

Education and Training Department

Dual Sponsorship Scheme



Frequently Asked Questions

This is to be read in conjunction with the Dual Sponsorship Booklet. The booklet can be found on the Dual Sponsorship Scheme section of the College website.

Where can further information be obtained on the Dual Sponsorship Scheme?

The Dual Sponsorship Scheme run by the College is designed to provide an opportunity for International Medical Graduates (IMGs) to undertake targeted training in ophthalmology. The Royal College of Ophthalmologists acts as a sponsoring body for such doctors to gain registration with the GMC to undertake targeted training in a suitable training post in the UK.

Further information including the Dual Sponsorship Scheme booklet can be found on the College website https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/2012_EDTR_065_Dual-Sponsorship-Scheme-booklet-5th-edition_Feb-2013.pdf.

What is the first question I should ask myself before considering the Dual Sponsorship Scheme?

It is important to consider whether you are eligible for the Dual Sponsorship Scheme. The eligibility requirements can be found in the Dual Sponsorship booklet on page 9.

It is also important to consider that the College is not in the position to find training posts for IMGs and it is the responsibility of the trainee to identify the UK and overseas sponsor. A suitable post must be identified and offered by the UK sponsor.

Before applying you should ensure that your UK sponsor, overseas sponsor and overseas referees meet the eligibility requirements set out in the Dual Sponsorship booklet.

What is the first thing I should do when applying for the Dual Sponsorship Scheme?

To apply you should complete the Dual Sponsorship Scheme application form fully (this can be downloaded from the Dual Sponsorship Scheme section of the College website) in block capitals. It is important that your UK sponsor signs the form to confirm that they have read the terms in the Dual Sponsorship Scheme booklet. You should make sure that you have read the booklet and you should sign the Dual Sponsorship Scheme application form. It is important that you understand the terms and conditions before applying.

You should ensure that your CV has been validated by your overseas sponsor. Within the CV you should ensure that you have included a surgical log listing the cases that you have been involved in.

A job description and timetable (which includes who will supervise you during each session), brief career plan and reasons for using the Dual Sponsorship Scheme should be submitted as part of the application.

It is important to make sure that your application is submitted in good time (within six months) of the start date to enable paperwork to be collected and submitted.

You should ensure you have informed your overseas referees when you are applying as they will be contacted by the College and will be asked to complete a reference form. You should also inform your overseas sponsor as they will also be sent a reference form to complete.

Can I give up my post overseas before sponsorship registration has been issued?

The College will need to have processed your Dual Sponsorship Scheme application and have issued you with a certificate of sponsorship which allows you to apply for registration from the GMC before you finish your current post overseas. This will mean you have been in practice all of the 12 months preceding the date of the GMC application. The eligibility requirements can be found in the Dual Sponsorship booklet on page 9.

I have been accepted to a post which is purely research based, can I apply to the Dual Sponsorship Scheme.

The College is unable to accept posts which are purely research to the Dual Sponsorship Scheme however the College can consider fellowship posts containing clinical sessions and research sessions. Please refer to page 7 of the Dual Sponsorship Scheme booklet for information on acceptable posts.

What do I need to think about when submitting documents to the College?

- It is important that documents are dated and signed when they are submitted to the College.
- Ensure that the documents are completed fully in block capitals.
- When stating your name on documents it is important that you write it in the order that it should appear on the certificate of sponsorship.
- When submitting an IELTS certificate this should be the original certificate or a validated copy. The IELTS examination must have been taken no more than two years before registration is due to commence.
- The Primary Medical Degree and Certificate of Good Standing should be the original certificate or a validated copy.

How can I submit documents to the College?

Documents can be submitted by post, fax or by email (details on page 4). It is important that information such as bank/credit card details are not submitted by email for security reasons.

What is the fee for the Dual Sponsorship Scheme?

Current fees

A non-refundable deposit of £50 is taken when the application is opened. The remaining fee is taken towards the end of the application process. At times the full fee maybe taken toward the end of the application including the deposit. Please note incomplete applications will be charged at 50% of the initially indicated fee.

**The fees below will apply for applications received from the 1 January 2016*

Country	Visa Route/Tier	Fee
Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand	Tier 5	£560.00
Other countries	Tier 5	£395.00
Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand	Other (e.g. Tier 2, Ancestry Visa, Spouse Visa, British National and Dependant Visa)	£670.00
Other countries	Other (e.g. Tier 2, Ancestry Visa, Spouse Visa, British National and Dependant Visa)	£500.00

How can I pay the remaining fee?

You can pay by a cheque made payable to The Royal College of Ophthalmologists, credit card or bank transfer.

When the application paperwork is nearly complete you will be notified by email and informed that payment of the remaining amount (as indicated in the Dual Sponsorship application form) is due. An invoice will be sent to you by the Finance Assistant and you should contact the College to arrange payment as soon as possible. We will be unable to continue processing the Dual Sponsorship Application until payment has been received.

