

# Starting your fellowship and the Centre for Spinal Studies and Surgery (CSSS) – Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust

Successful fellows have proven their academic credentials through the application process and the interview but, to start working at the CSSS the fellows require to vital things: 1- a registration with the General Medical Council (GMC) 2- a valid visa for the post issued by the Home office.

## The GMC registration:

### UK Nationals:

The process should be straight forward as the documents should be readily available (both a GMC registration and the right to work through residence).

### EEA or Switzerland Nationals who graduated from EEA or Switzerland:

As it stands, fellows that fit into this category should visit the GMC website ([https://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/registration\\_applications/s3\\_p1.asp](https://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/registration_applications/s3_p1.asp)). The process is simple but can take a few months. You will also likely be required to pass an IELTS English test. This takes time and we urge you to start the process as soon as you are offered the post.

### International Medical Graduates who don't fit either of the above categories:

Although the GMC has a dedicated independent route to registration through the PLAB test, the route taken by the fellows applying at a fellow level is the sponsorship route.

Currently Nottingham university hospitals NHS Trust is NOT recognised as a sponsor for the purposes of registration. We are working to become one but the list of sponsors is very limited usually to the royal colleges.

We work closely with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh to facilitate our fellows' sponsorship and the process is reasonably short (but still takes a few months!!). It is our advice to all our applicants who fit this category to apply for this sponsorship program as soon as they accept a fellowship offer. Details of the application and documents related to this are outlined below.

## The visa

### UK Nationals:

A visa is not required.

### EEA or Switzerland Nationals who graduated from EEA or Switzerland:

A visa is not required.

### International Medical Graduates who don't fit either of the above categories:

A Visa IS required. The Home office requires applications for the visa to take place within 3 months from the post starting date. The sooner you start this process the better. A Certificate of sponsorship (CoS) can be issued from the human resources department at Nottingham university hospitals NHS Trust. Please note that the royal college of surgeons will only accept your sponsorship to the GMC if you are applying for a Tier 2 visa route.

## **The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Sponsorship scheme (IMGSS):**

The purpose of the IMGSS programme is to offer sponsorship to doctors for registration with the General Medical Council (GMC) to work in the UK under the Medical Training Initiative (MTI) Scheme for a period 6 months up to two years focussing primarily on the training and development of overseas doctors.

To apply for the scheme, the fellow has to meet the following criteria:

- **Hold a valid IELTS certificate with the appropriate scores – minimum overall score of 7.5 and no less than 7.0 in any individual domain. It is recommended by the GMC that all trainees applying for registration via a sponsorship route must have successfully completed the Academic IELTS, regardless of their native language. The GMC may, at their discretion, accept alternative proof of English language proficiency from applicants who come from a country where English is their first and native language, [http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/registration\\_applications/24986.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/registration_applications/24986.asp)).**
- **Hold a primary medical qualification acceptable to the GMC in which the programme of study comprised at least 5,500 hours over a minimum of 5 years (this can be checked on the [https://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/registration\\_applications/acceptable\\_primary\\_medical\\_qualification.asp](https://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/registration_applications/acceptable_primary_medical_qualification.asp)**
- **Hold a postgraduate surgical qualification acceptable to the College.**
- **Have been in unbroken clinical practice for the 12 months immediately prior to GMC registration, and for 3 out of the last 5 years. You cannot have been absent from practice for more than 20 days in any 12-month period (in addition to annual leave, which can be up to 5 weeks). Observerships and clinical attachments are not considered to be clinical practice.**
- **Have completed at least 3 years' postgraduate training, including at least one year in their surgical specialty.**

If the fellow qualifies and would like to pursue this registration route, the fellow is required to get in touch with our unit administrator Ms Diane O'Hare at [Diane.O.Hare@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Diane.O.Hare@nuh.nhs.uk). The fellowship director at the CSSS will complete and submit an IMGSS UK consultant Supervisor application form with the required documents to support it. It helps of the prospective fellow initiated the process by filling the first section of the form with his/her personal details and send it to our unit administrator early. Further information and a link to the required form is as follows (<https://www.rcsed.ac.uk/professional-support-development-resources/grants-jobs-and-placements/uk-training-opportunities-for-international-trainees/international-medical-graduate-sponsorship-scheme-imgss/imgss-information-for-nhs-trusts>). The link has very valuable information on the process and fees and trainee obligations.

Once the application for is complete, our unit administrator will send it to Ms Carolyn Deakin of the Royal college of surgeons IMGSS office at [C.deakin@rcsed.ac.uk](mailto:C.deakin@rcsed.ac.uk). the royal college is very efficient in processing these applications and a timeline is outlined in there website. The process, however, takes 4-8 weeks and therefor should be initiated as soon as an offer for a fellowship is made. We will endeavour to complete the required form (upon YOUR request) as soon as possible and I strongly encourage you t actively chase up the process both at our end and at the Royal college as outlined above to make sure it is completed expeditiously.

Once the application, documents and references have been reviewed, the RCS Ed will issue a Certificate of Sponsorship to the GMC. At that point, you can begin your online registration with the GMC [http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/registration\\_applications/routeF.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/registration_applications/routeF.asp).

You should apply for Registration for international medical graduates (NOT Specialist) under the Sponsorship with a GMC approved Sponsor. The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh is your Sponsor to the GMC

Provided below is important information from the GMC which applies to sponsored candidates only:

***The GMC's experience requirements are one of the criteria that all applicants proposed for sponsorship must satisfy. They are documented in all approved sponsor's schemes, as follows:***

***'Doctors applying for an offer of sponsorship must have been engaged in medical practice for three out of the last five years including the most recent 12 months'. You cannot be absent for more than 20 days in any 12-month period (in addition to annual leave, which can be up to 5 weeks).***

***We therefore recommend that you continue to work in medical practice throughout the process of attaining sponsorship and until you have made an application for registration and been invited for an ID Check by the GMC. Please note that clinical attachments and Observerships are not counted as medical practice.***

Please pass on your GMC Sponsorship number to the RCS Ed when you know it. For further information on the IMGSS, please use the following link [International Medical Graduate Sponsorship Scheme \(IMGSS\)](#).