



ROYAL COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS AND  
SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

# Livingstone Fellowship International Sponsorship Scheme

*with Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and Faculties in Scotland*

## **Background**

The Livingstone Fellowship allows doctors from Zambia and Malawi to spend one year in Scotland benefiting from training and development in their specialist area before returning to their home country.

Applicants must be in the equivalent of Speciality Training Years 3 – 7 and must be in residence and practice in Malawi or Zambia at the time of application. Successful applicants will be sponsored for the UK's General Medical Council Register of Licensed Practitioners and must demonstrate continuity of practice for 3 of the last 5 years and all of the last 12 months

This sponsorship, is enabled by our College's International Sponsorship Scheme (ISS) is a UK scheme designed to allow International Medical Graduates (IMGs) to benefit from training and development in the NHS for a maximum of 24 months before returning to their home countries.

The College uses its role as a GMC sponsor to support three programmes: The Medical Training Initiative (MTI), a UK wide initiative, The International Medical Training Fellowship (IMTF), a Scotland only Initiative and The Livingstone Fellowship, our College initiative, with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and Faculties in Scotland, for physicians and surgeons in training from Malawi and Zambia.

Our College's principle role is to enable registration for a license to practice with the General Medical Council (GMC) and sponsorship for a Tier 5 or Tier 2 Visa for the UK.



## Eligibility Criteria

Candidates must meet **all** the following criteria for acceptance onto the Livingstone Fellowship:

- Have a postgraduate qualification (e.g. Royal College Membership Exam, or other higher degree in medicine or a medical subspecialty)
- Three years minimum postgraduate experience (including 1 year's internship and at least 1 year in the specialty in which you intend to train whilst in the UK)
- 12 months of continuous practice prior to application as well as 3 years of practice of the last 5 years (please see Continuity of Practice section for further guidance)
- Hold a primary medical qualification accepted by the GMC and which will be [verified](#) by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)
- Not pursued GMC registration through the Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) route and failed
- Demonstrable proficiency in English through a score of at least 7.0 in each component of the academic module of the International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) test with no less than 7.5 overall **or** a grade of B in each component of the medical version of the Occupational English Test (or OET)
- Resident and employed in Malawi or Zambia
- Willing to return to your home country at the end of your placement

## Continuity of Practice

This is a requirement of the GMC for registration to practice and there is no flexibility in this aspect of your application.

- A doctor applying for registration with 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. Please note the 12 month rule starts *at the point the application for registration is made*. We recommend you continue in practice throughout this process.
- Clinical attachments and observerships are not counted as medical practice and should not be taken as such
- Clinical volunteer work may be acceptable if it can be supported by documentary evidence that the doctor was registered in the jurisdiction it was undertaken
- The GMC allow a maximum gap of five weeks in a 12 month period for annual leave. Leave taken when a doctor is not contractually employed is not considered annual leave.
- The GMC allow up to 12 months contractual maternity leave per maternity/child. If the doctor is not contractually employed during the maternity leave, this would be considered as a gap in medical practice.



Applicants will be required to provide details of their work and experience history from the last five years without any gaps including details of medical work, non-medical work, study leave, clinical attachments or observerships, career breaks, maternity or parental leave, unemployment and career breaks. See example below:

Application received by GMC 31/12/2017			
Start	Finish	Employer/non-employment activity details	Medical practice?
21/11/2017	31/12/2017	Mumbai Hospital, India	Yes
01/11/2012	20/11/2017	Vacation	No
03/08/2017	31/10/2017	Queens Hospital, Australia	Yes
01/04/2012	03/07/2017	Mumbai Hospital, India	Yes
01/02/2012	31/03/2012	Red Cross - Volunteer	N/A
01/01/2012	31/01/2012	Clinical attachment	Yes

Applicants should state on their application form if they were contractually employed during periods of leave.

Note gap between 04/07/2017 and 02/08/2017. Applicants should confirm if they were engaged in medical practice throughout any gaps in CV

The doctor has incorrectly described the clinical attachment as medical practice. Clinical attachments and observerships are not counted as medical practice

The GMC may require evidence of any volunteering work undertaken. Applicants should state if volunteering work was medically related. If so, were you required to have a medical degree and hold registration with the relevant regulatory authority?

