

Proposals for managing applications from medical graduates from outside the European Economic Area – Feedback Questionnaire

Name

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Organisation (if responding as an individual please indicate):

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Address

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Occupation:

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If doctor where are you doing/did you do your undergraduate training? (delete as applicable)

UK

EEA other

Non EEA

Providing Feedback - Your views

7.1 You are asked to provide your views on the following questions.

| | | Yes | No |
|---|---|------------|-----------|
| 1 | Do you agree that the problems identified in this document exist? | X | |
| 2 | Do you agree that the problems identified in this document are of the scale identified? | X | |
| 3 | Do you agree that the problems identified in this document require intervention? | X | |
| 4 | Are there any other relevant problems that have not been identified in this document? Please specify | | X |
| 5 | Assuming that there are problems requiring intervention, has the Department correctly identified the options for resolving those problems, or are there other potential options? Please specify | X | |
| 6 | Has the Department correctly identified the advantages and disadvantages of the options? | X | |

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| 7 | <p>Is there any further information that the Department should take into account when assessing the scale of the advantages and disadvantages of the options?</p> <p>Please specify</p> | | X |
| 8 | <p>Do you agree that issuing Departmental guidance giving priority to UK and EEA applicants for postgraduate training programmes (and to other identified categories of applicant) would resolve the problems identified in this document?</p> <p>Although likely to go some considerable way to resolving the problems, it is unclear if the issuing of <i>guidance</i> without that being legally enforceable would completely address the problem of UK doctors being displaced from training. In addition, the longer term aim of self-sufficiency in the UK medical workforce is dependent on accurate workforce planning and careful modelling of training opportunities, particularly in relation to demographic changes. These need to be kept under close review in parallel with implementation of the proposed guidance.</p> | | X |
| 9 | <p>Do you agree that issuing Departmental guidance giving priority to UK and EEA applicants for postgraduate training programmes (and to other identified categories of applicant) is the best way of resolving the problems identified in this document?</p> <p>Yes – but with the proviso under 8 above.</p> | X | |
| 10 | <p>Do you agree that the categories of applicant identified in the draft Departmental guidance set out in Annex A should be accorded priority for postgraduate training programmes?</p> <p>The College agrees that all categories, <i>with the exception of section A under Category 1</i>, should be given priority. In responding to the previous consultation in October 2007, our view (which is unchanged) was that non EEA UK graduates (unless they have acquired <u>permanent</u> right to remain in the UK) should be treated in the same way as other non-EEA graduates in relation to specialty training (<i>ie they would fall into Category 2</i>). However, as stated in our previous response, a case could be made, if capacity permits, for allowing non-EEA UK graduates access to the pre-registration year of the Foundation Programme.</p> | | X |
| 11 | <p>What do you consider the likely impact of such Departmental guidance would be?</p> <p>Please specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If it is not legally enforceable, the guidance will be challenged. ▪ There will be a significant impact on overseas doctors who will turn to others for their training, eroding the medical reputation of the UK and, potentially, the international goodwill that is generated by offering training opportunities to international graduates. It is essential, therefore, that the UK finds ways to continue to offer opportunities to those countries traditionally dependent on us for some aspects of training. ▪ UK based medical related industries may also suffer as a result. | | |

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| 12 | <p>Do you consider that any changes should be made to the draft Departmental guidance? Please specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See 10 above with reference to the Categories. ▪ In the earlier consultation there was a question about LATs and FTSTAs. Whilst accepting the point made in the paper that there is now less of an issue with FTSTAs (no mention is made of LATs), it would be helpful within the guidance to clarify the position in relation to both these categories of post, separately from the blanket definition of a training position. The College's view is that open competition for LATs and FTSTAs should be suspended in the short term, at least until these time limited training opportunities are not required for UK nationals. However, once permanent training numbers are balanced with the output from UK medical schools, there could be some relaxation of this rule. | X | |
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| 7.2 | <p>In addition, if you have views on issues arising out of this consultation document that are not addressed by the questions referred to above, we would like you to provide them too.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is imperative that fair transition arrangements are agreed for those IMGs currently in the system and undergraduate students from overseas already in UK medical schools. ▪ The College welcomes the reference to the Department working with the medical Royal Colleges, and other stakeholders, to extend opportunities for doctors from sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere to access essential specialty training that is unavailable in their own countries. However, more specific proposals, including how these would relate to the current Medical Training Initiative, are needed. |
| 7.3 | <p>Please send your views by completing this feedback questionnaire and the following monitoring questions.</p> |

Please return by email **by 10.00am on Tuesday 6th May 2007** to:

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MMC team
Department of Health
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