



# **Criteria for Turkish Health Care Professionals to attain GMC Registration: Licensing and Specialist Training**

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Prepared by ATHPA as an advisory document for The Turkish Embassy/Consulate

## **Criteria for Turkish Health Care Professionals to attain GMC Registration: Licensing and Specialist Training**

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### **Aims**

The aim of this document is to provide a summary outlining the General Medical Council (GMC) guidance for foreign healthcare professional detailing the requirements for registration to practice and recognition of specialist training.

This is purely an advisory document. There will be no opinion stated but a summary of guidance referencing GMC documentation.

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### **Applying to Join the Medical Register in the UK**

The GMC outlines the process of application for joining the medical register and subsequently receiving a license to practice. The process is different depending on 2 main factors: [1] Nationality [2] Location of qualification in Medicine. The following flowchart describes the process that foreign applicants must go through to achieve the right to practice medicine in the UK. The flowchart will focus on the differences in the paths to registration between candidates that have attained medical qualification inside and outside the EEA and Switzerland.

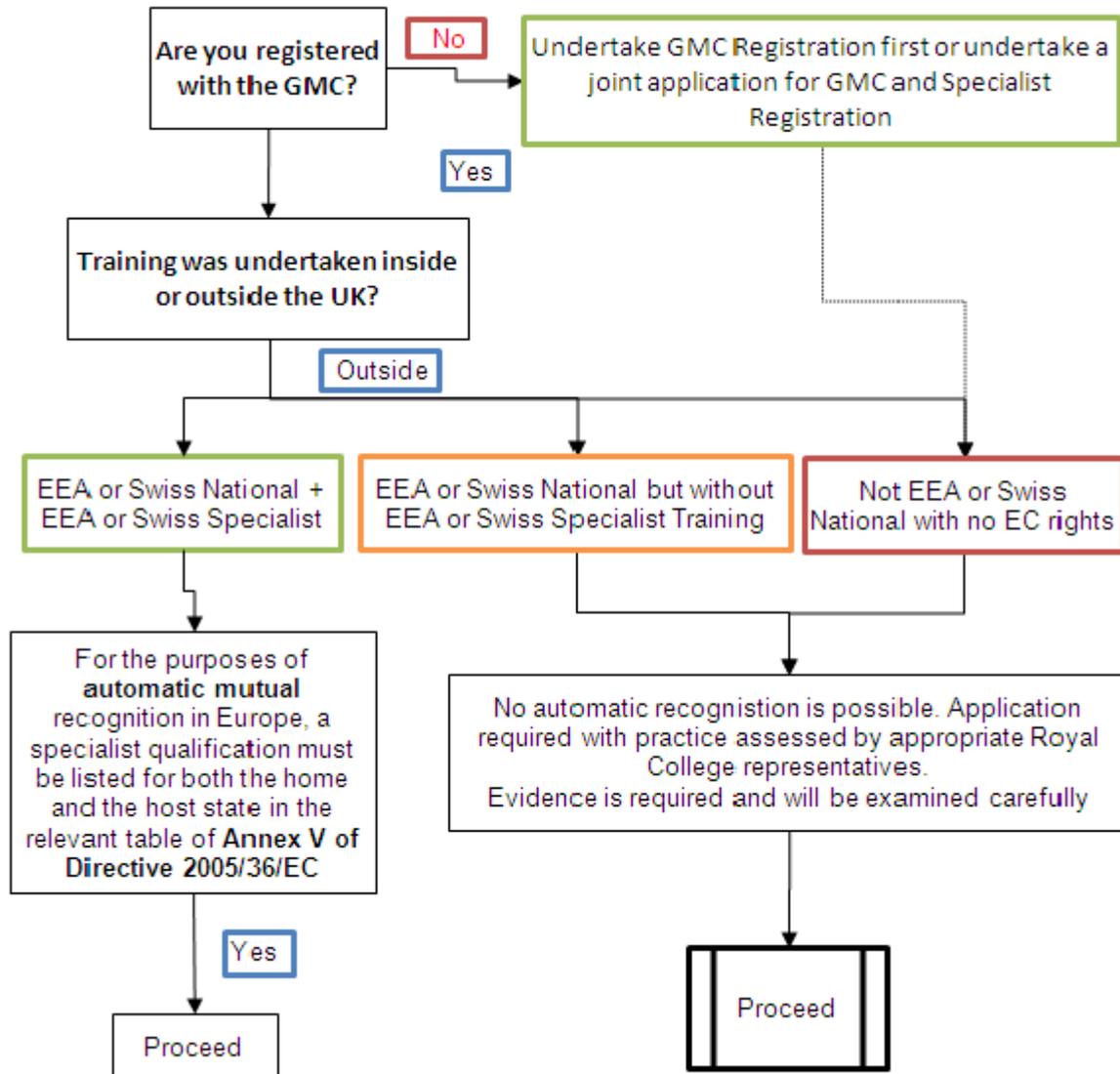
### **Applying to Join the Specialist Register**

