



English Language Proficiency for Postgraduate Training and Fellowship

Section:	Registration		
Applicable Legislation:			
Approved by : Registration Committee Council	Approval Date: April 6, 2018 May 25, 2018	Reviewer: Associate Registrar	Review Date: April 2020

Preamble

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

Purpose

To qualify for licensure as a postgraduate trainee or fellow, an applicant must have demonstrated proficiency in the English language as required by the Registrar. This policy sets out the Registrar's requirements.

Once an applicant meets the requirements of the English language proficiency test set out below, the applicant will normally be exempt from future testing.

Policy

CANDIDATES will be EXEMPTED FROM LANGUAGE TESTING who:

1. received their undergraduate medical education in Canada
2. received their undergraduate medical education:
 - a. In a country where English is the first and native language; and
 - b. in a medical school where English was the primary language of instruction. 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.



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NON-EXEMPTED CANDIDATES:

1. 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
2. Non-exempted candidates may submit IELTS taken more than 24 months prior to application only when:
 - (a) They are practising medicine in a jurisdiction where English is the first language and that they were licensed to do so based on IELTS 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 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.