

I want to WORK in UK as a DOCTOR

for Dummies

it is good idea to work in UK as doctor because , it is a good country to live and work. You will get paid well. Human rights are respected and no racism or discrimination. You will get first class working experience. You have lots of opportunity to progress in your career. You will have better quality of life.

Will I get Job in UK?

Currently, there are more chances and more vacancies. So you will most likely get a job in 1-2 months of getting registration.

Is it easy to do?

Compare to any other country entrance exam, this is the easiest but you need to know English to start.

WHAT IS THE FIRST THING NEED TO BE DONE?

Everyone who wants to work in UK as doctor must have passed IELTS English exams.

So this IELTS assess your speaking, writing, listening and reading ability separately and you are expected to achieve more than 7 out of 9 in each module and overall mark of 7.5 out of 9.

This is the most difficult part for many doctors, so you may have to try this exam many times. There are people who had to give IELTS more than 10 times but they passed rest of the exams in first attempt. So never give up.

IELTS can be done as many time as you want until you get desired score.

IELTS can be done in any country where this centre available.
You are expected to do academic version of IELTS.
You can prepare IELTS in British council or in any private center.
You can give IELTS even before completing medical degree.

Books are available in book shops and internet. You may download from
<http://www.englishtips.org/>

The link provided will gives you full information about IELTS
<http://www.ielts.org/>

Some people may exemption from IELTS , see below
http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/registration_applications/language_proficiency.asp

IELTS cost around 125-150 pounds

What will I do after passing IELTS?

After completing IELTS only, you may able to book for PLAB 1 exam.

PLAB – professional linguistic assessment board examination
This exam has two parts, PLAB 1 and PLAB 2

You can book for this exam online from the link below,
<http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/plab/23452.asp>

PLAB 1 exam is multiple choice exams, of single best answer type. No negative marking.
You can prepare by attending course or by self study (will take time).

You can also practice mock question online or in centers like
http://plabtrainer.co.uk/?gclid=CjwKEAju7MuqBRC2nNacqJmIpT0SjABQXA0tnsVfQW1H7DPXWJDHhUSgMz71VYrLv1kPgmg0GPbFxoCOsXw_wcB

if you want to know more about question, and exam you may join facebook forums
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/407903599363803/>

This exam is held in certain countries outside UK, you can attend in your country. You may not have to travel UK if you are not attending the course.

You will get the results in 1 month after exam. The score is not matter at all. You need to just pass the exam. You have to do 200 MCQ in 3 hours , usually you have to get above 125 to 130 to pass.

To pass PLAB 1 mock questions are vital, you will not pass if you don't practice mocks.
PLAB 1 cost 155.00 pounds

What will I do after passing PLAB 1?

You can book for PLAB 2 exam as soon as you passed PLAB1 (you can check your results online) . PLAB 2 fee is 465 pounds.

The PLAB 2 can be done in MANCHESTER only. Nowhere else. So you must come to UK somehow.

For PLAB 2 , you need to attend the course. If you don't attend the course you will most likely fail. Please don't listen to someone who advice not to attend, it means they are guiding to fail.

You can attend the course in London,

http://plabtrainer.co.uk/?gclid=CjwKEAiw7MuqBRC2nNacqJmIpT0SJABQXA0tnsVfQW1H7DPXWJDHhUSgMz71VYrLv1kPgmg0GPbFxoCOsXw_wcB

you need to prepare for PLAB 2 for 6 weeks, including 12 day course.
It will cost around 560 pounds.

PLAB 2 exam asses your history taking, counseling, examination and clinical procedure. It is an OSCE exam, each station last 5 minutes, totally 17 station (including 1 rest and 2 pilot) so you are expected to pass 9 station out of 14 stations.

Passing 9 station is not enough , you also need to get good average marks to pass.

Pass mark depend on the performance of the candidates of the same day. So it is a competitive exam, you pass depend on others too. You need to be well prepared to compete other candidates.

Importantly don't read anything for PLAB 2, if you attend a course, the will give notes and they will train you all the way. This is the easiest exam compare to any other medical exam of any country.

If you want to attend the course, you need accommodation to live in London. Academies arrange accommodation or you can arrange your own.

You need to do mock exams, practice manikin and examination to prepare for your exam.

You may meet friends at course center and you will be allowed to practice in the center after completing the course. If you fail the exam, you may return to center and practice without extra payment.

For one month rent will be around 250-500 pounds.

