

# **Education and Training Department**

## **Dual Sponsorship Scheme**



### **Dual Sponsorship Scheme Booklet for International Medical Graduates Ophthalmologists-in-Training**

**Fifth Edition  
(2013)**

**International Medical Graduates' Training  
Sub-committee  
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## 1. Introduction

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists may act as a sponsoring body for International Medical Graduates (IMG) who wish to spend time undertaking part of their training in ophthalmology in the United Kingdom. The College established a Dual Sponsorship Scheme in April 1994 to enable International Medical Graduates of exceptional ability to come to the UK for a period of training. The International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee of the College is responsible for administering the Dual Sponsorship Scheme on behalf of the Council of The Royal College of Ophthalmologists.

### Aims of College Sponsorship

1. To sponsor trainees for registration with the General Medical Council (GMC) with restricted exemption from the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board Examination (PLAB).
2. To enable international ophthalmologists of high calibre to undertake a fixed period of targeted training in ophthalmology in College-approved postgraduate training posts in the UK, before returning to work in their own countries.
3. To ensure that good quality training is provided for these International Medical Graduates.
4. To foster links between postgraduate institutions in the UK and abroad.

### Basis of the Dual Sponsorship Scheme

The International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee of the College can recommend to the General Medical Council that it grant International Medical Graduates full registration. The College sponsorship is for a specific period of training in a specified training post. This is arranged by a UK sponsor completing the Dual Sponsorship Scheme application and submitting it to the International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee, which, if satisfied with the application, can then recommend to the General Medical Council that the doctor be granted registration (see section 9 for details of the application process). In order to maintain acceptable quality assurance of the ability of the doctor, as well as to make certain that the system is not misused, there are strict criteria that need to be maintained by the College in accordance with its agreement with the General Medical Council.

Most training positions are offered as direct placements (refer to section 4).

**The Royal College of Ophthalmologists does not have a list of UK sponsors or designated training posts to be offered through the Dual Sponsorship Scheme.**

**The Royal College of Ophthalmologists will not consider sponsorship unless an approved training post is available to the trainee in accordance with the Scheme criteria.**

## 2. The Training of IMG Ophthalmologists

Under the Dual Sponsorship Scheme, sponsored training is offered for a minimum of six months up to a maximum of twelve months. This can be extended by a further year if a specific need is identified, but only in exceptional circumstances.

### International medical graduates eligible for the Dual Sponsorship Scheme

- IMGs who qualified outside of the European Economic Area (EEA) and who do not benefit from the provisions relating to EEA nationality may qualify. The trainee's primary medical qualification must be accepted by the GMC for registration before the International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee will consider his/her application to the Dual Sponsorship Scheme.

### International medical graduates not eligible for the Dual Sponsorship Scheme

- International Medical Graduates who have failed the PLAB test.
- International Medical Graduates wishing to undertake additional training that has been suggested following evaluation of a GMC Certificate confirming Eligibility of Specialist Registration (CESR) application.
- International medical graduates who are EEA nationals **and** EEA qualified; should not apply to the Dual Sponsorship Scheme but should contact the GMC direct. International Medical Graduates who are either EEA nationals **or** EEA qualified (but not both) should contact the College, which will take advice from the GMC.

Trainees who obtained their primary medical qualification from the following universities should contact the GMC direct as they may be eligible for GMC registration without using the Dual Sponsorship Scheme:

Please note that this list is subject to change and up to date information should be sought from the GMC in each case.

Medical Schools in New Zealand or Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Africa and the West Indies

Or

The University of Malaya (doctors who qualified before 31<sup>st</sup> December 1989)

### 3. Routes onto the Dual Sponsorship Scheme

Please note that any applications through Routes A-D must be compliant with the GMCs ruling (further details see page 9).

#### Route A

IMGs are recommended to The Royal College of Ophthalmologists by a consultant ophthalmologist in the UK (UK sponsor). The UK sponsor, must be a fully registered medical practitioner whose name is on the Specialist Register of the General Medical Council, a Fellow, Member or Affiliate Member of The Royal College of Ophthalmologists, and should hold an honorary or substantive position as a consultant ophthalmologist in the UK NHS. The UK sponsor must know the trainee's overseas sponsor personally (normally a senior consultant or academic ophthalmologist within the trainee's home department). The UK sponsor and the overseas sponsor must have met; they must not know each other simply through correspondence. The UK sponsor must conform to the description on page 10.

#### Route B

This enables a UK sponsor to arrange a training post in another training unit for the overseas applicant. The UK sponsor (**primary sponsor**) who is known to the overseas sponsor can personally recommend the trainee to another UK consultant (**secondary sponsor**) who is willing to offer a Royal College of Ophthalmologists' approved training post to the International Medical Graduate, on the recommendations of the primary sponsor, and then proceed with the sponsorship formalities according to the regulations of the Scheme. The primary UK sponsor and the overseas sponsor must have met; they must not know each other simply through correspondence. Both UK sponsors must conform to the description on page 10.

Under this route the secondary sponsor takes on the roles and responsibilities of the UK sponsor in organising the application documentation, organising the training post and mentoring the trainee.

The primary sponsor can also arrange for a second placement of the trainee if necessary after the first six months in the training unit of a second secondary sponsor known to him/her who is willing to offer a suitable training post.

