



MEDIA RELEASE

8 February 2018

Healthcare-specific English test, OET, now accepted in the UK and Ireland for doctors

Internationally trained doctors seeking to register and work in the UK and Ireland will now be able to take an English language test designed specifically for healthcare professionals.

From 8 February the General Medical Council (GMC) and the Medical Council (MC), which regulate doctors in the UK and Ireland respectively, will routinely accept OET - the Occupational English Test – as proof of English proficiency for registration.

Jointly owned by the UK's Cambridge Assessment English and Australia's Box Hill Institute, OET is well-established and recognised by authorities in Australia, Dubai, New Zealand and Singapore. It is also accepted by the UK's Nursing and Midwifery Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland.

OET CEO Sujata Stead explained: "What sets OET apart from other tests is that it's designed for healthcare. We use real communication scenarios, similar to the ones healthcare professionals encounter every day".

"For example, a doctor's speaking skills will be assessed via a face-to-face role play using a typical scenario, such as a patient consultation where trained interlocutors play the part of a patient or carer."

Professor Martyn Partridge, Professor of Respiratory Medicine at Imperial College, London, recently reviewed OET materials for medicine and said: "The test materials have been produced to an extremely high standard, are authentic and valid, and highly relevant to day-to-day practice in the UK."

OET CEO Sujata Stead concluded: "We are delighted that both the GMC and the MC are giving wider choice to overseas doctors seeking to register and work in the UK and Ireland. Communication is vitally important in delivering safe and quality care, and OET as a healthcare-specific test, ensures that doctors who have achieved the required level can communicate effectively in their workplace."

The Occupational English Test is currently available every month in more than 100 locations in 40 countries. For more information go to: www.occupationalenglishtest.org.

For more information about the GMC English language test requirements for OET, go to: https://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/registration_applications/routeF.asp.

For more information about the IMC English language test requirements for OET, go to: <https://www.medicalcouncil.ie/Registration-Applications/First-Time-Applicants/English-Language.html>.

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About OET

OET is an international English language test that assesses the communication skills of healthcare professionals seeking to register and practise in an English-speaking environment.

OET results are accepted by boards and councils in the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Dubai and Singapore as proof of English language proficiency. It is also recognised by the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection and Immigration New Zealand for all visa categories where proof of English language skills is required.

OET is owned by Cambridge Boxhill Language Assessment, a venture between Cambridge Assessment English (part of Cambridge University) and Box Hill Institute, Australia.

For more information about OET, visit: www.occupationalenglishtest.org.

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About GMC

The General Medical Council (GMC) is an independent organisation that helps to protect patients and improve medical education and practice across the UK.

- It decides which doctors are qualified to work here and oversees UK medical education and training.
- It sets the standards that doctors need to follow, and makes sure that they continue to meet these standards throughout their careers.
- It takes action when it believes a doctor may be putting the safety of patients, or the public's confidence in doctors, at risk.

It is independent of government and the medical profession, and accountable to Parliament. The GMC's powers were given by Parliament through the Medical Act 1983.

The GMC is a registered charity (number 1089278 with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, and number SC037750 with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator), and has to show that its aims are for public benefit.

The GMC Media Relations Office can be contacted on 020 7189 5454, email press@gmc-uk.org.

To find out more please visit their website www.gmc-uk.org.

About MC

The Medical Council is the regulatory body for doctors in the Republic of Ireland. It has a statutory role in protecting the public by promoting the highest professional standards amongst doctors.

The Council has a majority of non-medical members. The 25-member Council consists of 13 non-medical members and 12 medical members. The Council receives no State support and is funded primarily by doctors' registration fees.

The Medical Council maintains the Register of Medical Practitioners - the Register of all doctors who are legally permitted to carry out medical work in Ireland.

The Council also sets the standards for medical education and training in Ireland. It oversees lifelong learning and skills development throughout doctors' professional careers through its professional competence requirements. It is charged with promoting good medical practice.

The IMC Media Relations Office can be contacted on +353 1 4983156, email communications@mcirl.ie.

To find out more please visit their website: www.medicalcouncil.ie.