

# International Post-Graduate Medical Training Scheme

IPGMTS Prospectus





NHS Health Education England (HEE) is the strategic workforce planning and education and training body of the English National Health Service. It is responsible for supporting the NHS workforce through the development and commissioning of education and training programmes to support the system in ensuring the NHS has the right numbers of staff, with the right skills, in the right place.



University Hospitals Birmingham is by most measures one of the largest teaching and educational institutions in England, and is the delivery partner of Health Education England for the International Postgraduate Medical Training Scheme.



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## The International Postgraduate Medical Training Scheme: summary

- The NHS in England is one of the first and highest quality health systems providing Universal Health Coverage in the world. The NHS's clinical workforce is educated and trained in some of the finest clinical learning environments. Well established close collaboration between a wide range of organisations including Health Education England, NHS Trusts, universities and the Royal Colleges mean the UK's medical specialty training is truly world class.
- The UK's system of healthcare education and training ensures that every generation of healthcare professional continually learn and develop their skills to the highest standard. As clinical practice is constantly changing, training is updated to reflect the latest research. UK postgraduate medical training institutes are particularly strong at embedding research into the culture of education and training. Doctors in training are therefore fully equipped to deal with new and emerging health issues.
- The International Postgraduate Medical Training Scheme (IPGMTS) aims to provide medical specialty training in England, giving doctors a full replication of NHS competence-based training.
- The IPGMTS enables overseas doctors, by arrangement with international governments, to undertake full specialty training to UK standards. This takes doctors from entry to the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) and recognition in the General Medical Council (GMC) specialist register, in England, before returning home to practice as consultants in their chosen field.
- IPGMTS programmes can be in any of the 65 specialties or 31 sub-specialties accredited by the GMC. This includes: Emergency Medicine, Psychiatry specialties, Histopathology, surgical specialties, Anaesthesia, Paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and medical specialties including Geriatric Medicine, Acute Internal Medicine and Rehabilitation Medicine.
- IPGMTS trainees are sponsored by overseas governments or institutions and are in addition to the UK's future medical workforce needs. Places are limited and only open via government to government agreements.
- The scheme is sponsored by NHS HEE, the UK Government strategic workforce body of the NHS. The programme is delivered in partnership with [University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust](#), one the England's most prestigious university hospitals.

- The first cohort of doctors arrived in 2020. Case studies are available via <https://global.hee.nhs.uk/ipgmts/case-studies-ipgmts/>.

## The NHS: the premier destination for healthcare education and training

- Matching the healthcare needs of growing, ageing populations alongside managing new and emerging health issues with the right supply of trained health professionals is a global challenge. Governments and healthcare organisations need better ways to deliver high-quality, accredited education and training, and many are turning to the UK for support.
- The NHS is internationally renowned for the quality of its medical education and training. If you need to develop your skills as a medical expert, we have the institutions to make this happen. The IPGMTS provides applicants with a world class medical education and training programme:
  - tailored to individual needs
  - founded on proven systems for driving high quality and standards in the long term
  - delivered in cutting-edge training facilities of the [University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust](#) and the wider West Midlands.
  - focused on building the future medical leaders and educators of tomorrow

## Programme entry requirements

- All doctors on IPGMTS programmes work with UK patients and are therefore required to be fully registered with the GMC. In addition to a medical degree all applicants must meet all relevant GMC requirements. This includes demonstrating English language and clinical competence, and good standing in their country of origin.
- English Language. Applicants must demonstrate their knowledge of English using either an acceptable International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or Occupational English Test (OET) certificate from the last two years. Current entry requirements are attached as Annex A.
- Clinical competence. Applicants must demonstrate their clinical competence by showing three full years post-graduate experience on the CV, passing an interview panel, and meeting the benchmarking standard for the relevant UK post-graduate training programme.

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- Good standing. A certificate of good standing from each medical regulatory authority they have been registered or licensed with in the last five years.
- Please see here for further information on eligibility requirements including useful links - <https://global.hee.nhs.uk/ipgmts/eligibility-key-dates/>.

## Application Dates and Process

- Please visit our website for further information on upcoming application dates and processes - <https://global.hee.nhs.uk/ipgmts/eligibility-key-dates/>.