The College expects the primary sponsor to be kept fully informed of the progress of the trainee by the secondary sponsor(s).

#### Route C

The Director of postgraduate training of an overseas institution that is on the list of recognised institutions held by The Royal College of Ophthalmologists can act as an overseas sponsor of a suitable IMG (please contact the College for an updated list). Each application is assessed by the Chairman of the International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee. The IMG is then recommended to The Royal College of Ophthalmologists by a UK consultant ophthalmologist in a similar manner to route A.

## **Route D**

IMGs who wish to undertake a period of clinical training after finishing a UK postgraduate qualification may be recommended to the College by the head of the academic department of ophthalmology in which the academic course was undertaken. Such candidates do not need to have an overseas sponsor.

(For example IMG undertakes a UK postgraduate course via distance learning and continues to work in their home country. IMG attends courses in the UK during annual leave and then obtains a UK postgraduate certificate).

**AN IMG CAN ONLY UTILISE ONE OF THE ABOVE ROUTES FOR SPONSORSHIP UNDER THE DUAL SPONSORSHIP SCHEME.**

**Please refer to Appendix I for flow charts regarding the various routes offered through the Dual Sponsorship Scheme.**

## 4. Training Posts

Training posts offered under the Scheme are usually substantive “fellowship” posts recognised by the Training Committee (see section below). Posts offered under the Dual Sponsorship Scheme need not necessarily be made following a competitive application process as direct placement is possible under the scheme. Quality assurance can be ensured by the overseas sponsors and by discussing the IMG’s curriculum vitae with colleagues in the UK unit. **LAS/ trust (SAS)/ posts or similar are not accepted under the Scheme. StR posts may be suitable for an IMG depending on the educational needs of the IMG and the post timetable**

The post should be the first formal training post the IMG will undertake in the UK and should be a training post with the educational approval from the Postgraduate Dean and the training approval of The Royal College of Ophthalmologists.

### Fellowship posts

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists no longer has permanently approved Fellowship posts, but if there is a specific need identified for subspecialty training, then prior approval from the Training Committee of The Royal College of Ophthalmologists needs to be obtained by submitting a Dual Sponsorship Scheme application which should include a:

Job description (The job description must include a list of training objectives.

*Example 1: To significantly improve the trainee’s ability to perform penetrating glaucoma surgery.*

*Example 2: An improvement in the IMG’s ability to diagnose secondary glaucoma)*

The supervisors must be clearly labelled against the clinical sessions.

- Timetable matrix (timetable of the unit) (an example matrix is available from the Education and Training Department at the College).
- Approval from the Postgraduate Dean giving educational approval of the Fellowship for the individual (the deanery approval form should be completed).
- Approval from the College Tutor stating that the Fellowship will not detract from the training of other trainees in the unit (the College Tutor approval form should be completed).
- Approval from the Programme Director of the Fellowship for the individual. (the Programme Director approval form should be completed).

Educational approval of the Fellowship from the Postgraduate Dean is an essential pre-requisite before the post is accepted by the Training Committee of the College as it implies the post not only has the appropriate training content, but is also funded in keeping with UK employment regulations.

Posts that have been usually considered to be ASTO/TSC posts must first have been offered to UK trainees and can only be advertised for IMGs if there is no UK trainee to

take up the post. Assurances with regard to this will be sought from the Programme Director.

### **Award of the CCT**

No training position undertaken in the UK through the Dual Sponsorship Scheme may count towards the award of the CCT.

### **Direct Placement**

This is a well-established way of offering training posts to IMGs and has been accepted by the General Medical Council, Department of Health, the Deaneries, and The Royal College of Ophthalmologists without having to select the candidate in open competition. This has been accepted on the basis that good quality assurance is maintained during the selection process. The personal acquaintance of the overseas sponsor and the UK sponsor underpins this assurance. In addition to which, the curriculum vitae of the trainee should be discussed with other trainers in the unit, the College Tutor and the Programme Director of the region to ensure that the applicant has a good working knowledge of the speciality and is able to hold the position offered.

Fellowship posts can also be offered as direct placements. If the training unit feels that an assessment of the candidate is necessary before offering the post, it should be carried out well before the application is initiated and should be by mutual arrangement with the prospective candidate and the trainers offering the post.



## 5. The International Medical Graduate/Applicant

- All applicants must have been engaged in medical practice for three out of the last five years including the most recent twelve months. ***(It is therefore essential that the Dual Sponsorship Scheme application is processed and a certificate of sponsorship issued which will allow the doctor to apply for registration before they finish their current post overseas).***

***The doctor must be able to remain in clinical practice until the Dual Sponsorship Scheme application is processed and a certificate of sponsorship issued. This must be confirmed on the Dual Sponsorship Scheme application form.***

***Clinical attachments/observerships are not counted as medical practice and should not be undertaken prior or during the application process.***

