Royal College of Surgeons
ADVANCING SURGICAL CARE

Monday, 05 February 2018

RE: Update of changes to the Medical Training Initiative (MTI) scheme – Tier 5 visa requirements

The Medical Training Initiative (MTI) is a national scheme designed to allow a small number of doctors to enter the UK from overseas for a maximum of 24 months, so that they can benefit from training and development in NHS services before returning to their home countries.

The International Surgical Training Programme (ISTP) operates within the generic MTI scheme with the primary focus of advancing the standard of surgical care globally. Since its inception, the ISTP has allowed the RCS to facilitate sponsorship for GMC registration and the supporting Tier 5 visa for surgical trainees entering the UK to undertake short-term training in ISTP posts.

Due to recent changes set out by the Department of Health, Health Education England and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, priority for Tier 5 visa Certificates of Sponsorship is now given to doctors applying from countries listed as:

- Department for International Development (DfID) priority countries, and
- World Bank classified Low Income (LI) and Lower Middle Income (LMI) Countries

Please refer to the enclosed Appendix A for the current list of the priority countries. This list will be updated on a regular basis by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges.

Surgeons from the priority countries can apply for the International Surgical Training Programme (ISTP) as normal, providing they meet the RCS eligibility requirements.

Surgeons applying from non-priority countries

The RCS can still facilitate sponsorship for GMC registration for surgeons applying from the non-priority countries however, entry to the UK will need to be through an alternative route, such as the Tier 2 (General) visa.

The following websites can provide further information regarding the Tier 2 visa route and eligibility requirements:

- Academy of Medical Royal Colleges – Tier 2 General visa
- UK Home Office – Tier 2 (General) visa

Appendix A

A list of the current countries which comprise the DfID priorities and the World Bank Low Income and Lower Middle Income countries is set out below.

Afghanistan
Armenia
Bangladesh
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Burkina Faso
Burma
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Cote d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of Congo
Djibouti
Egypt, Arab Rep.
El Salvador
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gambia, The
Ghana
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Jordan
Kenya
Kiribati
Korea, Dem. People's Rep.
Kosovo
Kyrgyzstan
Lao PDR
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.
Moldova
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Occupied Palestinian Territories
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Rwanda
Samoa
Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Sudan
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Swaziland
Syria
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Timor-Leste
Togo
Tonga
Tunisia
Uganda
Ukraine
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Vietnam
West Bank and Gaza
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe