

Indian Association of Gastrointestinal EndoSurgeons (IAGES) has registered as partner institution with the Royal College of Surgeons, England for International Surgical Training Programme (ISTP) for International Medical Graduate (ISTP)

The ISTP operates under the generic Medical Training Initiative (MTI) scheme and provides a route for high-quality International Medical Graduates (IMGs) from outside the UK/EU/EEA/

Switzerland to obtain registration with the General Medical Council (GMC) and undertake training and development in UK hospital posts for a maximum of two years.

The College is a GMC-approved sponsor of the MTI scheme.

IMGs will undertake a range of clinical work, with the possibility of completing placements in multiple hospitals and gaining sub-specialty experience.

As well as gaining clinical skills, IMGs will be given the opportunity to develop a range of transferable skills such as leadership, management, developing guidelines, conducting audit and research and understanding clinical governance.

IMGs will be supported throughout their training by an allocated Supervising Consultant based within their employing trust, an Educational Supervisor, their other colleagues and the College MTI Officer who will periodically contact them throughout their time on the scheme.

The location will depend on the training required, with placements identified throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland

The RCS is committed to providing a training opportunity that benefits the trainee, his or her home country and the UK institution in which he or she will be working.

AIMS OF THE ISTP

- ❖ Improve the quality of healthcare globally by the sharing of knowledge, experience and best practice.
- ❖ Provide IMGs with a period of training and development in the UK before returning to their home country where their patients and colleagues can benefit from the skills and experience they have obtained.
- ❖ Foster relationships between UK trusts and international institutions.
- ❖ Support the UK's international development objectives

THE ROLE OF THE RCS

- ❖ Liaise with UK institutions to identify recognised training posts suitable for the ISTP.
- ❖ 'Match' high-quality IMGs with suitable skills and experience to UK training posts and ensure that the posts contain appropriate educational and training elements suitable for their development.

- ❖ Professionally sponsor the IMG and issue a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) enabling him or her to obtain full GMC registration and a licence to practise. The College will liaise with the GMC on the IMG's behalf, ensuring that the registration process runs smoothly.
- ❖ Facilitate the paperwork required for the CoS for the Tier 5 visa application.
- ❖ Support the IMGs throughout their ISTP placements to ensure that they are happy in their posts and receiving the adequate training and educational development as per their contracts.
- ❖ Keep the Partner Institution Indian Association of Gastrointestinal EndoSurgeons (IAGES) informed of the IMG's progress.
- ❖ Provide the IMG with a certificate at the end of his or her training to confirm that he or she has participated in the ISTP and demonstrated achievement of agreed competencies

THE ROLE OF THE IMG

- ❖ Complete all sections of the ISTP application form and submit supporting documentation.
- ❖ Ensure that the registration and placement fees are paid, as agreed with the MTI Officer.
- ❖ Keep the MTI Officer updated with the progress of the GMC registration and Tier 5 visa applications.
- ❖ Notify the MTI Officer of any delays to the start date of the appointment.
- ❖ Meet with the MTI Officer periodically during the placement and keep them notified of any changes or issues regarding the appointment.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ MS/DNB and done his/her FIAGES;
- ❖ be resident overseas at time of application and have no rights of residence in the UK/EU/EEA/Switzerland;
- ❖ hold a primary medical qualification recognised by the GMC.
- ❖ have completed an acceptable internship (or equivalent) of not less than 12 months following undergraduate training;
- ❖ have completed at least 3 years of full-time clinical practice/training since obtaining their primary medical qualification (excluding internship) and including the 12 months prior to GMC registration being granted;
- ❖ have passed the MRCS (UK) or hold an acceptable alternative qualification;

- ❖ have achieved a minimum overall score of 7.5 in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and at least 7.0 in each category
- ❖ acknowledge that the short-term training is for a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 24 months and will offer significant training and development approved by the Postgraduate School. Funding will be obtained either through a salary provided by the employing hospital/institution, a scholarship from an institution or funding from other organisations;
- ❖ have a knowledge of, and intention to comply with, the UK GMC's *Good Medical Practice* while in the ISTP placement

APPLICATION PROCESS

IMGs wishing to apply for the ISTP must first submit the following:

- ❖ An ISTP application form.
- ❖ A copy of their passport.
- ❖ A certified copy of their IELTS results/IELTS exemption details.
- ❖ Registration fee.

The College will assess the application, which can take up to ten working days. Successful applicants will be contacted by the MTI Officer to attend an interview with the College Certification Panel

THE INTERVIEW

Interviews between the applicant and the College Certification Panel will normally be held by video-conference/Skype. The College Certification Panel will consist of representatives from the College and other experts as required.

The College Certification Panel will assess the communication skills and clinical knowledge of the applicant. Successful applicants will be accepted onto the ISTP register.

The College will aim to match the applicant to a potential UK ISTP placement within six months.

Once the College has identified a suitable placement, a second interview may be conducted by the employing hospital/institution.

GMC REGISTRATION PROCESS

Once an IMG is offered an ISTP placement, the following will be required in order for the College to issue the Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS), allowing the applicant to apply for GMC registration.

Copies of:

- ❖ Primary medical qualification certificate in the original language (and translated if necessary).
- ❖ Postgraduate medical qualification certificate in the original language (and translated if necessary).

- ❖ Certificate of completion of internship or a letter from his or her Medical School/University confirming completion of an internship.
- ❖ Certificate of Good Standing (CGS).