- Have worked for the full 12 months preceding their application for registration with the GMC. No exceptions can be made to this.
  - Still be overseas when the application to the Scheme is being processed.
  - Hold a primary medical qualification, which is acceptable to the GMC for registration.
  - Be at least three years post qualification as a doctor, have undertaken a **minimum of two years acceptable postgraduate training in ophthalmology** and be capable of working at the level of a ST3 ophthalmologist on arrival in the UK.
  - Show evidence of exceptional clinical ability via a CV countersigned by the overseas sponsor. The CV must include a **surgical log** of cases.
  - Have proof of immunity to Hepatitis B infection.
  - Have a recent (*within two years of the application to the GMC*) pass with a minimum score of 7.0 in each section of the IELTS examination. No exceptions will be granted. (*This test can be taken under the auspices of the British Council in any one of the one hundred and eighty centres available in one hundred and ten countries. Please see page 16 for the website of the British Council. It is advised that the certificate date should be not more than eighteen months before an application is made to the College to allow for a buffer period before the application is made to the GMC.*)
- **During the period of sponsorship the IMG must keep a log of surgical cases they have operated on. This needs to be numbers of procedures performed and assisted at rather than individual details. The College will require the number of cases of posterior capsule rupture and vitreous loss. This needs to be certified by the UK sponsor.**
  - **.At the end of the training post the College requires doctors to complete an IMG Report on the Dual Sponsorship Scheme. A template of the**

report will be sent to the doctor towards the end of their training post for completion. This should be completed within one month of completing the post.

Please note the following: **No other English language examination will be accepted.** *The International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee cannot accept verification from any third party about the doctor's standard of English in the event that he/she fails to reach the required scores in the IELTS.*

*The International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee must be in receipt of the original IELTS examination result sheet before it can consider the application.*

*The GMC require that the IELTS examination must have been taken **no more than two years** before registration is due to commence.*

*The overseas referees and sponsor must be ophthalmologists who have supervised the applicant within a four-year period of the application.*

**There is no College list of approved sponsors held by The Royal College of Ophthalmologists for the Dual Sponsorship Scheme. It is the responsibility of the applicant (where applicable) to identify overseas and UK sponsors who are known to each other at a personal level.**

## **6. The UK Sponsor (Primary or Secondary)**

**The UK sponsor(s), must be all of the following:**

- A fully registered medical practitioner whose name is on the Specialist Register of the General Medical Council.
- A Fellow, Member or Affiliate Member of The Royal College of Ophthalmologists,
- A consultant ophthalmologist in a substantive NHS post in the UK (includes honorary posts).

**The UK sponsor must also:**

- Be able to offer the IMG a College-approved training post in his/her hospital for a **minimum period of six months**.
- Provide details of their induction plan for the IMG, this should be geared towards an IMG rather than a home produced doctor.
- Assemble the application and submit all the requested documents to the College within six months of the initial application and in good time to permit processing of the application before the start of the training post (**the completed application must be received by the College not less than one month before the requested registration date to allow for processing by the International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee and the General Medical Council in good time**).
- Ensure that the proposed start date of the post is within six months of the Dual Sponsorship Scheme application form (ODT01) being received by the College (this is the start of the application process).

- If using **Route A**, know the overseas sponsor personally and have confidence in the sponsor's assessment of the International Medical Graduate.

If using **Route B**, the primary sponsor must know the overseas sponsor personally and be willing to accept the referral of the trainee and arrange a placement with a secondary UK sponsor. The secondary sponsor should be

- ***Please note that during the period of sponsorship the College request doctors undergo a formal appraisal, a copy of which must be returned to the Chair of the IMG Training Sub-committee. It is the responsibility of the UK Sponsor to send a copy of the appraisal to the Chair of the IMG Training Sub-committee.***
- Willing to accept the recommendations of the primary sponsor and then complete the application to the Dual Sponsorship Scheme as stipulated in the application pack.
- If using **Route C**, the UK sponsor must have confidence in the overseas sponsor's assessment of the trainee so that there is adequate quality assurance in order to offer the post as a direct placement.
- Ensure that the relevant Postgraduate Dean has approved the placement by completion of the deanery approval form.
- Ensure that the relevant Programme Director and College Tutor have approved the placement (by completing the Programme Director approval form and College Tutor approval form). The College Tutor must agree that the fellowship will not detract from the training of other trainees in the unit.
- Provide the Chairman of the International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee of the College with a report of the sponsored doctor's ability and progress after six months (mid-term report) in the post, or before if any concerns are identified. The mid-term report should include details of progress towards the objectives set in the job description.
- Provide the Chairman of the International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee of the College with a report of the sponsored doctor's ability and progress after twelve months (end of term report). The end of term report should indicate whether the objectives set in the job description have been met.
- Be willing to act as a mentor to the sponsored doctor throughout the doctor's sponsored period.
- Ensure the applicant undergoes suitable appraisal during the sponsored post and that a copy is provided to the College.

***Please note again the following:***

***For Routes A and B the UK sponsor and the overseas sponsor must have met. They must not know each other simply through correspondence.***

***A relative of the applicant cannot act as UK sponsor.***

## **7. The Overseas Sponsor/Consultant**

### **The overseas sponsor must be:**

A distinguished ophthalmologist of consultant standing with whom the IMG has worked for a period of not less than six months within the last four years, or be the head of a Royal College of Ophthalmologists' approved training unit where the trainee has worked for at least six months within the last four years.

(An ophthalmologist working in the UK cannot therefore act as an overseas sponsor.)