### Primary source verification for international medical graduates

International medical graduates applying for provisional or full registration with a licence to practise need to have their primary medical qualification independently verified before we grant registration. From 11 June 2018, all applicants seeking registration with a licence to practise will be required to have their primary medical qualification independently verified before being granted registration, if they:

This applies if you are qualified at a medical school outside of the UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland OR are a national of a country outside the UK, EEA or Switzerland who graduated from medical schools outside the UK and do not already hold provisional registration.

Verification is carried out by the [Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates](#) (ECFMG) through their online system – known as the [Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials](#) (EPIC)



service. ECFMG will verify the qualification is genuine by checking this directly with your awarding institution.

Successful applicants to the Livingstone Fellowship will need to set up an online EPIC account and have their qualification verified before we are able to provide GMC sponsorship. The College will pay fees associated with this process on behalf of the applicant.

If you have already had your qualification verified by the ECFMG you will not need to have it verified again but you will require an EPIC account in order for the GMC to review this. You can find further information about this on the GMC's website [here](#).

### **Evidence of Good Standing**

You must be able to provide a Certificate of Good Standing (CoGS) from the regulatory body in the countries where you have practised in the last 5 years. The CoGS must confirm all of the following:

- You are authorised to practise medicine in the relevant country.
- You have not at any stage been disqualified, suspended or prohibited from practising medicine.
- The regulatory authority is not aware of any matters that raise doubts about your good standing.

Each certificate is only valid for three months from the date it's signed. It must be valid throughout the process of your application.

- 12 months of continuous practice prior to application as well as 3 years of practice of the last 5 years (please see Continuity of Practice section for further guidance)

### **Requirement for English language proficiency**

This is a requirement of the GMC for registration to practice and there is no flexibility in this aspect of your application. Successful candidates will be required to meet this requirement. There are two ways you can meet this requirement. You can choose one of these two ways:

#### **IELTS**

Achieve a minimum overall score of 7.5 in the academic version of the International English Language Testing Service (IELTS), with minimum scores of 7.0 in all four components.

We encourage you to prepare for the IELTS examination and you may want to consider doing an online course as part of your preparation. Please click [here](#) to find out more about a free course.

Please click [here](#) to refer to the IELTS website for further information on how to book a test.

We strongly recommend applying for IELTS as early as possible to avoid long waiting lists at some centres. The British Council, and other providers, have a wide range of IELTS preparation and study resources.



IELTS results are valid for two years and if your IELTS results are no longer valid (or will soon expire) then you will have to retake IELTS. You must be in receipt of a valid IELTS test report form showing the minimum required scores at the time of your International Sponsorship Scheme application.

## OET

Achieve a grade of at least 'B' in each testing area (speaking, listening, reading and writing) in the medicine version of the test of the Occupational English Test (OET). You must get those grades in the same test and must have obtained the grades in your most recent sitting of the test. Please click [here](#) for further details on the OET as well as preparation materials available online [here](#).

Please be aware that there are costs associated with both IELTS and OET and you should make yourself aware of these costs before proceeding with your application.

## Financial Support

Initial financial support will be provided to the successful applicants in the form of a bursary. This bursary will enable the applicants to take up the fellowship offer and will cover expenses such as flights. Fellows will be asked to repay 50% of the total bursary to the College within the first 12 months of placement. Fellows will receive a salary from their hosting NHS Trust/Hospital. This salary will be commensurate with UK or EEA doctors employed in similar posts.

The Livingstone Fellowship Bursary will cover specific costs associated with you taking up the Fellowship.

Indicative costs are as follows:

- Letter of Good Standing - £50
- GMC registration: £480 – paid directly to the GMC
- Glasgow Malawi Return Airfare (economy travel) and additional baggage allowance: £800
- GMC ID Check travel costs (London or Manchester): £250
- Tier 5 Visa: £400
- Cold weather clothes allowance: £200
- Accommodation allowance for deposit and 1 calendar month rent: £1200
- Living allowance (1 month) - £400 payable on arrival
- International Health Surcharge - £245
- TB Screening £100 (if required)

Please note costs outlined above are subject to variation.