The CGS should be from the regulatory body in the country/state where the trainee obtained his or her primary medical qualification and in any other countries/states in which he or she has practised in the five years preceding the application for an ISTP placement. The CGS must be less than three months old to be accepted by the GMC and must confirm that:

- ❖ the trainee is entitled to practise medicine in the relevant country;
- ❖ he or she has not been suspended, disqualified or prohibited from practising; and
- ❖ the regulatory authority is not aware of any matters that call into question his or her good standing.

Additional documents required

- ❖ Letter from the Dean/Principal of his or her primary medical school.

This must provide the dates between which the trainee attended the medical school and confirm that his or her conduct was satisfactory.

The spelling of the trainee's name in this letter must be identical to that on his or her primary medical qualification certificate

- ❖ Letter from the Dean/Principal of the trainee's postgraduate institution.

This must provide the dates between which the trainee attended the postgraduate institution and confirm that his or her conduct was satisfactory. The spelling of the trainee's name in this letter

must be identical to that on his or her primary medical qualification certificate. In the event of a name discrepancy evidence of change of name must be provided (ie a marriage certificate).

- ❖ Equality and diversity form.
- ❖ Declaration of health.
- ❖ Placement fee.

NB. IMGs who are already GMC-registered will only be required to submit the following:

- ❖ GMC certificate.
- ❖ Equality and diversity form.
- ❖ Declaration of health.
- ❖ Placement fee.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

The Medical Training Initiative operates as a sponsorship scheme under the Government Authorised Exchange (GAE) route of entry into the UK under the Points Based System.

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) took on the role of national sponsor of the scheme in March 2010. As national sponsor, the AoMRC is responsible for issuing Tier 5 Certificates of Sponsorship to be used for visa applications and will require the employing trust to complete separate paperwork

The following principles apply to Tier 5 visas:

- ❖ The visa is for a fixed period of a maximum of 24 months.
- ❖ Switching to other Tiers is not permitted.
- ❖ There will be no extension beyond 24 months.
- ❖ Those on a Tier 5 visa are not permitted to seek alternative employment while under the scheme.
- ❖ Applicants must be outside the UK when the application is made.

Please note: If an applicant's partner/spouse also wishes to register for the ISTP, separate applications must be submitted.

If successful, he or she will be granted a separate visa.

Upon completion of the ISTP placement applicants will be required to leave the UK and will not be able to return on a Tier 5 visa for five years.

The Royal College of Surgeons of England is not regulated to provide immigration information. All applicants are advised to contact the UK Border Agency should they require additional advice.

THE TIER 5 VISA APPLICATION PROCESS

Once the GMC has invited the IMG to attend the identity check, the College will then apply for the Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) for the Tier 5 visa application. This normally takes five working days to process, after which the IMG can then apply for his or her visa.

Prior to commencing the ISTP placement, IMGs will be given a generic induction package, which will include information on how the UK National Health Service (NHS) works and overall responsibilities expected by surgeons and doctors in the UK.

The timeframe for processing applications (from submitting a post to IMG starting) is up to six months

DURING THE ISTP PLACEMENT

The employing institution will arrange an induction programme for all IMGs upon starting in their new placements.

Under the supervision of a fully qualified consultant, IMGs on this programme will receive the same specialty medical training as UK trainees. However, in most instances their training programme will be tailored to suit their educational objectives and will take into account the type of work done by surgical trainees upon returning home.

All IMGs on this programme will be:

- ❖ registered and engaged with the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme (ISCP);
- ❖ supported and assessed using the same process and principles as the Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) to assess progression of their agreed learning needs; and
- ❖ expected to comply with the trust's requirements for Annual Appraisals.

IMGs will be supported throughout their training by their allocated Supervising Consultant, an Educational Supervisor, their other colleagues and the College MTI Officer.

A meeting will be arranged one month into the placement between the IMG, the Supervising Consultant and the MTI Officer to evaluate the trainee's performance. A formal probation assessment will be held three months into the placement based on feedback and evaluation forms completed by the IMG and Supervising Consultant.

Any concerns from the IMG or Supervising Consultant should be discussed with the MTI Officer who will make every attempt to reassess and resolve the issue(s) as quickly as possible. Consideration may be given to transferring the trainee to another hospital within the same deanery or the placement may be terminated as a very last resort.

AFTER THE ISTP PLACEMENT

Upon completion of the ISTP placement, IMGs will be invited to the College for a ceremony during which they will be awarded a certificate to confirm that they have participated in the ISTP and demonstrated achievement of agreed competencies

FEES

CANDIDATE REGISTRATION FEE £100

CANDIDATE PLACEMENT FEE £2,000 / £1,700 (RCS members)

- ❖ These fees are non-refundable and cover the RCS administration expenses in relation to processing applications, expenses incurred by the interview panels, annual enrolment onto the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme (ISCP), support throughout the placement (including RCS induction days), RCS membership and the certificate of completion.
- ❖ Candidate placement fees can be paid in 10 monthly instalments once the candidate is in the UK and earning a UK salary.
- ❖ RCS will ensure that all ISTP posts will be funded to an appropriate level

UK ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

There are a number of administration fees that need to be paid by the IMGs:

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL (GMC)

All practising doctors must be registered with the GMC. Further details regarding the registration and annual retention fees can be found on the GMC website— www.gmc-uk.org

UK VISAS AND IMMIGRATION

IMGs coming to the UK will be doing so under a Tier 5 (Government Authorised Exchange) visa and must pay the visa fee and immigration health surcharge prior to their visa application being approved.

Further details can be found on the UK Visa's and Immigration website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-andimmigration>

Contact details

For further information regarding the ISTP, please contact:

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