### **The overseas sponsor must:**

- Have personal knowledge of the candidate's work, character and suitability for training in the UK.
- Select candidates on merit and training potential. To qualify for the Dual Sponsorship Scheme the candidate must be of exceptional ability and be deemed to be capable of working at least at the level of a third year trainee (ST3/junior Registrar level) on arrival in the UK. He/she should ratify the IMG's CV prior to submission (the IMG should include a surgical log of cases they have been involved in).
- Know the UK (primary if applicable) sponsor personally.
- Confirm that the doctor intends to return to their home country after completion of his/her period of training in the UK and assist the trainee in obtaining a suitable post on his/her return.
- Have completed the form ODT03 as supplied by the College.
- Ensure that the overseas referees are appropriately selected by the IMG.
- If utilising route C, the overseas sponsor must ensure that his/her unit is recognised by The Royal College of Ophthalmologists to be appropriate for such a route of entry into the Dual Sponsorship Scheme.

### ***Please note the following:***

***A relative of the applicant cannot act as overseas sponsor.***

## 8. The Overseas Referees

The overseas referees must be ophthalmologists with consultant status who have supervised the ophthalmic training of the applicant within a four-year period of the application.

### Reference Forms

Please note that the International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee require to see three completed reference forms concerning the International Medical Graduate (ODT03 completed by the overseas sponsor, ODT04 completed by overseas referee one and ODT05 completed by overseas referee two). The Education and Training Department of the College will send the reference forms to the overseas sponsor and the two other referees respectively. These should be completed and returned to the Education and Training Department **as soon as possible**.

The International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee cannot consider the entire application until all three reference forms have been returned.

**Please note:**

**A relative of the applicant cannot act as an overseas referee.**

**Please ensure that the reference forms are signed and dated.**

**An overseas referee cannot act as an overseas sponsor. The Committee requires two referees in addition to the overseas sponsor.**

**An overseas referee must have recent (within the last four years) personal knowledge of the candidate's work, character and suitability for training in the UK. Each overseas referee should have personally supervised the candidate's work within that period.**

**Please ensure that the full hospital address of the referees is completed in the Dual Sponsorship Scheme application form (ODT01) to avoid delays in the application process.**

## 9. The Dual Sponsorship Scheme Application Procedure

**AT LEAST FOUR MONTHS SHOULD BE ALLOWED FOR THE APPLICATION PROCESS TO BE COMPLETED.**

The IMG is making two applications, one to The Royal College of Ophthalmologists (see section A below) and one to the GMC (see section B below). The requirements for both the College and the GMC must be met and acceptance of information from the College does not guarantee GMC acceptance (and vice versa). College sponsorship should be obtained before the IMG applies to the GMC to avoid confusion and possible delays.

## A. The Royal College of Ophthalmologists

The IMG is requesting confirmation from the College to the GMC that he/she has the necessary medical knowledge, skills and experience to be granted full registration with the GMC. In this application the IMG must prove to the College that his/her clinical knowledge, skills and experience are suitable for GMC registration and that the post he/she wishes to undertake in the UK is an appropriate training post.

### RCOphth application process and requirements

After having read this booklet the IMG should complete and return the Dual Sponsorship Scheme application form (ODT01) to:

Education and Training Department  
The Royal College of Ophthalmologists  
18 Stephenson Way  
London  
NW1 2HD  
UK

It is important that the IMG and the UK Sponsor sign and date the Dual Sponsorship Scheme application form (ODT01) to confirm that the booklet has been read.

When this has been received by the Education and Training Department, the UK sponsor will be sent by email a checklist and documents for completion. The IMG will be sent by email a checklist stating which documents they will need to submit (an initial fee will be taken when the application is opened, fees are on the College website).

If the International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee approves the application to the Dual Sponsorship Scheme any documents held by the College that are also required by the GMC will be sent to the General Medical Council by the College.

### ***A completed application to the College should contain the following:***

- Dual Sponsorship Application Form (ODT01).
- UK Sponsor Application Form (ODT02) (Part A to be completed by the UK consultant and Part B to be completed by Medical Staffing of the UK Trust).
- An original academic IELTS results sheet with a score of 7.0 in each of the four sections.
- A curriculum vitae of the applicant which **must** include in detail information on: present appointment, previous postgraduate experience in ophthalmology and related subjects, qualifications, and ophthalmic surgical/laser experience (if relevant for the proposed fellowship), research interests, publications, meetings attended, and an outline of a future career plan with an undertaking to return to the country of origin at the completion of the training period in the UK. Exact full dates must be included for employment; any breaks in employment must be explained e.g. 01/11/2011 – 31/12/2012. An explanation of what clinical practice the IMG has been involved with in the most recent 12 months must be

explained. The GMC state that a doctor must have been engaged in *medical practice* for three out of the last five years **including the most recent twelve months. It is therefore essential that the Dual Sponsorship Scheme application is processed and a certificate of sponsorship issued which will allow the doctor to apply for registration before they finish their current post overseas. The doctor must be able to remain in clinical practice until the Dual Sponsorship Scheme application is processed and a certificate of sponsorship issued. This must be confirmed on the Dual Sponsorship Scheme application form.**

The IMG must include a **surgical log** of cases they have been involved in within their curriculum vitae.

