

FAQ's - Frequently Asked Question for NCHDs applying for Training Programmes

Q. 1 When is the opening and closing dates for applications for the July 2022 intake?

Monday 1st November will be the opening date and Monday 29th November 4pm is the closing date for applications. **Please note no late applications will be accepted.**

Q. 2 When will interviews take place?

Interviews will be taking place virtually this year on the 28th January 2022.

Q.3 Is there a guidance document I can use when submitting my application?

Yes you can find our guidance document [here](#).

Q.4 I am having issues with my application form, who do I contact to help?

Please contact the training department at training@coa.ie or call 01 2650600 and a team member will resolve your issue.

Q. 5 I am currently living abroad and have removed myself from the IMC do I need to register myself again?

All applicants must indicate at time of application their eligibility to hold registration on the trainee specialist division. Please note candidates who do not currently hold Medical Council registration must make an application to the Medical Council immediately

English Language Requirements

Q. 1 I am seeking to apply to the Specialist Anaesthesiology training programme in Ireland but I did not complete my under-graduate medical training in the Republic of Ireland. Do I need to undertake an IELTS exam?

Yes, all NCHDs taking up employment with the HSE who were not registered with the Irish Medical Council in any of the divisions of the Register of Medical Practitioners prior to 1st January 2015, or who did not complete the entirety of their under-graduate medical training in the Republic of Ireland, are required to provide evidence of one of the following:

Completion of their Medical degree in English from any of the following countries: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, The United States of America or The United Kingdom. A copy of their Degree Certificate is the required evidence.

OR

English Language Tests: The doctor may submit a certificate of test results from either the International English Language Test System (**IELTS**) **OR** Occupational English Test (**OET**). IELTS (International English Language Testing System) certificate with an overall band score of 7.0 and a minimum score of 6.5 in each of the four domains – reading, writing, listening and speaking - on the academic test **OR** OET (Occupational English Test demonstrating a minimum overall score of B and a minimum score of B and a four domains- reading, writing, listening and speaking).

Q2. What is an acceptable IELTS Score?

- a) A current Academic IELTS Certificate (dated within the last two years) with a minimum overall band score of 7.0 and a minimum score of 6.5 in each domain is the minimum score accepted.

Q3. What is an acceptable OET Score?

- a) Occupation English Test with a minimum overall score of B and a minimum score of B and a four domains- reading, writing, listening and speaking

Q4. I completed my medical degree in English but not in a country where English is an official language. I am an Irish citizen; do I need to complete an IELTS or OET?

- a) Yes, you do need to complete an IELTS or OET. NCHD's taking up employment / training programme must have completed the entirety of their under-graduate medical training medical degree through English in the any of the following countries – Ireland, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, or United States. Otherwise, a sufficient IELTS or OET score is required.

Q5. I did not complete my medical degree in a country listed (in answer to Q1 above) but I am already employed in the HSE for a number of years – do I need to furnish IELTS exam results?

- a) Yes, you must submit a current IELTS or OET certificate unless you can provide evidence that you furnished evidence of IELTS at the time of commencing employment with the HSE (in line with Circular 022/2018)

Q6. I took up employment with the HSE prior to 1st January 2015 – am I exempt from the requirement to have obtained a sufficient IELTS score?

- a) No, taking up employment prior to 1st January 2015 does not mean that an exemption applies. NCHD's that are employed prior to this date (that have not completed the entirety of their under-graduate medical training through English in the any of the following countries – Ireland, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, or United States) are required to provide evidence of English competence by furnishing evidence of IELTS results. NCHDs that furnished satisfactory evidence of IELTS certification at the time of employment (to the hiring hospital) are not required to re sit IELTS, however they must submit evidence of this to the training body. Prior to the 1st January 2015 the IELTS requirement was higher in Ireland.

Q7. I provided evidence of sufficient IELTS to obtain my medical council registration (prior to December 2012) – do I need to re-sit the exam?

- a) No. If you submit evidence, that you previously submitted IELTS certification to the Medical Council at the time of registration, you are not required to re-sit the exam. Since 2012, the Medical Council no longer assess English language competency as part of the registration processes for EU doctors.

Q8. I was not required to provide evidence of sufficient IELTS to the Irish Medical Council at the time of my medical council registration – am I exempt from the HSE IELTS requirements?

- a) No. The Medical Council requirements are separate to the HSE employment requirements on English language.

Q9. Where can I get more information about English language requirements?

- a) Further information in relation to the English language requirements is available at

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hr-circulars/hr-circular-022-2018-re-english-language-requirements-for-nchds.pdf>

Eligibility

EEA Citizens

Training places will be allocated those candidates who are citizens of Ireland or nationals of another member State of the European Union. All Applicants **at the time of application** must submit a certified colour copy of their passport to College of Anaesthesiologists.

Non EEA Citizens

Please see press release [here](#) from Minister of Health in regards to allocations in the first instance to applicants who, at the time of application, are citizens of Ireland or nationals of another Member State of the European Union, Stamp 4 Visa Holders and UK nationals. We are awaiting updated guidance from the HSE/NDTP on this process, and once we receive this it will be published here.

Non EEA applicants should submit a certified copy of their Certificate of Naturalisation or a certified copy of their EU passport as issued by the Department of Justice and Equality if an applicant is to be considered as a candidate. College of Anaesthesiologists will not entertain or take account of applications for naturalisation that are pending with the relevant authorities. All required evidence must be provided **at the time of application**.

Q1. Please explain eligibility criteria for applying for the scheme.

To be considered;

- a) You must have completed a Medical Degree.
- b) You must be eligible for inclusion on the Trainee Specialist Division of the Medical Council Register at the time of application.
- c) You must have completed your Internship before the start of the training programme.
If you have not completed the entirety of your under-graduate medical training in Ireland, UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand or US then you will need to provide evidence of an IELTS (International English Language Testing System) certificate with an overall band score of 7.0 and minimum score of 6.5 in each of the four domains or OET (Occupational English Test) demonstrating a minimum overall score of B and a minimum score of B and a four domains- reading, writing, listening and speaking. Please see Section B of guidance document.

Q2. I am eligible to apply for Trainee Registration but am not currently on the Register. Do I need to apply now or can I wait until after I apply for the Programme?

- a) Yes, you should apply immediately – see Section B of the Guidance Document:

Q3. Can I apply for the programme while I am still in my final year of medical school?

- a) No – you need to be finished medical school. If you qualified in Ireland, you also need to have completed or currently be in the intern year. If you qualified outside Ireland, please see Section B of guidance document.

References / Documentation

Q.1 Please clarify what I need to submit to prove ranking for my medical degree?

- a) Confirmation from the University of the rank in your final year where applicable. Confirmation should show rank in class. This document should be certified as outlined in the guidance document.

Q.2 Does the reference have to be on a specific form?

- a) Yes, you will be directed to download the Reference Template at the appropriate section of the application.

Q.3 Can references be provided by my Medical College?

- a) No, they should be from your current or most recent employer.

Q.4 Do all documents that have to be uploaded have to be certified or just official documents, e.g. passport, exam results?

- a) It is the official documents that should be certified. This includes passport, naturalisation certificate, ranking and exams results etc. Any certificates relating to courses need not be certified but should clearly state where course was completed.

Q.5 I applied last year, can I use the same notarised documents from then?

- a) Yes, as long as they meet the requirements in the guidance document.

Q.6 The Guidance document, under ‘Section D – Academic Achievements’ suggests audits in progress can be included – is that right?

Please note only completed audits should be included – this is stated in the online guidance document

Please contact training@coa.ie for further any queries.