

Types of Registration

To manage and treat patients in the UK, all doctors must **register with the General Medical Council (GMC)**. There are several types of registration:

- **Provisional registration** is for doctors who have just qualified from medical school in the UK or from certain European Economic Area (EEA) member states.
- **Full registration** is for doctors who have completed their year's clinical training.
- **Limited registration** is for international medical graduates who have not completed the equivalent of a year's clinical training in the UK.
- **Specialist registration** is for doctors who have completed specialist medical training and have a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT).

The GP Register is a register of all those eligible to work in general practice in the NHS.

PLAB

Before they can **obtain full registration**, some categories of overseas doctors are required to take the **Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB)** test. PLAB is designed to ensure those who pass can practise safely at the level of an SHO in a first appointment in a UK hospital.

Part 1 consists of a written test of knowledge, skills and attitudes. Part 2 is an **Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)**. It consists of 16 five-minute clinical **scenarios**, known as **stations**, to assess professional skills.

PLAB stations and advice

OSCEs assess these skills:

- **Clinical examination:** Your ability to carry out a physical examination of a simulated patient, an actor trained to play this role, will be assessed. Uncomfortable or intimate examinations will be carried out using a **manikin**, an anatomical model.
- **Practical skills:** You will be assessed on practical skills such as suturing and giving intravenous injections.
- **Communication skills:** Your ability to interact with a simulated patient, or in some cases the examiner, will be assessed. Skills tested may include breaking bad news and giving advice on lifestyle.
- **History taking:** Your ability to take an accurate history and make a reasoned diagnosis will be assessed.

Advice on the stations from a successful candidate:

“Read the instructions outside each station carefully. You have one minute for this.”

“Don't forget the **ABC** (airways, breathing, circulation) **protocol** in every emergency station.”

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“Keep in mind **safety precautions** like throwing the **sharps** in the **sharps bin**.”

“Check the patient understands what is happening; then ask them about any concerns they may have. Don't just give a lecture. Listen carefully to what the actor says.”

What kind of registration might these doctors obtain?

- 1 A newly qualified Spanish doctor
- 2 A newly qualified Nigerian doctor
- 3 A doctor who has successfully completed the first Foundation Year (FY1)
- 4 An SHO who has successfully completed the Foundation Programme and gained a Certificate of Completion of Training after several specialist registrar posts

Spell out the meaning of each abbreviation.

- 1 Any doctor who wants to work in the UK must register with the GMC.
- 2 Some overseas doctors must pass the PLAB test before they can register.
- 3 Part 2 of the test consists of an OSCE.
- 4 In any emergency, remember the ABC protocol.
- 5 Before you can obtain specialist registration, you must have a CCT.

Complete the text.

My name's Musa and I come from Yemen. I came to the UK about two years ago, after graduating. Because Yemen is outside the EEA, I could only obtain (1) _____ with the (2) _____ at first. It was very difficult for me to obtain a place on a Foundation Programme. Although I speak good English, I had to take the (3) _____ test to show that I could work safely in the UK. If I had to give some advice to other candidates, it would be that at counselling (4) _____, you shouldn't simply memorize a set of phrases. It's better to really think about what you're saying to the actor and get the intonation right.

After completing my year's clinical training, I was able to obtain (5) _____. But I found it difficult to get an SHO post in my chosen specialty, paediatrics, as hospitals now have to demonstrate there isn't a suitable candidate from the EEA. Once I've completed my second Foundation Year, I should obtain a (6) _____ which will allow me to proceed to (7) _____ with the GMC, an important step on the road to becoming a paediatric consultant.

Express your idea.

Explain how a foreign doctor can register to work in your country. Find out how you can register to work in another country of your choice.

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