- Clinical attachments/observerships are not counted as medical practice and should not be **undertaken prior or during the application process**. The doctor must have worked for the full 12 months preceding their application for registration with the GMC. No exceptions can be made to this.
- College reference form from Overseas Sponsor (ODT03).
- College reference form from Referee 1 (ODT04).
- College reference form from Referee 2 (ODT05).
- Details of exchange of correspondence between sponsors relating to the sponsorship of the trainee. Including a letter from the overseas sponsor to the UK sponsor(s) requesting that he/she will sponsor the applicant. (For Route B, exchange of correspondence between the Primary and Secondary sponsor relating to the sponsorship of the trainee will be required. Correspondence should also indicate that the UK sponsor and overseas sponsor have met in person and know each other personally.
- A detailed job description of the proposed College-approved training post and a timetable. The job description must include a list of training objectives.
  - Example 1: to significantly improve the trainee's ability to perform penetrating glaucoma surgery.
  - Example 2: An improvement in the IMG's ability to diagnose secondary glaucoma.
- The supervisors must be clearly labelled against the clinical sessions.
- A cheque made payable to The Royal College of Ophthalmologists for consideration of the application. The fee will be advised by The Royal College of Ophthalmologists. (Up to date fees are advertised on the College website [www.rcophth.ac.uk](http://www.rcophth.ac.uk)).
- A copy of medical degree certificates. Any documents not in English must be accompanied by a notarised translation.
- A copy of the Certificate of Good Standing from the GMC equivalent body in current country of practice (see GMC Application Form or [www.gmc-uk.org](http://www.gmc-uk.org)).
- Completed approval form from the College Tutor, Deanery and Programme Director.

**Medical degree certificates that are in the maiden name of female international medical graduates must be accompanied by a copy of the marriage certificate if the trainee has since married.**

**If any information or documentation is requested directly from the General Medical Council, the applicant should contact the College for advice in the first instance in case the College also requires the information/documentation.**

**Certificates of Good Standing are only valid for three months before the start date of the training post. The IMG should submit the Certificate of Good Standing towards the end of the application process to ensure it is within date.**

When the College receives all the completed documentation, the application is sent to three members of the International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee for independent consideration. When a decision has been reached, the IMG and the UK sponsor will be notified together with the Postgraduate Dean, College Tutor, Programme Director, Medical Staffing and the overseas sponsor.

If the International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee approves the application to the Dual Sponsorship Scheme, all necessary documents will be sent to the General Medical Council by the College including a completed Certificate of Sponsorship. The GMC will then notify the trainee who will be provided with a certificate confirming his/her registration.

**The College requests that the IMG sends a copy of the General Medical Council certificate of registration to the College once the GMC has issued the certificate.**

If the application is unsuccessful, there is an appeals process (see section 11).

Applicants should initiate their application with the College at least 4-6 months in advance of the predicted start date of their training post. The College is not able to guarantee registration will have been granted in time for specified start dates as it cannot assess incomplete applications.

*If an application is received that is incomplete or incorrectly completed, the application process may take longer than the four months advised.*

*Applications received late are **not** given priority.*

***Applicants should contact their UK sponsor and not The Royal College of Ophthalmologists in the first instance for information on the progress of their application, as it is the responsibility of the UK sponsor to submit the application to the College in good time.***



This table illustrates the documentation for which each person is responsible.

<b>UK Sponsor</b>		
<b>Document</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>UK Sponsor Application Form (ODT02)</b> Part A – UK Sponsor Part B – Medical Staffing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Exchange of Letters between UK and Overseas Sponsors</b> (Including details of how you have met)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>College Tutor approval form</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Programme Director approval form</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Deanery approval form</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Job description and timetable</b>  The job description must include a list of training objectives. Example1: To significantly improve the trainee's ability to perform penetrating glaucoma surgery. Example 2: An improvement in the IMG's ability to diagnose secondary glaucoma  The supervisors must be clearly labelled against the clinical sessions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Matrix</b> (Timetable of the unit)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>IMG Applicant</b>		
<b>Document</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Dual Sponsorship Scheme Application form (ODT01)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>IELTS Results Sheet</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Curriculum vitae (including a <u>surgical log</u> of cases).</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Certificate of primary medical degree</b> (Certified copy or original)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>Certificate of Good Standing</b> (Please note this is only valid 3 months before start date)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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<b>College</b>		
<b>Document</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Overseas sponsor reference form (ODT03)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Overseas referee (1) form (ODT04)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Overseas referee (2) form (ODT05)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## **B. The GMC**

The IMG is applying for full registration with the GMC as a graduate from a medical school in a country outside the UK and EEA who have been selected for sponsorship under an arrangement approved by the GMC.

An offer of College sponsorship provides the GMC with evidence of the doctor's medical knowledge, skills and experience. The GMC requires proof of sponsorship (certificate of sponsorship) which the College will only issue once it has assessed and approved a full sponsorship application. The GMC also requires additional documentary evidence that is requested for any IMG doctor applying for GMC registration and supplying alternative evidence of their medical knowledge, skills and experience.

### **The GMC application process and requirements**

The IMG should make an online application for full registration via the GMC website.

In order to guide you to the correct on-line application form you will be asked a series of questions. Answering these questions correctly should bring you to a page with the following title:

'Registration as a doctor - graduates from medical schools in countries outside the UK and EEA who have been selected for sponsorship under an arrangement approved by the GMC.'

