



English Language Requirements

The ability to communicate clearly with patients and colleagues is a key requirement for all healthcare professionals. In the case of doctors providing clinical care to members of the public, the ability to communicate is particularly important. Proficiency in the English language is therefore a core competency for all NCHDs working in the Irish public health service. The HSE requires that as part of the application process for training positions on specialist training programmes, that all applicants are required to demonstrate their competency in the English Language in line with HSE specifications.

In this context, all applicants who were not registered by the Medical Council in any of the divisions of the Register of Medical Practitioners **prior to 9th July 2012** must provide the following:

- IELTS (International English Language Testing System Academic Test) Certificate demonstrating a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the four domains - reading, writing, listening and speaking - on the academic text. The test must be undertaken no more than two years prior to the date of it being submitted to [name of training body]. Whilst you may sit the above test as often as you like, the above scores must have been achieved at only one sitting of the IELTS test. Results from more than one test sitting cannot be amalgamated. Any cost incurred in relation to the IELTS exam will be borne by the applicant. Information on IELTS is available at www.ielts.org;

OR

- University of Cambridge, ESOL Examinations – Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) demonstrating a minimum overall score of 67/100 and demonstrating an achievement of at least a “Good” level in all five skill areas – reading, writing, listening, speaking and use of English – in your Statement of Results. The exam must be undertaken no more than two years prior to the date of it being submitted to [name of training body]. Whilst you may sit the above exam as often as you like, the above scores must have been achieved at only one sitting. Results from more than one exam sitting cannot be amalgamated. Any cost incurred in relation to this exam will be borne by the applicant. Information on this exam is available at www.cambridgeesol.org.

Exemptions

An exemption from formally demonstrating your English Language Competency in the above manner is available to the following cohort of applicants:

1. Applicants who completed, in its entirety, their medical degree in the following countries – Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom and United States - and who provide documentary evidence of same;

OR

2. Applicants who were registered with the Medical Council in Ireland prior to 9th July 2012 and provide documentary evidence of same;

OR

3. Applicants who registered with the Medical Council in Ireland on or after the 9th July 2012 and who can provide documentary evidence of having worked as a full time clinical NCHD in the Irish public health service for a minimum period of 6 months and have demonstrated the required English Language competencies during the course of their employment. Applicants must submit a completed *Declaration of English Language Competencies* as documentary evidence for this exemption;

OR

4. Applicants who have undertaken and successfully passed all parts of the Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons and provide documentary evidence of same.

All applicants are required at the time of application to demonstrate to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland their English language competency either by means of submitting the required IELTS Certificate / University of Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English documentation or by declaring themselves exempt under one of the above parameters and providing the required documentary evidence of same.

**Application for Specialist Training Programme
Declaration of English Language Competencies**

Note: Sections A of this form must be completed in full by the applicant, whilst Section B must be completed and stamped by the relevant medical manpower personnel / HR personnel.

Section A - Statement by Applicant

I hereby seek an exemption from formally demonstrating my English Language Competencies on the grounds of having registered with the Medical Council on or after 9th July 2012 and having worked as a full time clinical NCHD in the Irish public health service for a minimum of six months since such registration. During the course of this employment I demonstrated the required English Language competencies required of an NCHD.

Details of Employment:

Place of Employment:	
Grade of Employment:	
Date From:	
Date To:	

Signature of Applicant: _____

Name of Applicant: _____

Medical Council Number: _____

Date: _____

Section B - Verification by Employer

I hereby verify the above statement and information provided by the applicant as accurate and true.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Date: _____

Hospital / Clinical Site Stamp: