



National Doctors Training and Planning
Health Service Executive
Sancton Wood Building, Heuston South Quarter
St John's Road West, Dublin 8

Oiliúint agus Pleanáil Náisiúnta na nDochtúirí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Sancton Wood Building, Ceathrú Heuston Theas
Bóthar Eoin Thiar Baile Atha Cliath 8

Tel: (076) 6959924
E-mail: doctors@hse.ie
www.hse.ie/doctors

8th April 2019

Deputy James Browne

Ref: PQ Ref 13336/19

Dear Deputy Browne,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question below which was sent to the HSE for reply:

To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding EU citizens here that hold MD degrees in another EU country and Medical Council registration but cannot start an internship which is necessary for the higher SHO; if his attention has been drawn to a number of these cases; his plans regarding these cases; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

EU law, namely Directive 2005/36/EC ("the Directive"), provides for recognition throughout the European Economic Area ("EEA") of Basic Medical Training ("BMT") obtained in another EEA country. BMT is the combination of a Basic Medical Qualification ("BMQ") obtained on graduation together with any accompanying certificate as required by the Member State. In Ireland, the accompanying certificate to BMQ is the "Certificate of Experience", which is obtained following successful completion of an Internship. Under Irish law, the focus is primarily on the qualification held by the applicant, not the applicant's citizenship.

Under Article 24 of the Directive, BMT shall comprise a total of:

1. at least five years of study; or
2. 5,500 hours of theoretical and practical training provided by, or under the supervision of, a university.

Due to differences in the curriculum across medical schools of the EEA member states, graduates of medical schools from EEA member states, including Ireland, may or may not be required to undertake a clinical internship immediately upon medical school graduation, to complete achieve BMT.

Graduates from medical schools in the member states in Table A below are considered, under the Directive, *not* to have completed their BMT upon graduation, and are required to undertake a clinical internship. These EEA countries, including Ireland, are listed in Table A below:



Table A: Member States requiring a separate period of internship in order to complete their Basic Medical Training

• Denmark	• Luxembourg	• Sweden
• Iceland	• Malta	• Slovenia
• Ireland	• Norway	• United Kingdom
• Italy	• Poland	
• Lithuania	• Portugal	

Graduates from medical schools in the remaining member states are considered, under the Directive, to have completed their BMT upon graduation, and are *not* required to undertake a clinical internship. This is due to the fact that these countries have lengthier academic undergraduate degrees. These countries are listed below in Table B:

Table B: Member States *not* requiring a separate period of internship in order to complete their Basic Medical Training

• Austria	• Czech Republic	• Greece	• Slovak Republic
• Belgium	• Estonia	• Hungary	• Spain
• Bulgaria	• Finland	• Latvia	• Switzerland
• Croatia	• France	• Netherlands	
• Cyprus	• Germany	• Romania	

The full text of EU Directive 2005/36/EC can be found here:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02005L0036-20171201>

Therefore, medical graduates of those EU countries who are not required to undertake a separate period of clinical internship may apply directly for general registration with the Medical Council of Ireland and, if successful, they may apply for an SHO post in Ireland. However, while these graduates may meet the qualification criteria to apply for an SHO post there may also be experiential criteria required consisting of a specified duration of clinical practice. Therefore, these graduates may not meet the experiential criteria required to be appointed to an SHO post.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Frank Murray
Director
National Doctors Training and Planning
Health Service Executive