The GMC will then assess the information provided and email the applicant and the College requesting any further information it requires including photocopies of the documents required to complete the application. The applicant will then forward the documents to the College who will forward them with the Certificate of Sponsorship, to the GMC. The GMC will then make an assessment of these documents and if applicable, approve the application subject to the doctor completing an ID check and bringing original documents to the London or Manchester GMC offices. Registration

will be granted once the original documents have been validated against the photocopies held on file and the ID has been completed.

## 10. Work Permit/Visa

For information on how to apply for a Tier 5 Visa please contact the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges. From April 2010, the Academy took on the role of promoting the MTI and acting as the national sponsor of the scheme for the requirements of the UK Borders Agency (UKBA). The role of national sponsor was previously held by NHS Professionals. Please contact the Medical Training Initiative Programme Manager ([mti@aomrc.org.uk](mailto:mti@aomrc.org.uk)).

It is the responsibility of the applicant and the relevant employing authority e.g. the hospital medical staffing department, to ensure that the applicant has obtained the relevant Work Permit/Visa if required. **Visa applications are not the remit of the College.** Details can be obtained from the UK Borders Agency. It is essential that the employing authority can confirm to the Home Office that the remuneration for the trainee will be commensurate to the work undertaken. The salary should reflect the number of sessions the sponsored trainee is contracted to undertake and any on call commitments.

## 11. Completion of Sponsored Training – IMG Report on the Dual Sponsorship Scheme

Once the IMG has completed his/her training post, he/she should provide a report concerning the training experience to the International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee. A template of the report will be sent by the College to the IMG before the end of their placement for completion. This should be completed within month of completing the post.

### LOG OF SURGICAL CASES

During the period of sponsorship the IMG should keep a log of surgical cases they have operated on. This needs to be numbers of procedures performed and assisted at than individual details. The IMG should keep numbers of cases of posterior capsule rupture and vitreous loss they have operated on. The log should be submitted with the IMG report on the Dual Sponsorship Scheme and certified by the UK Sponsor.

### UK SPONSOR ROLE TOWARDS THE END OF PLACEMENT

During the period of sponsorship the College requests doctors undergo a formal appraisal, a copy of which must be returned to the Chair of the IMG Training Sub-committee. It is the responsibility of the UK Sponsor to send a copy of the appraisal to the Chair of the IMG Training Sub-committee.

## 12. Appeals Mechanism

IMGs whose application for sponsorship or renewal of sponsorship has been unsuccessful have the right of appeal. In the first instance the application is reviewed

by the Chairman of the Education Committee and, if the matter cannot be resolved, a further appeal can be made to the President of The Royal College of Ophthalmologists.

### **13. Useful Information**

All enquiries regarding ophthalmology training in the UK for overseas doctors should be addressed to:

Education and Training Department  
The Royal College of Ophthalmologists  
18 Stephenson Way  
London  
NW1 2HD

Tel: 00 44 (0) 20 7935 0702  
Fax: 00 44 (0) 20 7383 5258

Email: [education@rcophth.ac.uk](mailto:education@rcophth.ac.uk)

College website address: [www.rcophth.ac.uk](http://www.rcophth.ac.uk)

Enquiries about the examinations structure of the College should be addressed to:

The Examinations Assistant (at the above address.)

Tel: 00 44 (0) 20 7935 0702

Fax: 00 44 (0) 20 7383 5258

Email: [exams@rcophth.ac.uk](mailto:exams@rcophth.ac.uk)