What are the required IELTS scores?

The minimum IELTS scores acceptable to the College match those of the GMC. Listening (7), Academic writing (7), Academic reading (7), Speaking (7), Overall (7.5).

Does the College accept alternative evidence to demonstrate knowledge of English?

The College does not accept alternative evidence to demonstrate knowledge of English. It is a pre-requisite that an IELTS certificate must be submitted as part of the Dual Sponsorship Scheme application.

When do I apply for my Certificate of Good Standing?

The Certificate of Good Standing is valid 3 months before your start date so it should be applied for towards the end of the application to ensure that it is valid.

What is a matrix of the unit?

The matrix is an overall timetable of the unit. It enables the IMG Training Subcommittee to see how your Fellowship post will fit in with the other trainees in the unit.

How can I find out the status of my application?

You will be sent a checklist by the Education and Training Administrator that states which documents have been submitted to the College. This will also be sent to the UK Sponsor so you can see which documents they are required to submit.

How often do the panel meet to discuss the completed application?

The application is sent by e-mail to the IMG Training Sub-committee as soon as all the documents have been submitted. In order to maximise the speed of the process, there are no set meeting dates and the committee chair identifies any outstanding areas of doubt and requests further information if necessary. This may be from the applicant or the UK Sponsor. Once satisfactory responses are received, the application is passed to the GMC for ratification.

My certificate of sponsorship has been sent to the GMC, what are the next steps I should take?

You will need to ensure that you have completed an online GMC application <http://www.gmc-uk.org/> . The GMC will then issue you with a reference number and then complete their final checks when they receive the certificate of sponsorship from us.

You will need to ensure that your Visa has been applied for. If your Trust is applying for a Tier 5 Visa they will need to follow the appropriate procedure.

When the GMC have sent you an invitation for an identity check they will send you all the information that you will require.

How long does the GMC take to process an application?

The GMC should take five working days to process an application however this will depend on the time of year. Further information can be found on their website. <http://www.gmc-uk.org/>

Where can I find out further information on working in the NHS?

Doctors who have been accepted onto the Dual Sponsorship Scheme will receive a letter from the College which includes details on how to access the Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust e-induction programme 'Induction for international doctors'. The College believes that doctors who have been accepted onto the scheme would benefit greatly from completing the modules. The online eLearning programme introduces doctors to cultural, social, ethical, legal and patient safety aspects of UK clinical practice.

What Visa routes should be applied for under the Dual Sponsorship Scheme, where can I obtain further information?

It is important that you refer to the UK Border Agency website for information on Visa's. <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

The website will provide further information on all Visa routes. You should discuss with your future UK employing Trust which Visa would be suitable.

Who should send the Medical Training Initiative (MTI) form to the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges?

If the Trust wishes to apply for a Tier 5 Visa the UK Trust should send the completed MTI form to the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (MTI@aomrc.org.uk) when the application is complete and has been accepted by the College. It is important that the College receives a copy of this form as part of the application paperwork. It is important that all sections (Part 1 and Part 2) have been completed and signed.

How long does the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges take to process the Tier 5 Visa?

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges should take five working days to complete the application process. <http://www.gmc-uk.org/>

What should I expect during my period of training in terms of appraisals? During the period of sponsorship the College will also request doctors undergo a formal appraisal, a copy of which must be returned to the Chair of the IMG Training Sub-committee by your UK sponsor.

Do I need to provide the College with any information at the end of my period of training?

Towards the end of your training post you will be sent an IMG Dual Sponsorship Scheme report template to complete. We would be grateful if this report could be completed and submitted to the Education and Training Department within one month of completing the post.

The Trust wishes to extend my Fellowship or period of training, what is the process for this?

If you wish to apply for an extension, a job description, timetable (listing who will supervise you), details of start and end dates and letter of support from your UK supervisor should be provided to the College. The UK sponsor should state what objectives the doctor is expected to achieve during the extension period. We should be informed which Visa has been applied for. Please request an extension pack from the education and training department, education@rcophth.ac.uk.

It is important that an extension is applied for in advance of the start date. Please apply in good time for the application to be considered.

The Chairman will then assess the information and if he is satisfied a letter of support for an extension will be issued.

I have come to the end of my fellowship post and I am interested in applying for extension. Can I be considered for a non-training post?

The College is not able to support an extension for a non-training post. LAS (trust) posts or similar are not accepted under the scheme. StR posts may be suitable under the scheme depending on the educational needs of the IMG and the post timetable. Please refer to page 7 of the Dual Sponsorship Scheme booklet for further information. For Tier 5 regulations please visit the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges website or contact the MTI Programme Manager.

I have come to the end of my fellowship post; can I work (or be considered) for a locum consultant post?

Doctors who are sponsored through the Dual Sponsorship Scheme are not able to work as a locum consultant once their training post is complete. Doctors must return to their home country at the end of their training post or apply for a formal extension of a training post.

Contact

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