



MEDIA RELEASE

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OET supports pilot to improve English skills of nurses from Kerala

OET is supporting a pilot programme that is helping to upskill nurses from the state of Kerala, India, who are coming to work in the UK.

The programme is the brainchild of Health Education England in collaboration with The Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Consultants Ltd (a government of Kerala undertaking). It is designed to help ensure that nurses coming to the UK from Kerala have the English language skills they need to do their jobs.

The pilot started at the end of October when a group of 23 nurses began an English preparation course in Kerala. Following the course, the nurses will take OET in December.

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

Mickey Bonin from OET said: 'We're delighted to be supporting such an important initiative. Nurses from India play a huge role in the success of the NHS and it's essential that they have the English language skills they need for success. Nurses with the right communication skills are able to settle into their host country, carry out their jobs successfully and deliver the highest possible patient care. It's long been accepted that good communication means good patient care and these types of programmes are a crucial part of helping to ease the nursing shortages in the NHS.'

ODEPC said: "The pilot is part of a wider project Health Education England are working on with ODEPC as part of their global learning programme – a health workforce initiative designed to bring experienced overseas staff to work in the NHS on placements. As part of the programme, Health Education England are working with a number NHS Trusts to offer placement opportunities for these overseas nurses."

HEE added: "OET was chosen as part of the programme as it is trusted by regulators, hospitals and universities in the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Dubai, Malta and Singapore as proof of ability to communicate effectively."

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About OET

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

OET results are accepted by healthcare boards and councils in the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Dubai, Malta, Namibia and Ukraine as proof of English language proficiency. OET is also recognised in Australia and New Zealand for visa purposes.

Available at more than 140 venues in 43 countries, OET is owned by Cambridge Boxhill Language Assessment, a venture between Cambridge Assessment English and Box Hill Institute, Australia. For more information visit <http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org>.

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Caption:

OET representatives with ODEPC Managing Director Anoop. K.A. (front, left) at the ODEPC office in Thiruvananthapuram.

Back: David Wiltshire, Aashish Bhushan, Shakina Mohol, Arun Chandran, Milen Jacob
Front: Anoop. K.A., Georgina Herbert