#### **Other useful contacts:**

#### **Academy of Medical Royal Colleges**

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

#### **The British Council**

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/>

#### **British Medical Association**

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

#### **Immigration and Nationality Department**

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

#### **General Medical Council**

<http://www.gmc-uk.org/>

#### **Work Permits**

<http://www.workingintheuk.gov.uk/>

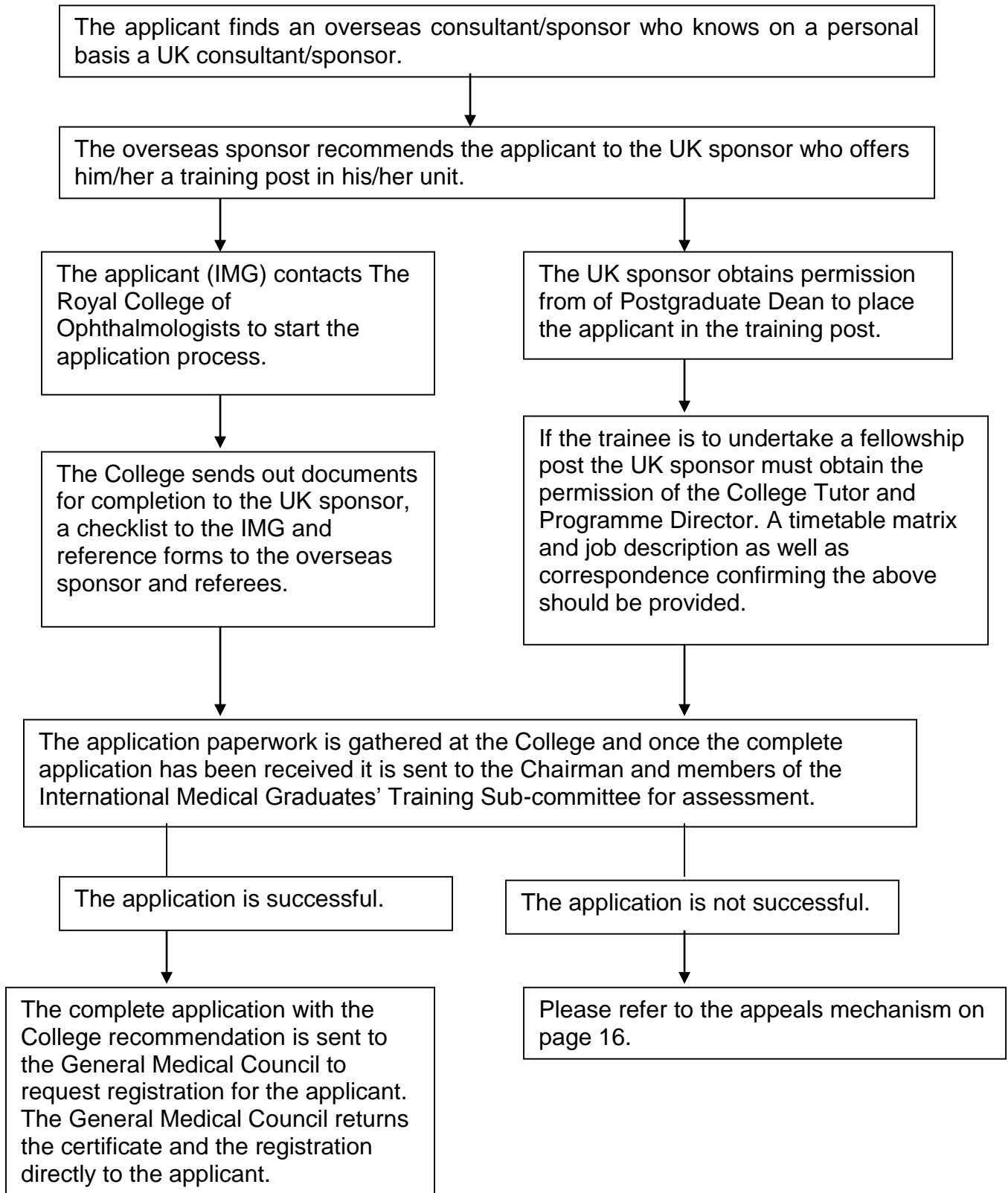
## 14. Glossary of terms

ASTO	Advanced Subspecialty Training Opportunities
BMJ	British Medical Journal
BST	Basic Specialist Training
CCT	Certificate of Completion of Training
CESR	Certificate confirming Eligibility for Specialist Registration
DSS	Dual Sponsorship Scheme
EEA	European Economic Area
FRCOphth	Fellowship of The Royal College of Ophthalmologists
FTSTA	Fixed Term Specialty Training Appointment
GMC	General Medical Council
GP	General Practitioner
HES	Hospital Eye Service
HST	Higher Specialist Training
IELTS	International English Language Testing System
IMG	International Medical Graduate
LAS	Locum Appointment for Service
MCQ	Multiple Choice Question
MMC	Modernising Medical Careers
MRCOphth	Membership of The Royal College of Ophthalmologists
MTI	Medical Training Initiative
NHS	National Health Service
OMP	Ophthalmic Medical Practitioner
OST	Ophthalmic Specialist Training
PLAB	Professional Linguistics Assessment Board Examination
PRHO	Pre-registration House Officer
RITA	Record of In-Training Assessment
SATQ	Self-Assessment of Training Quality
StR	Specialty Registrar
ST	Specialty Training e.g. ST3 means Specialty Training Year 3
STC	Specialty Training Committee
TSC	Trainee Selected Component

## Appendix I

The flow charts below briefly outline the process of an application for each of the routes onto the Dual Sponsorship Scheme.

### ROUTE A



**Please allow at least four months for the application process.**

## ROUTE B

The applicant finds an overseas consultant/sponsor who knows on a personal basis a UK consultant/sponsor.

The overseas sponsor recommends the applicant to the UK sponsor (**primary UK sponsor**) who recommends the applicant to a colleague (**secondary UK sponsor**) who offers the applicant a training post in his/her unit. (Please note from hereon in this chart references to the UK sponsor mean secondary sponsor).

The applicant (IMG) contacts the College to start the application process.

The UK sponsor obtains permission from Postgraduate Dean to place the applicant in the training post.

The College sends out documents for completion to the UK sponsor, a checklist to the IMG and reference forms to the overseas sponsor and referees.

If the trainee is to undertake a fellowship post the UK sponsor must also obtain the permission of the College Tutor and Programme Director. A timetable matrix and job description as well as correspondence confirming the above should be sent to the College.

The application paperwork is gathered at the College and once the complete application has been received it is sent to the Chairman and members of the International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee for assessment.

The application is successful.