The GMC outlines the process of application for specialist registry. This application should be undertaken by doctors with specialist training. Foreign specialists are eligible to apply dependent on a number of criteria. The following flow chart consolidates the criteria for application. Once GMC registration has been achieved, EEA and Swiss nationals who have undertaken their specialist training in EEA or Switzerland are then eligible for automatic mutual recognition as per Directive 2005/36/EC Annex V. If these candidates have achieved specialist training in an institution that is listed as mutually recognisable in Annex V then these candidates can proceed to specialist registration in the UK. If, however candidates have achieved specialist training outside EEA or Switzerland then these individuals will have to proceed with an evidence based application process for specialist recognition. The candidate will be required to provide evidence to show competency with references. A specialist surgeon for example will be required to provide a logbook of operations which the GMC will submit for examination to the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

A method of joint application for both Full GMC registration and specialist registration can also be undertaken.

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### Application for Specialist Registration



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### **Turkish Doctors and integration into the UK medical system**

This section will outline the process that a Turkish Graduate doctor will need to undertake in order to practice as a licensed doctor within the UK. This section will be sub-divided into 2 main subsections. These are:

1. Turkish doctors who have not undertaken Specialist Training in Turkey, who wish to work and/or specialise within a medical speciality within the UK
2. Turkish doctors who have undertaken specialist training in Turkey and wish to practice medicine as a specialist/consultant in the UK

Under current GMC regulations, Turkish doctors fall under the umbrella of International Medical Graduates (IMGs). The definition of this term by the GMC is given as:

We use the term "international medical graduates" to describe:

Doctors who have an acceptable overseas qualification and who are nationals of countries outside the UK, the EEA and Switzerland

**and**

Doctors who have an acceptable overseas qualification and are UK nationals.

### **Primary Medical Qualification**

First of all, a Turkish doctor must have a primary medical qualification in allopathic medicine that has been Awarded by an institution listed on the Avicenna Directory for Medicine. This database can be accessed at the following website: <http://avicenna.ku.dk/database/medicine/>

A primary medical qualification obtained from the following Turkish Medical Schools are accepted by the GMC are Listed in Appendix 1.

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### **Registering with the GMC**

All doctors wishing to work in any capacity in the UK (whether in the NHS or elsewhere) must be registered and licensed to practise with the GMC. The licence will need to be revalidated periodically if the doctor wishes to continue to practise in the UK. The GMC also sets the professional standards that doctors must uphold. If a doctor does not have registration with the GMC and a licence to practise they cannot practise medicine in the UK.

There are two categories of registration to work as a doctor in the UK, provisional registration and full registration. In addition, for a doctor to work as a GP (other than in a training capacity) or appointment to a substantive consultant post in the NHS they must be on the GP or specialist registers held by the GMC.

Within the EEA there is mutual recognition of equivalent training and qualifications and the right to free movement of workers between member states. Doctors who are citizens of another EEA country and have completed their basic medical training are therefore entitled to full registration with the GMC in the UK. Doctors will need to apply and provide evidence of their nationality and qualifications, and their English language proficiency will be checked on appointment by a prospective employer. They will also need evidence from their national professional licensing authority that their practice is not impaired or subject to any proceedings. Doctors may also apply to join the specialist or GP registers, provided they have the requisite equivalent training and qualifications.

For doctors outside the EEA, whether to apply for provisional or full registration, and GP or specialist registration, will depend on the nature and extent of a doctor's postgraduate experience.

