

Eligibility for Taking the Licensing Examination of the Medical Council

The Legislative Council passed the Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021 on 21 October 2021 to create a new pathway for non-locally trained doctors to qualify as registered medical practitioners in Hong Kong, subject to certain criteria being met under the amended Medical Registration Ordinance (“MRO”), Chapter 161, the Laws of Hong Kong.

To reflect the new arrangement for taking the Licensing Examination (“LE”) of the Medical Council of Hong Kong (“the Council”) after passage of the Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021, section 7A of the MRO now reads as follows —

- “(1) No person shall be eligible to take the Licensing Examination unless —
- (a) the person makes an application in that behalf to the Council and pays to the Registrar a prescribed fee for taking the Licensing Examination; and
 - (b) the person satisfies the Council that the person is of good character and —
 - (i) that at the time of the application the person has satisfactorily completed not less than 5 years full time medical training of a type approved by the Council and is the holder of a medical qualification acceptable to the Council; or
 - (ii) as an alternative for a Hong Kong permanent resident—that the person holds a medical qualification that is a recognized medical qualification for the purposes of section 14C.
- (2) For the purpose of subsection (1)(b)(i), the 5 years full time medical training shall include a period of internship as approved by the Council. ”

Under the amended MRO, non-locally trained medical graduates who are **Hong Kong permanent residents and hold the “recognized medical qualifications” but without undergoing a period of internship as approved by the Council during their full time medical training** are eligible to take the LE in Hong Kong. Having passed the LE, candidates will be required to undergo such period of assessment as the Council may determine. Provided that they are of good character and have good professional conduct and subject to their satisfactory completion of the period of assessment and having been selected for full-time employment as medical practitioners with special registration in one or more of the specified institutions (i.e. Department of Health, Hospital Authority, the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong) as listed in Schedule 1B to the MRO, they will be granted special registration. Subject to fulfilment of the relevant requirements under section 8(1)(ba)(i) to (iii) of the MRO, they are qualified to apply for full registration under section 14 of the MRO.

For details about the list of “recognized medical qualifications”, please take note of the announcement of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202204/27/P2022042700314.htm>) and refer to the Council’s website (https://www.mchk.org.hk/english/registration/recognised_medical_qualifications.html).

For enquiries regarding the LE, please contact the Secretariat of the Licentiate Committee of the Council at –

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Licentiate Committee of the
Medical Council of Hong Kong
29 April 2022