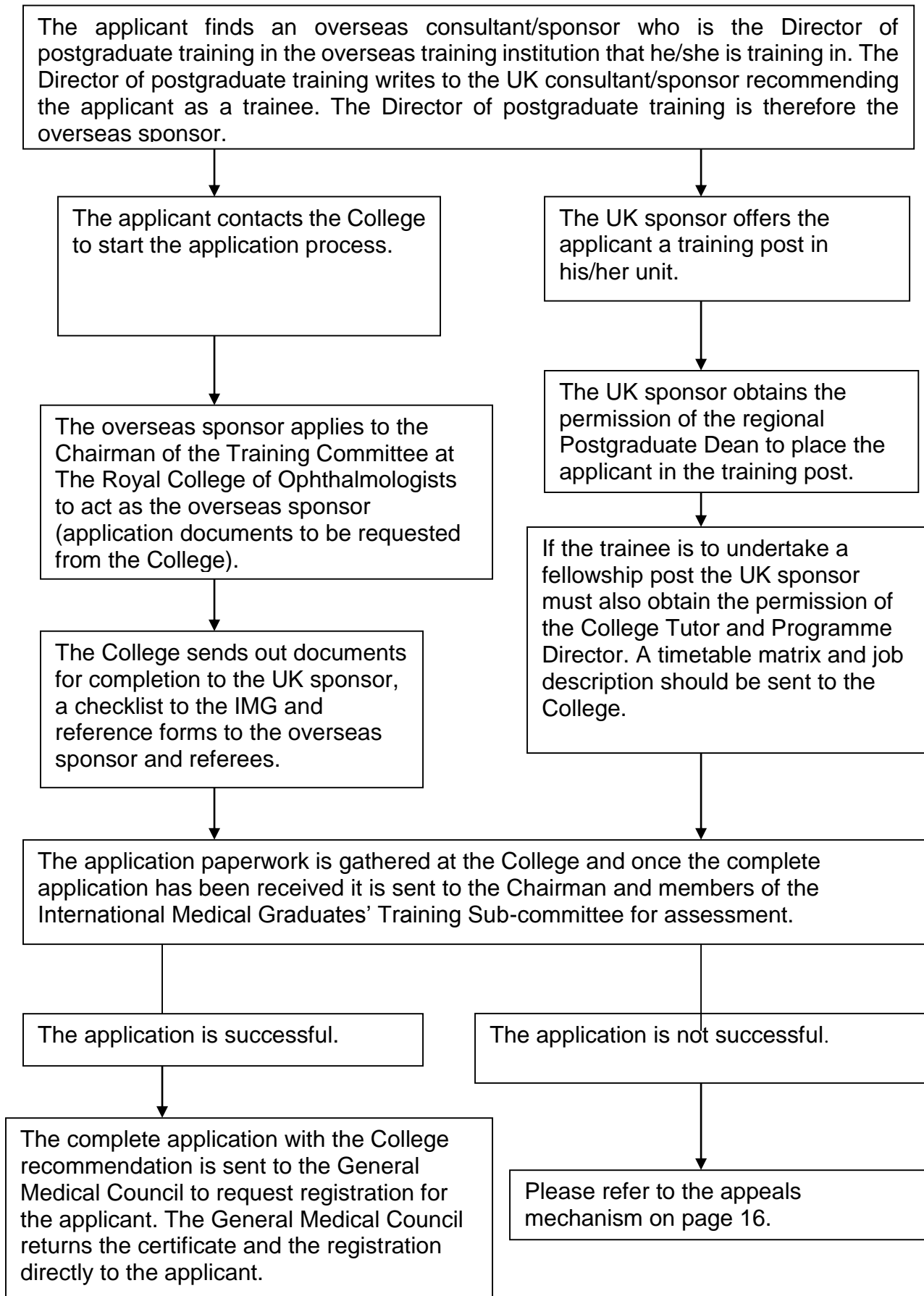
The application is not successful.

The complete application with the College recommendation is sent to the General Medical Council to request registration for the applicant. The General Medical Council returns the certificate and the registration directly to the applicant.

Please refer to the appeals mechanism on page 16.

**Please allow at least four months for the application process.**

## ROUTE C



**Please allow at least four months for the application process.**



## ROUTE D

The applicant requests that the Head of the University Department at which he/she undertook a UK postgraduate qualification, act as his/her overseas sponsor. The Head of Department recommend him/her to another UK consultant/sponsor whom the Head of Department knows on a personal basis.

(For example IMG undertakes a UK postgraduate course via distance learning and continues to work in their home country. IMG attends courses in the UK during annual leave and then obtains a UK postgraduate certificate).

The Head of Department recommends the applicant to the UK sponsor who offers the applicant a training post in his/her unit.

The applicant contacts College to start the application process.

The College sends out the application packs and reference forms.

The application paperwork is gathered at the College and once the complete application has been received it is sent to the Chairman and members of the International Medical Graduates' Training Sub-committee for assessment.

The application is successful.

The complete application with the College recommendation is sent to the General Medical Council to request registration for the applicant. The General Medical Council returns the certificate and the registration directly to the applicant.

The UK sponsor obtains permission from Postgraduate Dean to place the applicant in the training post.

If the trainee is to undertake a fellowship post the UK sponsor must also obtain the permission of the College Tutor and Programme Director. A timetable matrix and job description as well as correspondence confirming the above should be sent to the College.

The application is not successful.

Please refer to the appeals mechanism on page 16.

**Please allow at least four months for the application process.**