

# J R C P T B

JOINT ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS TRAINING BOARD  
5 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LB

## What is Basic Specialist Training (BST)?

Basic Specialist Training in the UK is the successful completion of at least 24 months specialist training *and* the acquisition of the [MRCP\(UK\)](#) or a recognised equivalent. The General Medical Council (GMC) recognises completion of BST to the satisfaction of a UK medical Royal College or Faculty as an alternative mechanism to the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) for demonstrating capability for practice under limited registration (subject to satisfying other [GMC](#) criteria).

## What qualifications are recognised as being equivalent to the MRCP(UK) by the Royal College of Physicians?

We consider the following qualifications in Medicine as having the equivalent content to the MRCP(UK):

- FCPS Pakistan (Medicine)
- FRACP Part 1
- MHKCP
- MD Colombo (Medicine)
- FCP South Africa
- M.Med Singapore
- M.Med Malaysia
- FRCP Canada
- US Boards of Internal Medicine

The College would normally expect one of the qualifications above to have been conferred on the applicant no more than five years before the application for UK recognition for completion of BST is made.

Please be advised that we may not recognise other postgraduate qualifications, and applications from doctors with qualifications other than those listed above are unlikely to be successful.

## How can I apply to the RCP for recognition of completion of BST?

To apply please download a BST Recognition Application Pack . There is an application fee of £150 + VAT (Total £176.25) payable by sterling cheque to *JRCPTB*. This should be sent together with your completed application pack.

**Please note: Incomplete applications will not be accepted and all fees are non-refundable. The College's decision is final in all matters relating to the recognition of completion of Basic Specialist Training.**

*Applications will only be accepted by post. The JRCPTB Office is unable to meet with applicants or enquirers in person.*

### **What qualifications and experience do I need to apply?**

In order to apply to the College for recognition of completion of BST you must:

- hold a Primary Medical Qualification that is accepted by the GMC for the purposes of limited registration. The GMC normally accepts all the primary medical qualifications awarded by universities listed in the [World Directory of Medical Schools](#) published by the World Health Organisation (WHO). If your qualification is not listed in the Directory please contact the [GMC](#) for further advice.
- have completed an internship of 12 months that is equivalent to the current Pre-Registration House Officer year that UK medical graduates undertake.
- have completed at least 24 months of Basic Specialist Training (BST). Of this eighteen months must be spent in posts providing experience in the admission and early follow up of acute emergencies and a minimum of six months must be spent in posts giving exposure to acute unselected medical take.
- hold a Postgraduate Qualification recognised as equivalent to the MRCP(UK) as listed above.
- have achieved a minimum band score of 7.0 overall in the academic [International English Language Testing System](#), with a minimum of 7.0 in Speaking and a minimum of 6.0 all other modules. The certificate must be dated within the last 18 months prior to your application. See the Guidance Notes for more information on the IELTS (Please note: The College does not require EU/EEA nationals to take the IELTS).
- have never previously taken and failed any part of the General Medical Council's Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB Test) in the time since you were awarded the Postgraduate Qualification that is the basis of your application.

### **Applicants with Alternate Qualifications**

For doctors who do not hold one of the qualifications listed above, the College considers the main route to limited registration with the GMC to be through the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB). For further information please see [www.gmc-uk.org](http://www.gmc-uk.org).

Alternatively, doctors with a different qualification can apply to have it recognised by the College.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### What is Basic Specialist Training (BST)?

Basic Specialist Training in the UK is the successful completion at least 24 months specialist training *and* the acquisition of the [MRCP\(UK\)](#) or a recognised equivalent. Of the 24 months specialist training eighteen months must be spent in posts providing experience in the admission and early follow up of acute emergencies and a minimum of six months must be spent in posts giving exposure to acute unselected medical take. You may find that BST is sometimes referred to as General Professional Training (GPT). For further information on [BST/GPT](#) please see the College website [www.rcplondon.ac.uk](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk).

**Does recognition of completion of BST by the College exempt me from taking the MRCP(UK)?**

No. Recognition of completion of BST is not a replacement for, and does not exempt you from, the MRCP(UK) examinations. Recognition of completion of BST will allow you to undertake [Higher Medical Training](#) in the UK, and it will provide you with a route to limited registration (subject to satisfying all other relevant GMC criteria). For further information on the MRCP(UK) please see [www.mrcpuk.org](http://www.mrcpuk.org).

### What posts can I take with limited registration through the BST route?

You will be able to work in supervised employment in the NHS, and will be restricted to your medical specialty (i.e. General Medicine or its sub-specialties). Please note that being eligible for limited registration through this, or any other route, does not guarantee that you will be appointed to a training post. The College would advise you to thoroughly research employment opportunities for your specialty/sub-specialty before coming to the UK.

