

**Príomhoifigeach Daoine**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí
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Mr. Pa Daly, TD

26 May 2025

PQ 26409/25 (Health) – To ask the Minister for Health given the shortages of qualified medical practitioners, whether a scheme will be developed where Irish students studying medicine abroad would be facilitated in Irish hospitals with an observership; and if she will make a statement on the matter - Pa Daly

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Question which was sent to the HSE for response.

Clinical Medical Observerships are available to qualified doctors who are currently legally resident in Ireland or are entitled to be resident in Ireland. Observerships afford a qualified doctor the chance to observe clinical work in hospitals for a defined number of weeks, while being paired with a supervisor. As observerships are available to qualified doctors, only those studying medicine are precluded from applying.

Observerships are designed for medical graduates who wish to gain experience and an appreciation of the nature of clinical practice in Ireland; and to observe the role of doctors and other professionals within the Irish healthcare system. Observerships may also support a pathway to professional registration for unregistered doctors and increase the potential applicant pool for medical roles.

There is no centralised application process for a Clinical Medical Observership. To enquire about a potential observership doctors need to contact the Medical Manpower / Recruiting team in the hospital they would like to do the observership in directly. Availability of Medical Clinical Observer (Doctor) placements are dependent on availability of a suitable Supervising Consultant.

Further information on observerships can be found at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hr-circulars/hr-circular-011-2024-revised-hr-policy-on-medical-clinical-observership.html>

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Mairéad Ryan
National HR