Doctors who have a recognised medical degree and have satisfactorily completed either foundation year 1 in the UK or a 12 month period of similar postgraduate clinical experience (for example, an overseas internship) that, in the GMC's view, provides an acceptable foundation for future practice as a fully-registered medical practitioner, can apply for full registration. If they have not, they may only apply for

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provisional registration. Most Turkish graduates will have fulfilled this criteria, as an internship is undertaken in the last year of medical school.

The GMC will require evidence to support applications for registration demonstrating that the doctor:

- holds an acceptable primary medical qualification (as outlined above)
- has the requisite knowledge and skills for registration
- is not impaired from practise
- has the necessary knowledge of English.

Doctors may demonstrate their medical knowledge and skills in one of the following ways:

- A pass in the professional and linguistic assessments board (PLAB) test – an examination of language skills and medical competence in two parts. Part 1 can be taken overseas. Part 2 must be taken in the UK. Both of these have costs associated with them.
- Sponsorship by a medical Royal College or other sponsoring body for specific further postgraduate training – where suitability has been determined by the sponsor who is approved for that purpose by the GMC.
- An acceptable postgraduate qualification.
- Eligibility for entry in the specialist or GP registers.

A Turkish Graduate will need to pass the PLAB test before they can apply for registration with a licence to practise if they meet the following criteria:

They are a national of a country outside the UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland who graduated from a medical school outside the UK

OR

They are a UK national who has graduated from a medical school outside the UK, EEA or Switzerland

AND

They do not have [EC rights](#)

AND

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- ☞ They are not sponsored under an arrangement approved by the GMC
- OR
- ☞ They do not hold an approved postgraduate qualification
- OR
- ☞ They are not a trained GP or specialist

If they do not meet the above criteria, then they may be eligible to apply for registration with a licence to practise without passing the PLAB test.

Doctors applying for full registration must also submit evidence that they have satisfactorily completed either foundation year 1 in the UK or a period of postgraduate clinical experience that provides an acceptable foundation for future practice as a fully registered medical practitioner.

All doctors (including UK graduates and international medical graduates) who are new to full registration and taking up a new job, or restoring their names to the register after a prolonged absence from practice, are required to work within an approved practice setting (APS). These are workplaces approved by the GMC as suitable for doctors new to full registration. EEA graduates are also encouraged to ensure they too work in an approved practice setting when they first take up employment in the UK under full registration. Most NHS employers will have APS status.

### **Experience**

To be eligible for full registration with a licence to practise a graduate must have satisfactorily completed either F1 in the UK, or a period of pre-graduate or postgraduate clinical experience. This period of clinical experience will usually be referred to as an **internship**. They will be asked to provide details of their pre-graduate or postgraduate internship.

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To be acceptable the internship must be either:

- A 12 month programme that includes a minimum of three months in surgery and three months in medicine or
- A programme of at least 10 months duration that includes a minimum of three months in surgery and three months in medicine which also includes an additional period of study of up to two months in order to prepare for an exit exam, together with successful completion of all exit examinations or
- The equivalent of two years full time post qualification experience at a publicly funded hospital in at least two branches of medicine and/or surgery.

Only once a doctor has registered with the GMC and has obtained a Licence to Practice, they can work as a doctor within the UK.

Turkish doctors without specialist training who wish to specialise in the UK

In order to understand this process it is important to understand the process of postgraduate training that a UK graduate will need to undertake. This is outlined in the below diagram.

An applicant can apply into the training pathway at two different stages. The first is at an Foundation Program level. The Foundation Programme is a two-year generic training programme which forms the bridge between medical school and specialist/general practice training.

Trainees will have the opportunity to gain experience in a series of placements in a variety of specialties and healthcare settings.

### Foundation Year 1 (F1)

The first year of the Foundation Programme builds upon the knowledge, skills and competences acquired in undergraduate training. The learning objectives for this year are set by the General Medical Council. In order to attain full registration with the GMC, doctors must achieve specific competences by the end of this year.

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### Foundation Year 2 (F2)

The second year of the Foundation Programme builds on the first year of training. The F2 year main focus is on training in the assessment and management of the acutely ill patient. Training also encompasses the generic professional skills applicable to all areas of medicine - team work, time management, communication and IT skills.