### Can I send some of my documentation now and the rest when I have it?

The College will only accept complete applications. Applications that are not complete will be returned to the sender and all fees are non refundable.

### If I have not got one of the qualifications listed as being equivalent to the MRCP(UK) can I still apply for recognition of completion of BST?

If you do not hold one of the qualifications listed as being equivalent to the MRCP(UK) it is unlikely that the College will grant you a letter confirming completion of BST. If you do decide to make an application please bear in mind that all fees are non-refundable.

**What will the College issue to me in order that I may prove I have completed BST?**

If your application is approved the Joint Committee on Higher Medical Training (JRCPTB) will issue a letter confirming that you have completed BST to their satisfaction, and that you are eligible to enter Higher Medical Training.

**What requirements and documentation will the GMC ask for if I apply for limited registration?**

You should contact the [GMC](#) directly to ask them what you will be required to provide when submitting an application for limited registration.

**My name has changed since I graduated from medical school, so the name on my Primary Medical Qualification is different to the name I now use. Do I need to provide evidence or proof of my name change?**

Yes. If you have changed your name, for example through marriage, or if there is any variation in the spelling of your name between your Primary Medical Qualification certificate and your passport you be required to provide evidence of the change. This may be in the form of a certified copy of your marriage certificate, or certified copies of your old and new passports. Alternatively a letter from the Dean of the Medical School/University where you obtained your Primary Medical Qualification confirming that the name on your certificates and the name you have now belong to one and the same person.

**Will any of the personal information in my application be passed on to anyone else?**

Yes, but only in limited circumstances. The College has secure central information systems to allow for the efficient administration and discharge of its responsibilities, which all staff have access to. The College may have to disclose personal details to third parties, such as the GMC or referees in order to verify statements made by individuals, e.g. in applications to qualify for higher medical training. The College will also keep individuals informed of products and services which it feels may be of interest to them, unless they specifically request us not to. For further information see the College's [Registration](#) under the Data Protection Act.

## **Useful Addresses**

**General Medical Council**  
Regent's Place, 350 Euston Road  
London  
NW1 3JN  
Open 08.00 to 18.00 from Monday to Friday.

Registration Helpline: +44 (0)20 7915 3630  
Email: [registrationhelp@gmc-uk.org](mailto:registrationhelp@gmc-uk.org)  
Website: [www.gmc-uk.org](http://www.gmc-uk.org)

**National Advice Centre for Postgraduate Medical Education**  
STIU, 3rd Floor  
British Council  
Medlock Street  
Manchester  
M15 4AA  
Tel: + 44 (0) 161 957 7218  
<http://www.britcoun.org/health/nacpme>

**British Council**  
Bridgewater House  
58 Whitworth Street  
Manchester  
M1 6BB  
Tel: + 44 (0) 161 957 7474  
Fax: + 44 (0) 161 957 7029  
<http://www.britishcouncil.org>

**Department for Education and Employment**  
Overseas Labour Service  
West 5, Moorfoot  
Sheffield  
S1 4PQ  
Tel: + 44 (0) 114 259 4071  
Fax: + 44 (0) 114 259 3707  
<http://www.dfee.gov.uk>

**British Medical Association**  
BMA House  
Tavistock Square  
London  
WC1H 9JP  
Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7387 4499  
Fax: + 44 (0) 20 7383 6400  
<http://www.bma.org.uk>

**Immigration and Nationality Directorate**  
Home Office  
Lunar House  
40 Wellesley Road  
Croydon  
CR9 2BY

Tel: + 44 (0) 20 8686 0688  
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Medical Defence Union**

3 Devonshire Place  
London  
W1N 2EA  
Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7486 6181  
<http://www.the-mdu.com>

**Medical Protection Society**

33 Cavendish Square  
London  
W1G 0PS  
Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7399 1300  
Email: [info@mps.org.uk](mailto:info@mps.org.uk)  
Web: <http://www.medicalprotection.org>

**World Health Organisation**

The World Directory of Medical Schools can be found at:

[www.who.int/hrh/documents/HRH\\_documents/en/index1.html](http://www.who.int/hrh/documents/HRH_documents/en/index1.html)

Alternatively you can contact the GMC to check that your Primary Medical Qualification is recognised in the UK. Please see [www.gmc-uk.org](http://www.gmc-uk.org) or email [registrationhelp@gmc-uk.org](mailto:registrationhelp@gmc-uk.org).