



MEDIA RELEASE

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OET recognised for major NHS foundation programme

The Occupational English Test (OET) can now be used as proof of English language ability for an employers' foundation programme aimed at recruiting international doctors to work in the UK National Health Service (NHS).

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. It covers all four language skills with an emphasis on communication in a healthcare environment.

The new recognition means that OET can be used as proof of English language ability by international doctors applying for all foundation programmes organised by the UKFPO. The Foundation Programme is designed to place international doctors who are eligible for General Medical Council registration on a foundation programme with NHS employers.

Mickey Bonin, Head of Strategy from OET said: "Recruiting NHS doctors with the right levels of English language ability remains an ongoing challenge and that's why we're delighted to be included in this important initiative. Overseas doctors play an essential role in healthcare, and professionals who have successfully passed OET have proved they have excellent communication skills which are essential for good patient care".

Trainees taking part in the foundation programmes will have the opportunity to gain experience in a series of placements in a variety of specialties and healthcare settings. Every year the UKFPO place thousands of newly graduated medicine graduates on the two-year foundation programmes and F2 stand-alone programmes with NHS Employers.

Find out more about the programme and the eligibility here.

<https://www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/content/f2-stand-alone>

<https://www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/content/stand-alone-faqs>

<https://foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/faqs/english-language-proficiency-faqs/>

helpdesk@foundationprogramme.nhs.uk

About OET

OET is the world's only international English language test that assesses the language communication skills of healthcare professionals.

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. In Australia and New Zealand OET is also accepted for visa and immigration purposes, while doctors and nurses in the UK are no longer required to take a separate English language test when applying for a Tier 2 (General) visa.

Available at more than 145 venues in 44 countries, OET is owned by Cambridge Boxhill Language Assessment, a venture between Cambridge Assessment English and Box Hill Institute, Australia. For more information visit <https://www.occupationalenglishtest.org>

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