



English Language Proficiency for Postgraduate Training

Section:	Registration		
Applicable Legislation:			
Approved by :	Approval Date:	Reviewer:	Review Date:
Registration Committee Executive Committee	June 16, 2017 June 26, 2017	Associate Registrar	June 2019

Preamble

This policy applies to post-graduate trainees, such as residents. The standards for English language proficiency set out in this policy are intended to apply also to "fellows", whether hospital or university based.

As well, until such time as further policies are developed, these standards will be applied to applications for licensure to programs supporting an Area of Focused Competence (AFC). It is recognized that in some situations, applicants for an AFC program or hospital-based fellowship may well be granted Defined Licences, limited to the term of the AFC program, based on these English proficiency requirements.

Purpose

In order to appear on the Education Register, an applicant must "have demonstrated proficiency in the English language as required by the Registrar". This policy sets out the Registrar's requirements.

Policy

CANDIDATES EXEMPTED FROM LANGUAGE TESTING:

1. Candidates for registration for postgraduate training who received their undergraduate medical education in Canada are not required to provide evidence of English Language proficiency in any form.
2. Candidates for registration for postgraduate training who received their undergraduate medical education in a country where English is the first and native language are not required to provide evidence of English Language proficiency.



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- Candidates for registration for postgraduate training who received their undergraduate medical education in a medical school where instruction was in both English and the first and native language of that country are not required to provide evidence of English language proficiency through test scores. The College will require a letter of attestation from the Program Director or Fellowship Sponsor in Nova Scotia confirming that, in the opinion, of the Program Director or Fellowship Sponsor, the candidate's proficiency in English allows for safe and effective communication with patients.

Candidates for registration for postgraduate training who received their undergraduate medical education in a county where English is not the first and native language and instruction was not in English must provide evidence of English Language proficiency through test scores.

NON-EXEMPTED CANDIDATES:

- All non-exempted candidates must demonstrate English language proficiency by attaining and submitting:
 - An overall average score of 7.0 or higher the academic version of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), taken within 24 months prior to application; or
 - An overall average score of 24 or higher on the academic version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFLS), taken within 24 months prior to application.
- Non-exempted candidates may submit IELTS or TOEFL test scores taken more than 24 months prior to application only when:



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- (a) They are practising medicine in a jurisdiction where English is a first language and that they were licensed to do so based on IELTS or TOEFLS scores equivalent to or higher than those set out above.
 - (b) They are currently enrolled in a postgraduate medical education program and were admitted to the program based on IELTS or TOEFLS scores equivalent to or higher than those set out above.
3. In addition to the test score requirements set out above, applications for non-exempted candidates must include a letter from the Program Director or Fellowship Sponsor attesting that, in the opinion of the Program Director or Fellowship Sponsor, the candidate's English language proficiency allows for safe and effective communication with patients.
4. Non-exempted candidates seeking a Post-Graduate Training Licence for an elective of 3 months or less may demonstrate English language proficiency on the sole basis of a letter of attestation, as set out above, from the Program Director providing the elective.