## Programme overview

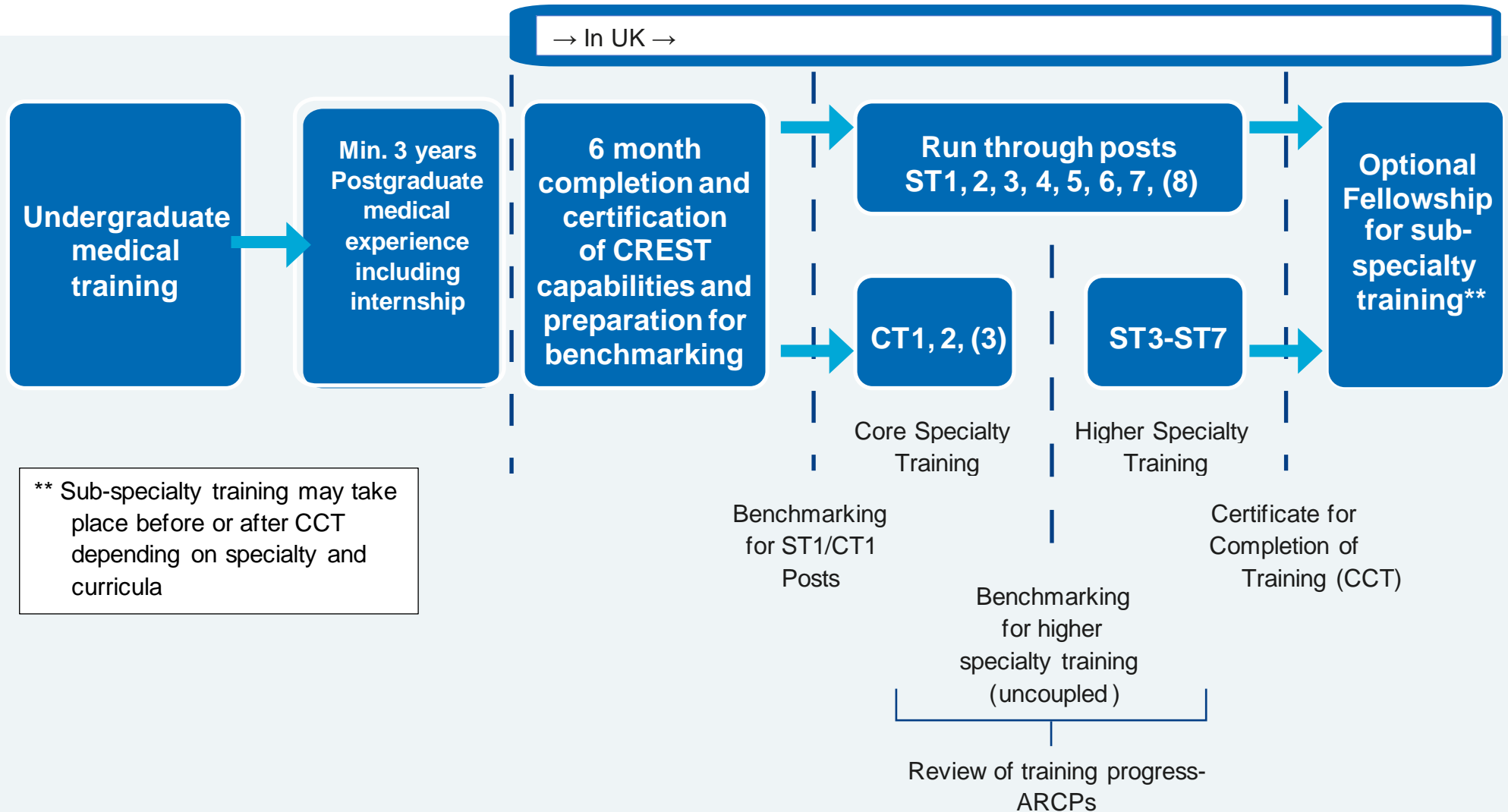
- The IPGMTS enables overseas doctors, by arrangement with international governments, to undertake full specialty training, from ST1/CT1 through to the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) and recognition in the GMC specialist register in England before returning home to put their new skills into practice.
- For the first six months in the UK, doctors will complete [University Hospitals Birmingham's](#) bespoke induction programme, which will introduce applicants to living in the UK and working in the NHS; help applicants put together a portfolio; demonstrate the competences required for to fully sign off a Certificate of Readiness to Enter Specialty Training (CREST) and prepare for benchmarking.
- Following the induction programme, IPGMTS is a full replication of the NHS competence-based specialty training scheme and is delivered to the same high quality and standards as training for our own doctors.
- While all doctors training as part of the IPGMTS are performing “hands-on” care equivalent to UK trainees, all IPGMTS posts are in addition to those needed for the UK’s future consultant requirements and fully funded by the partner Government.
- IPGMTS programmes can be in any of the 65 specialties or 31 sub-specialties accredited by the GMC.
- The UK’s medical royal colleges and faculties set the curricula for UK training programmes.
- The GMC approve curricula and assessment systems for each training programme. with the GMC standards.

