Introduction

The Medical Training Initiative (MTI) is designed to enable a small number of International Medical and Dental Graduates to enter the UK to experience training and development in the NHS for up to two years – before returning to their home country. Under the scheme, training capacity not required for planned UK/EEA training numbers is made available for overseas doctors and dentists who meet the required eligibility criteria.

The posts are approved by Deaneries and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges acts as the UK Sponsor to enable participants to apply for a Tier 5 visa with the UK Borders Agency.

The current arrangements ensure that the UK continues clinical links around the world, promoting UK healthcare and education. The Tier 5 visa and the MTI Scheme contribute to the UK's global health agenda, and to the WHO code of practice on international recruitment of health personnel with its aim to "...protect and strengthen the health systems of developing countries."
One of the main purposes of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) is to improve post-graduate medical education within the UK; in keeping with that work the AoMRC took on the role of National Sponsor of the Medical Training Initiative scheme to the UKBA in April of 2010. Most Medical Royal Colleges have their own MTI scheme.

**The Royal College of Psychiatrists’ MTI Scheme**

MTI is for overseas qualified psychiatrists who wish to further their expertise in psychiatry by acquiring additional skills in their own specialty or in a subspecialty. It is not for new trainee psychiatrists, which is the main difference from previous overseas doctors’ schemes. Most Psychiatric Training Schemes in developing countries provide specialty training in Adult Psychiatry with very limited opportunities to train in other subspecialties. The UK mental health services provide unique opportunity for experience in number of subspecialties such as Old Age Psychiatry (Dementia care), Eating Disorders, Learning Disability, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatry and others. There is no need for those overseas psychiatrists to sit any exam (such as MRCPsych) or gain CCT as they are qualified psychiatrists in their own country and will go back to their country after the training period. However the psychiatrists may wish to sit the MRCPsych in which case their placements would be tailored to help with this.

**Criteria for applications**

The Royal College of Psychiatrists will ask candidates to provide evidence that they have:

- successfully completed a primary medical qualification accepted by the GMC
- completed an acceptable internship (or equivalent) of not less than 12 months following undergraduate training
- been engaged in clinical practice/training in psychiatry for 3 or more years (from the last 5 years) **including** the preceding 12 months
- obtained, or are working towards, a postgraduate qualification in psychiatry
- having achieved the GMC’s minimum required scores in the academic version of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) within the last two years.
- three references that cover the principles of *Good Medical Practice*
- are resident overseas at the time the application to the scheme is initiated and have no rights of residence in the UK/EU/EEA/Switzerland
The Royal College of Psychiatrists will also ask for a letter of support/ nomination from:

- the employing institution and
- the relevant International Division of Royal College of Psychiatrists, or
- the local Psychiatric Association supporting their application

Candidates will also be required to:

- pay an administrative fee (£200 - £500 depending on country of residence – see bandings for details)
- apply to become Pre Membership Psychiatric Trainee Member of the College and pay a subscription fee of £134 (pro-rata is joining after January)
- attend for a one month of clinical attachment and induction, after being accepted to the scheme, at the accepting NHS trust
- Be available for a video conferencing interview
- Provide a legible copy of their passport

Further details about the MTI scheme, including advice for Trusts and for individuals can be found on the Academy of Medical Royal College’s Website: www.aomrc.org.uk/mti

If any further information is required please contact the Royal College of Psychiatrists’ International Liaison Manager, ecook@rcpsych.ac.uk / +44 (0)203 2072584