

Irish Medical Council Registration – Entry to Trainee Specialist Division

- The NCHD Contract requires all junior doctors participating in a structured training programme to hold Trainee Specialist Division registration. Given the Training Bodies' role in the selection of trainees to training programmes and the subsequent proposal of such trainees to employment positions within the health service, it is required that all applicants to training programmes would either hold or be eligible to hold registration on the Trainee Specialist Division.
- In that context all applicants must indicate at the time of application their eligibility to hold registration on the Trainee Specialist Division. Following amendments to the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 in 2020, all doctors who are eligible for registration in the General Division are now also eligible for registration in the Trainee Specialist Division.

Note: Only candidates applying to the Medical Council for registration *for the first time* (i.e., have never previously held registration in the Trainee or General Divisions) must provide proof of their eligibility to the Trainee Specialist Division at the time of application.

The following doctors are automatically eligible for registration in the General and Trainee Specialist Divisions:

- Doctors who have graduated from an Irish Medical School and successfully completed their internship in Ireland or will have completed their internship by July 2022.
- Doctors who have successfully completed their medical qualification in one of the following EU countries:
 - Austria
 - Belgium
 - Bulgaria
 - Croatia
 - Cyprus
 - Czech Republic
 - Estonia
 - Finland
 - France
 - Germany
 - Greece
 - Hungary
 - Latvia
 - Netherlands
 - Romania
 - Spain
 - Switzerland
 - Slovak Republic

Note: Doctors who qualified in an EU member state other than one of the above will be required to provide, in addition to their medical degree, any additional documentation stated in the EU Directive 2005/36/EC, in order to establish eligibility for registration. Example, a doctor who qualifies in Poland will be asked to provide a LEK in addition to his/her medical degree when applying for registration.

- Doctors who are currently or were previously registered on the Trainee Specialist Division or the General Division of the Irish Medical Council Register.

Applicants who have qualified outside the EU must pass or be exempt from the pre-registration exam, the PRES, to establish eligibility for General and/ or Trainee Specialist registration.

Equivalent Internship exemption

The Medical Council recognises internships undertaken in the following countries as equivalent and applicants for registration who have completed one of these internships will be exempt from the PRES:

- UK (Foundation Year 1)
- Australia
- Malaysia
- New Zealand
- Pakistan where the internship was commenced after 31st December 2008 (note: the rotations must meet the standards of an Irish internship)
- Sudan
- South Africa where the internship was commenced after 1st July 2006
- Malta

Higher qualification exemption

Exemptions from the PRES can be granted to applicants who hold a listed higher qualification and have either undertaken an internship of at least twelve months which comprised of a minimum of three months in medicine in general and three months in surgery in general OR have completed a minimum of three years in an accredited training programme.

<https://www.medicalcouncil.ie/registration-applications/first-time-applicants/general-registration-non-eu-eea-trained-doctors.html>

the Medical Council advises that first time applicants for registration who have qualified in the EU should submit their application for registration at least 8 weeks in advance of their commencement date.

Non-EU qualified doctors should apply at least 12- 16 weeks in advance.