Tuesday, 04 September 2018

RE: Notice 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  Afghanistan
Angola  Angola
Bangladesh  Bangladesh
Benin  Benin
Bhutan  Bhutan
Burma  Burma
Burkina Faso  Burkina Faso
Burundi  Burundi
Bolivia  Bolivia
Cabo Verde  Cabo Verde
Cambodia  Cambodia
Cameroon  Cameroon
Central African Republic  Central African Republic
Chad  Chad
Comoros  Comoros
Congo  Congo
Cote d'Ivoire  Cote d'Ivoire
Democratic People's Republic of Korea  Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of Congo  Democratic Republic of Congo
Djibouti  Djibouti
Egypt  Egypt
El Salvador  El Salvador
Ethiopia  Ethiopia
Eritrea  Eritrea
Eswatini  Eswatini
Gambia  Gambia
Georgia  Georgia
Ghana  Ghana
Guinea  Guinea
Guinea-Bissau  Guinea-Bissau
Haiti  Haiti
Honduras  Honduras
India  India
Indonesia  Indonesia
Iraq  Iraq
Jordan  Jordan
Kenya  Kenya
Kiribati  Kiribati
Kosovo  Kosovo
Kyrgyzstan  Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic  Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lebanon  Lebanon
Lesotho  Lesotho
Liberia  Liberia
Madagascar  Madagascar
Malawi  Malawi
Mali  Mali
Mauritania  Mauritania
Micronesia  Micronesia
Moldova  Moldova
Mongolia  Mongolia
Morocco  Morocco
Mozambique  Mozambique
Myanmar  Myanmar
Nepal  Nepal
Nicaragua  Nicaragua
Niger  Niger
Nigeria  Nigeria
Palestine  Palestine
Pakistan  Pakistan
Papua New Guinea  Papua New Guinea
Philippines  Philippines
Rwanda  Rwanda
Sao Tome and Principe  Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal  Senegal
Sierra Leone  Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands  Solomon Islands
Somalia  Somalia
South Sudan  South Sudan
Sudan  Sudan
Sri Lanka  Sri Lanka
Syria  Syria
Tajikistan  Tajikistan
Tanzania  Tanzania
Timor-Leste  Timor-Leste
Togo  Togo
Tunisia  Tunisia
Turkey  Turkey
Uganda  Uganda
Ukraine  Ukraine
Uzbekistan  Uzbekistan
Vanuatu  Vanuatu
Vietnam  Vietnam
Yemen  Yemen
Zambia  Zambia
Zimbabwe  Zimbabwe