The application process and rules for applying to Foundation Program posts are continuously changing and in view of the scope of this report, the rules and regulations are too vast. A copy of the 2012 Foundation Programme Handbook is attached to this document and outlines the process and rules and regulation regarding recruitment to FP rotations. This document can also be downloaded from <http://www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/pages/home/how-to-apply>.

The second point of entry to specialist training within the UK is at the beginning of Specialist / GP training.

### **Conclusion**

We have outlined a summary of the process for full GMC and specialist registration in the UK. Turkish healthcare professionals will need to undertake PLAB examinations prior to full GMC registration. Their specialist training is not recognised under Directive 2005/36/EC and therefore will be subject to examination by the GMC under a case-by-case basis.

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**Appendix 1 – Turkish Medical Schools with an acceptable primary  
medical qualification**

Turkey

- ☞ [Abant İzzet Baysal Üniversitesi](#)  
Düzce Tıp Fakültesi Dekanlığı, Düzce, Bolu
- ☞ [Akdeniz University Faculty of Medicine](#)  
Antalya
- ☞ [Ankara University Faculty of Medicine](#)  
Ankara
- ☞ [Atatürk University Medical Faculty](#)  
Erzurum
- ☞ [Baskent University Faculty of Medicine](#)  
Ankara
- ☞ [Celal Bayar University. School of Medicine](#)  
Manisa
- ☞ [Cukurova Üniversitesi](#)  
Tıp Fakültesi, Balçalı, Adana
- ☞ [Cumhuriyet Üniversitesi](#)  
Tıp Fakültesi, Sivas
- ☞ [Dicle University Faculty of Medicine](#)  
Diyarbakır
- ☞ [Dokuz Eylül University. Faculty of Medicine](#)  
İzmir
- ☞ [Ege University. Faculty of Medicine](#)  
Bornova-İzmir
- ☞ [Erciyes University Medical Faculty](#)  
Kayseri
- ☞ [Firat Üniversitesi](#)  
Tıp Fakültesi, Elazığ
- ☞ [Gazi University Faculty of Medicine](#)  
Ankara
- ☞ [Gaziantep Üniversitesi](#)  
Tıp Fakültesi, Gaziantep
- ☞ [Gulhane Military Faculty of Medicine](#)  
Ankara
- ☞ [Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine](#)  
Ankara

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- ☞ [Harran University Faculty of Medicine](#)  
Sanliurfa
- ☞ [Inonu Universitesi](#)  
Tip Fakultesi, Malatya
- ☞ [Istanbul Bilim University Medical Faculty](#)  
Istanbul
- ☞ [Istanbul University Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty](#)  
Istanbul
- ☞ [Istanbul University. Istanbul Medical Faculty](#)  
Istanbul
- ☞ [Kahramanmaras Sutcu Imam University Faculty of Medicine](#)  
Kahramanmaras
- ☞ [Karadeniz Technical University Faculty of Medicine](#)  
Trabzon
- ☞ [Koc University School of Medicine](#)  
Istanbul
- ☞ [Kocaeli Universitesi](#)  
Tip Fakultesi, Derince, Kocaeli
- ☞ [Kocaeli University Medical School](#)  
Izmit
- ☞ [Maltepe Universitesi](#)  
Tip Fakultesi, Maltepe, Istanbul
- ☞ [Marmara University School of Medicine](#)  
Istanbul
- ☞ [Ondokuz Mayis University Medical Faculty](#)  
Samsun
- ☞ [Osmangazi Universitesi](#)  
Tip Fakultesi, Meselik, Eskisehir
- ☞ [Pamukkale Universitesi](#)  
Tip Fakultesi, Kinikli, Denizli
- ☞ [Selcuk University. Selcuklu Medical Faculty](#)  
Konya
- ☞ [Suleyman Demirel University. Medical Faculty](#)  
Isparta
- ☞ [Trakya University Faculty of Medicine](#)  
Edirne
- ☞ [Uludag University Faculty of Medicine](#)  
Bursa

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☞ [Yeditepe Universitesi](#)

Tip Fakultesi, Acibadem-Kadikoy, Istanbul

☞ [Yuzuncu Yil Universitesi](#)

Tip Fakultesi, Van

☞ [Zonguldak Karaelmas, Faculty of Medicine](#)

Zonguldak

### **Appendix 2 – Foundaiton Program Handbook**

Can also be downloaded from

<http://www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/pages/home/how-to-apply>