



Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis Medical Council

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING OVERSEAS INTERNSHIPS FOR PURPOSES OF GRANTING A CERTIFICATE OF EXPERIENCE

This document is primarily intended for final year medical students and recent graduates of medical schools in Ireland who are considering or intending to undertake an overseas internship. This document should be read in conjunction with the Medical Council's *"standards for training and experience required for the granting of a certificate of experience"*, available on the Council's website.

A. Overseas internship and the Medical Council

Now that Part 10 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 is in force, the Medical Council can no longer prospectively approve an intern training post outside Ireland; its powers in this regard are confined to the State.

Internships undertaken outside the State, including outside the EU, can be recognised retrospectively for the purposes of obtaining a certificate of experience with a view to being entered on the Register of Medical Practitioners in Ireland. It will therefore be the experience of the intern that the Medical Council will assess for registration purposes.

You therefore need to ensure before you take up an overseas intern training post that it provides appropriate experience to support any subsequent application for registration. You need to be proactive in making your decision about the suitability of a prospective post. As well as consulting this document and the Medical Council's *"standards for training and experience required for the granting of a certificate of experience"*, you should consult your medical school if you need additional advice.

B. Criteria for evaluating an overseas intern post

1. Type of rotation

Rotations must comply with the Medical Council's policy on duration of internship and rotations; that is, a minimum of twelve months, which should normally be consecutive, of which at least three months must be spent in Medicine in general and at least three months in Surgery in general. As part of this twelve-month period, you may also be employed for not less than two months and not more than four months in the following specialties:

- Emergency Medicine
- General Practice
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Paediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Anaesthesia (to include perioperative medicine)
- Radiology

2. Accreditation

You should ensure that the training site where you train is affiliated with a recognised medical school and / or a postgraduate training network which is accredited by relevant authorities in the host country. You will be expected to provide evidence of this if / when you seek a certificate of experience.

3. Training

Ethos

The intern year must comprise a combination of, and integration between, formal and informal training, practical and theoretical learning, and training and service delivery

Training by clinical practice

There must be:

- Practice-based training involving your personal participation, at an appropriate level, in the services and responsibilities of patient-care activity in the training institution
- Personal participation by you at an appropriate level in all medical activities relevant to the training, including on-call duties
- The opportunity for you to exercise the degree of responsibility and clinical decision-making appropriate to your growing competency, skills, knowledge and experience
- The opportunity for you to work as part of a team composed of a variety of disciplinary backgrounds.

Formal education and training

You should have regular, pre-arranged formal education and training sessions, with learning opportunities that may include lectures, small group tutorials, case presentations and discussions, the opportunity to participate in clinical audit, and external courses.

You will be expected to provide evidence of all of the above if / when you seek a certificate of experience.

4. Supervision

There must be effective supervision by an identified clinician(s) of an appropriately senior level, normally a specialist doctor who is recognised as a specialist by the regulatory authority of the host country. They are responsible for overseeing training

and ensuring the provision of appropriate, agreed educational programmes. They will be expected to meet requirements set by the Medical Council in sign-off. Examples of individuals appropriate to sign off on your experience include Deans / Heads of Medical Schools / Faculties linked with the site, or Directors of Medical Education of the postgraduate training body linked with the site.

5. Assessment

There must be evidence of regular and constructive feedback and assessment by your trainer / supervisor who has knowledge of your development and performance and can verify your satisfactory progress and that you have passed any relevant examinations.

You must take a high degree of personal responsibility for maintaining a record of your progress and attainment, carefully documenting educational process and outcomes including your patient exposure, clinical skills development, and formal and informal teaching and learning. Any interruptions to training should be documented. Maintenance of a log book or portfolio is advised. You should check the Medical Council's website for information about the format of this.

When you are reflecting – in conjunction with your supervisor or in a personal capacity - on your progress and attainment, you should be aware of the Medical Council's *"Eight Domains of Good Professional Practice"*, available on the Council's website. You should consider mapping and matching your experience and growing competency to these domains, bearing in mind that a single patient interaction could provide an opportunity to enhance competencies in several of these domains.

6. Professionalism

The training environment should emphasise professionalism and the development and maintenance of the relevant knowledge, skills, attitude and behaviour, including communication skills, integrity, compassion, honesty, adherence to professional codes, respect for patients and their families, colleagues, and oneself. You must be aware of, and comply with, the Medical Council's *"Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Medical Practitioners"*, available on the Council's website.

7. Resources

The site should have:

- Access to a sufficient number of patients and an appropriate case mix that gives you exposure to a broad range of appropriate clinical cases
- Space and opportunity for private study and access to adequate professional literature, including on-line access

The number of trainees on a site should be appropriate to the resources on the site, without undue pressure on patients from trainees.

8. Supportive Environment

The training site should emphasise the primacy of patient safety, and you should be encouraged to raise ethical issues with the clinical supervisor and/or the hospital authorities. You should have access to counselling in the event of work-related or personal problems, including any instances of bullying.

Further information on intern issues can be found on the Medical Council website www.medicalcouncil.ie.

You can email the Council at educationandtraining@mcirl.ie with general queries but please note we cannot provide information about particular jobs