EEA doctor coming to work in the UK
This resource focuses on the journey of an EEA doctor. It will provide you with a high level overview of the sequence of key steps you will need to take to work as a doctor in the UK, such as securing GMC registration and a job offer.

We have also developed the journeys of:

– International medical students who wish to study at a UK Medical school and

– International medical graduates who intend to come and work in the UK

We strongly recommend you familiarise yourself with guidance issued by the Home Office.
As an EEA citizen, you currently have the right to live and work in the UK under European law. To exercise your right to live in the UK, you must be able to support yourself and your family without having to rely on public funds.

You do not need to obtain a visa or work permit to work in the UK. If your family members want to exercise their right to live in the UK and are not themselves EEA or Swiss nationals, they will have to apply for an EEA family permit before they travel to the UK.
Apply for GMC registration

To practise medicine in the UK you need to hold registration with a licence to practise.

You can find information on up to date fees on the GMC website.
Applying for GMC registration

You will need to hold a European primary medical qualification that is listed in Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC.

You can check your qualification by clicking on the relevant link below:

- **My qualification is from an EEA country or Switzerland**
- **My qualification is from outside the UK, EEA and Switzerland**

Depending on your qualification, you may also need to be added to the GP or specialist register.

If you have a primary medical qualification obtained outside of the EEA and UK, you will need to have it independently verified before you are granted registration with a licence to practise. You should check whether **this applies to you**
Applying for GMC registration

You will need to submit evidence of your fitness to practise, including details of your postgraduate medical experience and non-medical experience, for the last five years or since you graduated.

Find out further information on the GMC website
Applying for GMC registration

If you have had a break in medical practice you may find it more complicated to get registration and find work in the UK. You need to make sure your knowledge and skills are up to date before you apply to work in medical practice in the UK.

You can read GMC criteria and guidance to find out more.
If you want to practice as a General Practitioner (GP) you will need to:

– Join the GMC GP register. You can find more information here

– Apply to join the National Performers List which is a list of approved GPs, who satisfy a range of criteria necessary for working in the NHS.

– Register on the NHS GP Induction and Refresher scheme which offers dedicated practical support and a range of assessments including placements and simulated surgeries.

NHS England also provides financial support for those wishing to work in general practice in England. You can also apply for the International GP recruitment programme
You can now apply for vacancies within the UK.

You can search for jobs that match your skills by registering at NHS jobs

EEA nationals are not subject to immigration controls and can apply for vacancies on the same basis as UK residents.
Apply for pre-settled status

If you arrive in the UK before the date that the UK leaves the EU, you can apply for pre-settled status. This applies if you have not completed five years of continuous residence in the UK and will be granted under UK domestic immigration law.

Those who have lived in the UK continuously for five years will be eligible for settled status.
The EU Settlement Scheme was opened on the 29 March 2019. You can apply now if you meet the criteria. You will need to be living in the UK before it leaves the EU. The deadline for applying is the 30 June 2021 (or the 31 December 2020 if the UK leaves the EU without a deal)
Key resources

BMA immigration page

BMA overseas resource

GMC registration page

NHS England support for international doctors completing GP training

NHS Employers: Working and Training in the National Health Service – A guide for international medical and dental graduates thinking about working or training in the UK (May 2015)
The British Medical Association (BMA) is the trade union and professional association for doctors in the UK. It also offers specialist support for doctors new to the UK.

By becoming a member of the BMA you’ll be joining thousands of other doctors who also qualified overseas. You’ll also benefit from an initial 50% discount on membership fees.

To find out more about how membership can benefit you as an overseas qualified doctor [click here](#)