

Eligibility for Registration in the General and/or Trainee Specialist Divisions – Guidance

Following amendments to the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 in 2020, all doctors who are eligible for registration in the General Division are now also eligible for registration in the Trainee Specialist Division. The following doctors are automatically eligible for registration in the General and Trainee Specialist Divisions:

Doctors Automatically Eligible for Registration in the General and Trainee Specialist Divisions:

- **Doctors who have graduated from an Irish Medical School** and successfully completed their internship in Ireland or will have completed their internship by July 2024
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- **Doctors who have successfully completed their medical qualification** in one of the following EU countries:
 - Austria
 - Belgium
 - Bulgaria
 - Croatia
 - Cyprus
 - Czech Republic
 - Estonia
 - Finland
 - France
 - Germany
 - Greece
 - Hungary
 - Latvia
 - Netherlands
 - Romania
 - Spain
 - Switzerland
 - Slovak Republic

Note: Doctors who qualified in an EU member state other than one of the above will be required to provide, in addition to their medical degree, any additional documentation stated in the **EU Directive 2005/36/EC**, in order to establish eligibility for registration.

Example: A doctor who qualifies in **Poland** will be asked to provide a **LEK** in addition to their medical degree when applying for registration.

- **Doctors who are currently or previously registered in the General or Trainee Specialist Divisions**

Non-EU Qualified Doctors:

- Applicants who have qualified outside the EU must pass or be exempt from the pre-registration exam, the **PRES**, to establish eligibility for General and/or Trainee Specialist registration.

Equivalent Internship Exemption:

The Medical Council recognises internships undertaken in the following countries as equivalent, and applicants for registration who have completed one of these internships will be exempt from the PRES:

- UK (Foundation Year 1)
- Australia
- Malaysia
- New Zealand
- **Pakistan**, where the internship was commenced after 31st December 2008 (note: the rotations must meet the standards of an Irish internship)
- Sudan
- South Africa, where the internship was commenced after 1st July 2006
- Malta

Higher Qualification Exemption:

Exemptions from the **PRES** can be granted to applicants who hold a listed higher qualification and have either:

- Undertaken an internship of at least twelve months, which comprised of a minimum of three months in medicine in general and three months in surgery in general **OR**
- Completed a minimum of three years in an accredited training programme.

Application Timeline:

- First-time applicants for registration who have qualified in the **EU** should submit their application for registration **8 weeks** in advance of their commencement date.
- **Non-EU qualified doctors** should apply at least **12-16 weeks** in advance.

For further information, refer to the Medical Council website.

<https://www.medicalcouncil.ie/>