- Depending on the curricula agreed with the GMC, each specialty or sub-specialty training programme can range from 3 to 8 years.
- Further information about supervising and regulatory authorities in the UK can be found in Annex B.

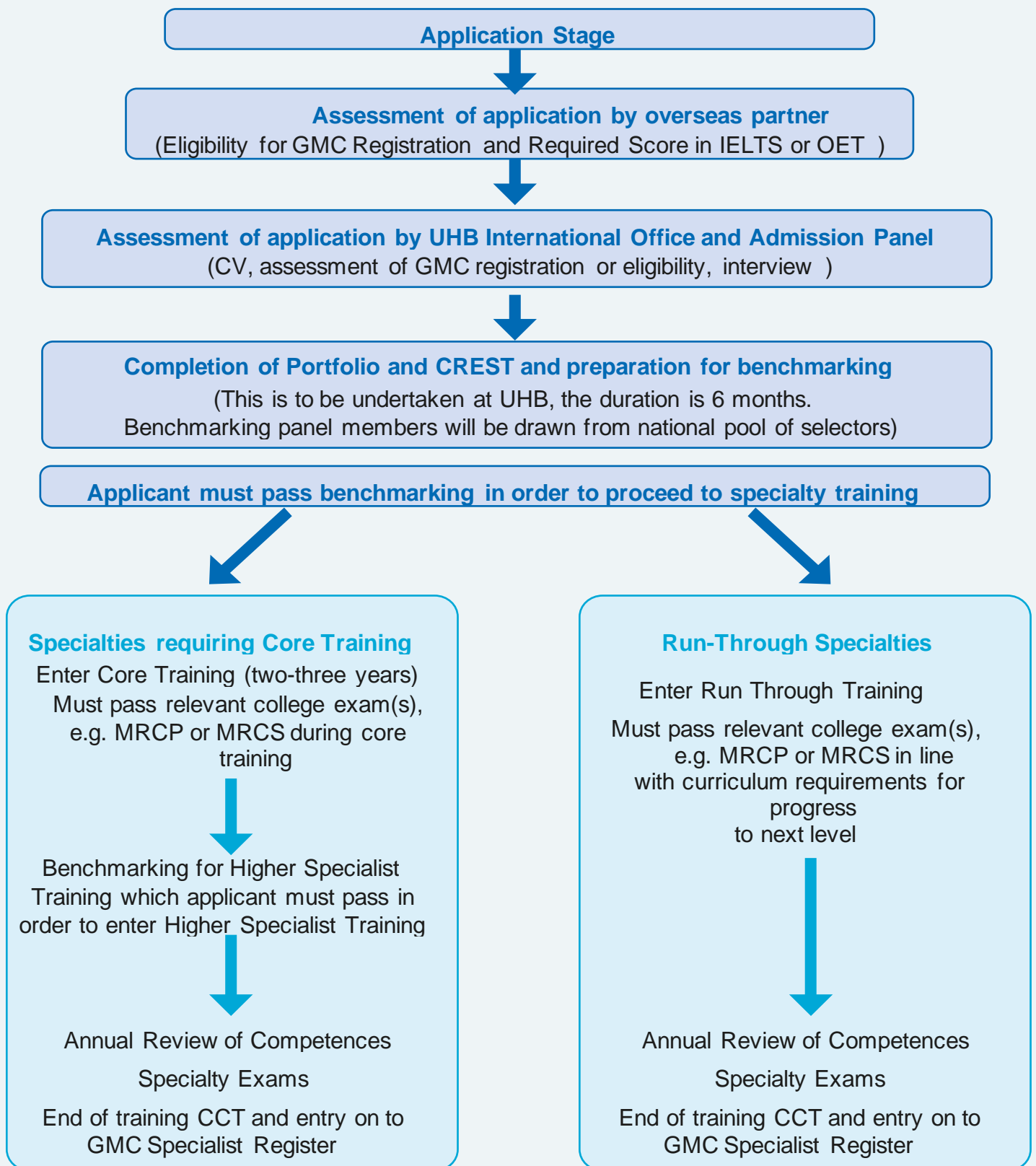
### Training Programmes

- Progression through all training programmes is subject to successful achievement of the outcomes for each year. Doctors are assessed by means of the annual review of competences, the ARCP (Annual Review of Competency Progression) by the relevant Postgraduate School. The trainee has to provide a portfolio of evidence for the ARCP. Reports from their Educational and Clinical supervisors are taken into account.
- Specialties offer one of two types of training programme (see Figure 1 below); either **uncoupled** or **run through**.
- In **uncoupled training** programmes, the specialty programme is **split** into two stages: **core training** and **higher specialty training**. To progress to the next stage, applicants must be benchmarked as well as demonstrating satisfactory training outcomes. Core training is broad based and thus allows the applicants flexibility to apply for higher specialty training in more than one specialty. For example, a core surgical trainee may elect to apply for higher specialty training in general surgery or vascular surgery.
- Core training can be 2 or 3 years in length depending on the specialty. The first year of core training is termed CT1, the second year CT2, and then CT3. When a doctor moves into higher specialty training, the designation changes from CT to ST (Specialty Training). This means a doctor who has completed two years of core training in surgery will be designated ST3 when they move into general surgery.
- *Uncoupled specialties include: All branches of Internal Medicine, most surgical specialties, Anaesthetics, Emergency Medicine & Psychiatry.*
- In **run-through training**, doctors apply for the first year of the programme which is called ST1 (Specialty Training Year 1). There is no further application, benchmarking or selection process after this. Run-through training programmes last between 5 to 8 years.
- *Run through specialties include: Paediatrics, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, Radiology, Cardiothoracic Surgery & Neurosurgery.*

Figure 1: Overview of IPGMTS in the UK