How do I get visa to come to UK?

You need to apply for visa in UK embassy in your country.

You apply for PLAB visa.

You need to show evidence of money to spend.

Evidence of booked exam or course.

You may need to satisfy visa officer that you will return to your country after exam.

Visa fee may differ you can read more here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-visitor-doctors-coming-for-plab-test-vat15/business-visitor-doctors-coming-for-plab-test-vat15>

What to do after passing PLAB 2?

The plab 2 results released in 2 weeks time, before getting the results you can do clinical attachment and start applying for jobs and apply for registration.

What is clinical attachment?

Clinical attachment or clinical observership are just to familiarize yourself to the UK hospital environment.

Normally done for 4-6 weeks. You just watch what is going on in UK hospital. You may be allowed to do something which is not going to affect the patient care.

It cost little money to get this attachment. (200 to 500 pounds)

You can try to e-mail any consultant of near or desired hospital. If they agree you will be asked to contact human resources department so you can go through occupational and ID checkups.

Occupational check up includes some screening of infectious diseases.

Some hospital does an organized way where you directly contact HR and they arrange you the consultant and everything.

You will be given reference at the end of your attachment, so you can use it for your job application.

Clinical attachment is not compulsory for getting job or for general medical council registration. You just do it for improving your confidence.

PLAB is like USMLE?

No, in plab you don't study preclinical subjects, it has only 2 parts. Much easier than USMLE.

How do I apply for registration?

UK general medical council governs all the doctors in UK. In order to work in UK you must be registered and hold a license to practice.

Once you passed PLAB 2 , you can apply for registration as soon as.

You can apply for Provisional registration , if you have not done internship somewhere else.

If you have done your internship which satisfy GMC criteria, you may apply for full registration.

When you apply online, you need to pay a fee and you would be able to have list all your qualification and work history since you graduated without missing a single day.

You are allowed to put unemployed if you have gap years but you should not leave blank.

Once you submitted your online application, GMC will reply you with some questions about your applications and required documents . Also will send you a reference form where you need to get signed by your previous employers.

The question can be answered via email, but you need to get signed the reference form and then scan it and send to GMC via e mail.

In the reference form GMC requires your employer work email, you cant use yahoo or hotmail or gmail ID. GMC also will mail them to verify the reference.

Once the GMC is happy about your answers, scanned reference form and got e mail confirmation from your employer, happy about your degree documents, GMC will call or mail you to make an appointment with GMC office (can be LONDON)

You are expected to take all the original documents and original reference form to the GMC on the appointment day. Once they verified your original documents, on the sameday, they will give you registration certificate with license to practice.

you will need to give us a Certificate of Good Standing (CGS) from each of the medical regulatory authorities that you have listed.

This may be known as a certificate of past good standing if you are no longer registered with that authority.

Certificates of Good Standing can take some time to arrive, please make sure you have all CGS **before** you apply.

How do I apply for JOB?

You can start applying for JOB as soon as you passed PLAB 2. Some jobs you may not be able to but most of them you can. In the application you can mention that you applied for registration.

You can apply for job via NHS job website

<https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/>

you need to fill the form on the website which you can use it for all the job.

It is better to go for any job at the start and then look for desired one after some UK experience.

When you apply for a JOB, read the person specification and try to cover all the essential criteria in your application so you will be short listed for interview.

So you need to make minor changes according to the person specification on the application before submitting to each job.

Essential criteria are that you must have to get the job. Desirable criteria are just you will be given priority if you have them.

It is better to apply for any job anywhere in UK.

Why do people struggle with registration?

If you are the first person is going to apply for registration from your university, you may need to provide some extra documents to validate your university degree.

Also, if your internship is not covered in the GMC criteria, you may have delay.

If you have difficulty in proving whatever you stated to GMC. Or

If any information contradicts, you may get delayed.

After working for 1 or few or many years, I did not work for many years, can I still get registration?

It depends on the individual case, in rare occasion you may be asked to work for 10 months somewhere you worked already or you may have to go through another exam (clinical assessment – This exam has no pass fail, just to put you in the right level) [this clinical assessment is different from UKFPO foundation year clinical assessment)

What type of JOB will I apply?

There are two types of job you can apply. Once is trainee job and other is non trainee job. Trainee job is the one you will be systemically trained to progress in your specialty. In non trainee job this not available.

Trainee job can be applied to the deaneries only in certain time of the year (during national recruitment)

<http://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/>

There may also vacancy in other times, but they are rare.

