



Higher Surgical Training – Intake 2026

Communication Skills – English Language Requirements

The Medical Council accepts any of the following as evidence of effective communication skills:

- Academic IELTS Certificate (dated within the last two years) with an overall band score of 7.0 and a minimum score of 6.5 in each module. All IELTS results will be verified online. *Please note the required scores for each module must be met in one exam sitting*
- Satisfactory proof of award of a Higher Qualification listed in Appendix A of the Registration Rules which was awarded by a postgraduate training body in a country where English is the language spoken by the vast majority of the population
- Satisfactory proof that basic medical degree and internship training were completed through English in a country where English is the language spoken by the vast majority of the population, e.g. in Australia or New Zealand over 97% of the population speak English; and in the USA over 95% of the population speak English. This is comparable to Ireland, where over 98% of the population speak English.
- Cambridge ESOL Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) - CEFR Level C1 or C2
- OET, (Category – Medicine) dated within the last two years, with a minimum grade of B in each module. All OET results will be verified online. *Please note the required scores for each module must be met in one exam sitting*
- USMLE if all of Step 1 and Step 2 CK and CS have been completed within 7 years of applying for registration. *If without the Clinical Skills (CS) component, an applicant must provide alternative evidence of language skills such as those included above.

Note: The Council accepts the OET and IELTS from exams run in a test centre, only. The OET@Home and the IELTS Online are NOT accepted.

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