
Tel: 0141 427 7992

www.unitycentreglasgow.org

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

English for Speakers of Other Languages

www.esolscotland.com
www.learnesolglasgow.com

International English Language Testing System (IELTs)	www.ielts.org
Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB)	http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/plab.asp
City of Glasgow College Glasgow Clyde College	www.cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk www.glasgowclyde.ac.uk
Volunteer Glasgow	www.volunteerglasgow.org
Bridges Programmes	www.bridgesprogrammes.org.uk

HEALTHCARE

General Medical Council	www.gmc-uk.org
British Medical Association	www.bma.org.uk
General Dental Council	www.gdc-uk.org
British Dental Association	www.bda.org
General Pharmaceutical Council	www.pharmacyregulation.org
Medical and Dental Defence Union	www.mddus.com

ROYAL COLLEGES

Royal College of Anaesthetists
Tel: 0207 813 1900

www.rcoa.ac.uk

Royal College of Paediatrics and Child
Health
Tel: 0207 307 5600

www.rcpch.ac.uk

Royal College of Physicians and
Surgeons of Glasgow
Tel: 0141 221 6072

<https://rcpsg.ac.uk/>

Royal College of Physicians, London
Tel: 0207 935 1174

www.rcplondon.ac.uk

Royal College of General Practitioners
Tel: 0131 260 6800

www.rcgp.org

Royal College of Ophthalmologists
Tel: 0207 935 0702

www.rcophth.ac.uk

Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 225 7324

www.rcpe.ac.uk

Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 668 9222

www.rcsed.ac.uk

Royal College of Surgeons of England

www.rcseng.ac.uk

Royal College of Psychiatrists
Tel: 0207 235 2351

www.rcpsych.ac.uk

Royal College of Obstetricians and
Gynaecologists
Tel: 0207 772 6200

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/>

Royal College of Radiologists
Tel: 0207 636 4432

www.rcr.ac.uk