<https://www.oriel.nhs.uk/Web/Vacancies>

British citizens and European citizens are given priority for trainee post. Even if you have good CV, you may not get it.

What level job will I apply?

People with provisional registration, cannot apply for any job other than foundation year 1 (internship) , this can be done once in a year via UKFPO.

<http://www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/pages/home>

you must have work permit to get this FY1 job, if you have work permit you will be equal to British citizens, you will not be discriminated.

If you do not have work permit before hand , it is almost impossible to get FY1 post during national recruitment.

You may also get stand alone LAT (locum appointment trainee) post available in NHS job wensite.

This is to cover maternity or sick leave. It normally available for 3-6 months. You need to fine 2-3 stand alone jobs to fulfill the internship criteria.

Normally this job goes to who are in waiting list of UKFPO or who have full registration.

There will be FY1 locum appointment service jobs available in NHS JOBS website, but this jobs are not allowed to do by provisional registration holders, this job is only for full registration holders.

People who have already full registration can apply for any job level according to their experience and speciality.

Doctors who finished internship only need to apply for FY2 or SHO posts.

Doctors who have 2 years experience may go for CT1 level or ST 1 level.

People who have many years expeience can even skip CT (core training) and go to Specialty training of suitable level.

What level you apply depends on how long you worked in certain specialty and specialty itself.

How do I apply for training programme?

Foundation year 1 training can be applied via UKFPO, if you have IELTS 7.5 on each module provisional registration and work permit.

If you have 2 years or more gap since graduation, you may need to go through clinical assessment (OSCE) exam.

<http://www.south.manchester.ac.uk/ukfpo/about.asp>

Doctors who have full registration and who have IELTS of 7.5 on each module may apply for FY 2 training. You need to find vacancy in each deanery and apply for it.

It has only limited vacancies so competitive

<http://www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/pages/home/how-to-apply/F2-LATs>

after FY1 and FY 2 you may go into Core training CT or ST specialty training.

CT or ST depends on the specialty you choose,

Some specialties are run-through, which means it does not have core training system.

Most of the specialty has CT , as you have to do 2 years of CT then again you have to apply for ST according to your preference of specialty.

<http://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/specialty-recruitment/person-specifications-2013/2015-person-specifications/>

these CT or ST training recruitment is done once in a year so you should not miss the dead line. Also As I said above British and Europeans are given priority.

What specialty will I choose?

Some doctors choose it during the medical school.

Many doctors keep the mind open. If you have chosen already, try to show your commitment toward your specialty by work experience, audit, research, royal college exams, MSc , PhD, conferences, MD, publications etc

If you have not chosen yet, please read all about work life

https://www.medicalcareers.nhs.uk/specialty_pages.aspx

Not only know the competition for the specialty , also know the population of consultants, demand for the field so you can become consultant easily.

Some specialty are really really hard to become consultant even if you complete all the ST levels. So know before going into them.

<http://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/specialty-recruitment/competition-ratios/>

https://www.medicalcareers.nhs.uk/specialty_pages/workforce_statistics.aspx

All the specialty has their own royal college or faculties, you are expected to pass the exams in order to progress in your career.

You will less likely become registrar without completing all the part of membership exams like MRCP or MRCS etc

Skipping PLAB and get direct specialty registration with GMC?

There are some possibilities, but if you attend PLAB 1 exam, then you have to go through all PLAB 2 before applying for specialist registration.

(same as IELTS, if you tried once, you will never get exemption)

<http://www.gmc->

[uk.org/Routes to the GP and Specialist Register Final Report.pdf](http://www.gmc-uk.org/Routes_to_the_GP_and_Specialist_Register_Final_Report.pdf) 48195178.pdf

<http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/UIMGinfo.asp>

<http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-who-you-are/international-healthcare-professionals/information-for-overseas-doctors/faqs-for-overseas-doctors/#a5>

What if I am called for Job interview?

Feel that you are clever and lucky. Be confident.

You need to prepare it. Take the interview as exam. Do good home work.

There Pdf available to read. (write me for the name)

Watch some videos on you tube , do research, be ready.

What if I am selected on the interview?

They may let you know immediately or in few days time.

If you got the job, you will be asked to do pre-employment check, occupational check up, and CRB check up etc. don't worry hospital will guide you.

Hospital will give you job offer with sponsorship.