FLOWCHART OF INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL TRAINING SCHEME





## University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

- [University Hospitals Birmingham](#), which is by most measures one of the largest teaching and educational institutions in England, is the delivery partner of Health Education England for the International Postgraduate Medical Training Scheme. It is one of the highest performing healthcare organisations in Europe with a proven international reputation for its quality of care, information technology, clinical education and training and research.
- University Hospitals Birmingham has been the principal teaching hospital for the University of Birmingham Medical School providing clinical education and training to undergraduate medical students, dental students, postgraduate doctors and dentists and nurses for the last 200 years. There is a long tradition of training doctors, dentists and nurses from around the world. At the core of this tradition is University Hospitals Birmingham's philosophy that excellence of clinical care can only be delivered on the bedrock of education and clinical research.
- University Hospitals Birmingham has several overseas organisations with which it has formal agreements for the provision of postgraduate medical education and training. The training is provided at a junior and senior level and is overseen by its International Institute.
- It is because of this philosophy and its experience in providing education and training to overseas doctors, dentists and nurses that Health Education England has partnered with University Hospitals Birmingham to deliver the International Postgraduate Training Programme.

## The International Office at UHB

- The administrative arm of the International Institute at UHB is the [International Office](#). All the administrative aspects of the International Medical Postgraduate Training Programme are managed by the International Office. Its specialist team guides applicants through the entire application process from first contact to arrival in Birmingham. Applicants receive advice and assistance with GMC registration, visa sponsorship and application, induction, benchmarking, and CREST completion. The focus of the International Office is to provide applicant support to enable an overseas doctor to settle in the UK so that they can focus on their training.

