

SAT Recruitment 2024 - FAQ

Frequently Asked Question for NCHDs applying for Training Programmes

Q. 1 When is the opening and closing dates for applications for the July 2024 intake?

Applications will open on Monday 6th November 2023 , and Monday 4th December 2023 at 16.00pm is the closing date for applications. **Please note no late applications will be accepted.**

Q. 2 When will SAT interviews take place?

Interviews will be taking place virtually on Friday 26th January 2024.

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?

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:

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