You need to go back to your country and convert your PLAB visa into Work permit to come to UK. Once you come back you can start working immediately.

You can convert into work permit without leaving the country if you have PLAB visa.

[You can extend the PLAB visa or get clinical attachment visa without leaving the country]

So once you come to UK for PLAB 2 it is better to go back with sponsorship so you can come back and join.

Where do I stay while I work?

Hospital may provide you accommodation 350-500 pounds with bills per month. You can also rent room or house privately, then you need to pay council tax and utility bills yourself. This option is necessary if you are with family.

Do I have to do anything before starting?

Do clinical attachement, if possible

Attend NHS orientation course if possible

Arrange insurance for your work (MUST)

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/immigration/doctors-new-to-the-uk/medical-defence-and-indemnity>

Talk to people who are working in NHS or who knows better

How much will I earn?

It depend on the level of job and the place (if you work in London , you will be paid extra-London allowance) please read the LINK

<http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-career/doctors/pay-for-doctors/>

can I bring my family?

Of course you can bring them on dependent category visa. They can also work here if suitable work is available.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-dependants-of-uk-visa-applicants-tiers-1-2-4-5>

Any bit of advice regarding work?

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/immigration/doctors-new-to-the-uk/medical-defence-and-indemnity>

Never do any procedure above your competency.

Never hesitate to say no If you are not confidence.

Patient safety and good communication is very important than your knowledge.
(understand this sentence very well)

Be enthusiastic and polite

Try to improve your CV by doing audit and etc

Do your e-portfolio (if you work for 3 months in UK hospital , the consultant you work under, may sign your competency level so you can apply for training programmes.

You can register with BMA , so you can benefit in many ways

<http://bma.org.uk/>

You can register with doctors.net , so you can do online module to add e portfolio

<http://www.doctors.net.uk/>

How Do I prepare PART 1 royal college exams?

You can join onexamination or pastest for royal college membership examination

<http://my.onexamination.com/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fAssessment%2fDefault.aspx>

<http://emedica.co.uk/>

<http://www.emrcs.com/index.php>

<http://mrcgpexamprep.co.uk/>

passmedicine is cheapest

<http://www.passmedicine.com/>

<http://www.pastest.co.uk/>

How Do I prepare for OSCE or paces of MRCS/ MRCP and etc?

There are course available in London for paces and OSCE

<http://www.pastest.co.uk/courses.aspx>

you can also check royal college websites as the publish regularly

<http://www.aomrc.org.uk/Royal-Colleges/>

You read the journal of your specialty

<http://journals.bmj.com/>

How do I verify any medical Knowledge?

Authentic information

<https://www.nice.org.uk/>

<http://cks.nice.org.uk/#?char=A>

<http://www.sign.ac.uk/>

<https://www.gpnotebook.co.uk/homepage.cfm>

<http://www.bnf.org/bnf/index.htm>

you can get mobile applications of above

have oxford hand book of which ever department you work

<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/category/academic/series/medicine/oxhmed.do>

Can I become British?

Yes you can, if you work here for certain time, you can be naturalized to become British.

<https://www.gov.uk/becoming-a-british-citizen/check-if-you-can-apply>

DO I have to do ALS and ATLS?

ALS- advance life support

If you do ALS , you will be crash team, so you will be paid extra.

ATLS- advance trauma life support

ATLS will improve your CV and will give better chances of getting into certain specialty.

Can I work in private?

Yes you can, the work pattern is different in private 14 days 24 hour oncall and the 14 days leave.
You will get better paid but no career progression.
Lifestyle not suitable for family people.

Can I work for Locum agency?

Yes you can, it means you will be covering absent doctors or doctors who are in leave.
You will be paid really good.

You will have good chance to work in different specialty (good for CV)

<http://careers.bmj.com/careers/advice/view-article.html?id=20008902>

https://www.medicalcareers.nhs.uk/career_options/locum_work.aspx

<http://www.locumservicesuk.co.uk/>

What is the difference between working in Asian country and UK as doctor?

In Asia, doctor is the boss. In UK patient is the boss.

Patient make decision of everything, doctor only gives information and options.

In UK you have to do everything according to protocol and guidelines , should not do with your guessing or predictions.

Communication with colleague and clients is the most important skill to work in UK.

If you do not have this, you will struggle.

The above information is opinion of someone, not 100% authentic. Sorry about it.
I believe it must be written in the top so you should not have read up to this point. (-

Best of Luck.