## **NHS Health Education England: the NHS strategic workforce body**

- NHS Health Education England (HEE) has the statutory responsibility to ensure that the NHS workforce is available in the right numbers and has the necessary skills, values and behaviours to meet patients' needs and deliver high quality care.
- As the NHS workforce organisation for England, HEE is uniquely placed to support the overseas governments' ambitions to become a global centre of excellence for healthcare. HEE does this by embedding global skills, learning and innovation, supporting local NHS organisations to engage in global activity as a way to attract and retain staff, bringing experienced overseas staff to work in the NHS on placements.
- As well as playing a facilitative role to ensure the collective efforts and expertise of the NHS, Health Education England is coordinated and aligned to the overseas objectives of Government departments including the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and the Department of International Trade (DIT).

## Annex A. English Language Requirements.

When applicants apply for registration with a licence to practise the GMC need to be satisfied you have the necessary knowledge of English to practise safely in the UK.

The GMC need to be confident you can communicate effectively in English, so you do not put the safety of your patients at risk.

Communicating includes speaking, reading, writing and listening. The GMC currently accepts two standardised tests IELTS and OET:

IELTS certificates must show that

- a. applicants took the academic version of the test.
- b. that they got a score of at least 7.0 in each testing area and an overall score of 7.5
- c. that they got these scores in the same test
- d. that they got these scores in your most recent sitting of the test

OET certificates scores must show:

- a. you took the medicine version of the test
- b. you got at least a grade 'B' in each testing area (speaking, listening, reading and writing)
- c. you got those grades in the same test
- d. you obtained the grades in your most recent sitting of the test.

Further information is available via the GMC website:

[https://www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/join-the-register/before-you-apply/evidence-of-your-knowledge-of-english.](https://www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/join-the-register/before-you-apply/evidence-of-your-knowledge-of-english)

## **Annex B: IPGMTS Supervising and Regulatory Authorities**

### **Department of Health and Social Care**

The Department of Health and Social Care of each country making up the United Kingdom has responsibility for overseeing the administration and implementation of the overarching training programme in their respective countries.

### **The General Medical Council**

The General Medical Council (GMC) is a statutory regulatory body for doctors and maintains the official register of medical practitioners within the United Kingdom. A doctor has to be registered with the GMC and hold a licence to practise before they can work or train in the UK.

The GMC sets standards for postgraduate education and training and approves training posts, programmes and assessments. The GMC performs reviews and carries out monitoring activities to check that the standards for education and training are being met.

The GMC also maintains the Specialist Register which is a list of doctors who are eligible to take up appointment as a substantive consultant in the NHS. Doctors who have successfully completed a period of formal specialist training in the UK and obtained a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCT) are eligible to apply for inclusion on the Specialist Register.

### **Health Education England and Postgraduate Studies**

Medical and Dental training in England is overseen by Health Education England (HEE) which has seven regional offices or Deaneries which are responsible for ensuring that the local training schemes deliver high quality training and fulfil the required outcomes for training set by the General Medical Council.

The provision of high quality medical and dental training is overseen by Health Education England through postgraduate Deaneries and local Education and Training boards. They support the education and training of more than 160,000 students and trainees across all healthcare professions.

Each 'Deanery' is headed by a Postgraduate Dean who is accountable to the GMC as the Responsible Officer for all doctors in training in HEE programmes in their Deanery. The functional teams within Deaneries include; Recruitment, Programme Management, Assessment of trainees, Quality of Education and Training, Faculty Support and Trainee Support.

Deaneries are also divided into 'Schools', with each School being responsible for the delivery of a training programme(s). Each School has a Head of School and a number of Training Programme Directors who each oversee a particular specialty programme. The Schools work with the functional teams and all are responsible to the Postgraduate Dean.

Each trainee doctor has a unique training number—the National Training Number (NTN)—which denotes their Deanery, and which is used to track their progress nationally through training until they achieve their Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training. Progress is assessed by means of Annual Review of Competency Progression being achieved: the ARCP.

The oversight of this process and the person who is directly responsible for their regional training outcomes is the Postgraduate Dean who is usually supported by a number of Associate Postgraduate Deans.

## Royal Colleges

In relation to training, the Royal Colleges are primarily responsible for developing and overseeing the specialty curricula within these training programmes and for examinations. The curricula are delivered by the Postgraduate Deaneries. Trainees as the progress through their training are required to do various specialty examinations conducted by their relevant Royal College.