

**THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE
OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG**

Guidelines 3 -

Period of Assessment: Exemption, Reduction, Deferment of Internship Training

Application

1. Any person who has passed the Licensing Examination and wishes to undergo such period of assessment as the Council may determine under section 10A of the Medical Registration Ordinance (Cap. 161) (“the prescribed period of assessment”) may apply for:-
 - (a) exemption from a specialty of internship training;
 - (b) deferment of internship training; and
 - (c) reduction of the period of assessment for a specialty of internship training.
2. Documentary proof in support is required.
3. Applications for exemption, deferment or reduction should be considered according to the following guidelines.
4. The following guidelines apply to any person who has passed the Licensing Examination and the latest date when he/she ought to have started undergoing the prescribed period of assessment will fall on or after 1 January 2016 (“qualified applicant”).

Guidelines for exemption from a specialty of internship training

5. Qualified applicant is eligible to apply for exemption from a specialty of internship training if he/she has a specialist qualification comparable to a Fellowship of the Colleges under the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (“HKAM”).
6. Details of exemption from a specialty of internship training are as follows: -
 - (a) For qualified applicant with a specialist qualification comparable to a Fellowship of the Hong Kong College of Physicians, he/she will take the remaining 6 months’ internship training in surgery related discipline(s);
 - (b) For qualified applicant with a specialist qualification comparable to a Fellowship of the College of Surgeons of Hong Kong, he/she will take the remaining 6 months internship training in medicine related discipline(s); and
 - (c) For qualified applicant with a specialist qualification comparable to a Fellowship of the other Colleges under the HKAM (College for Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong excepted), he/she will take each for 3 months internship training in general surgery and general medicine.
7. No more than one application for exemption from a specialty of internship training can be allowed.
8. Unless otherwise approved by the Medical Council, application for exemption from a specialty of internship training can only be made before a qualified applicant has started to undergo the prescribed period of assessment.

Guidelines for deferment

9. Qualified applicant who passed the Licensing Examination in the first sitting of a year is required to start undergoing the prescribed period of assessment on either 1 July the same year or 1 January the next year. Qualified applicant who passed the second sitting of a year is required to start undergoing the prescribed period of assessment on either 1 January or 1 July the next year.
10. In general, deferment will not be granted to a qualified applicant unless he/she is engaged in active clinical practice.
11. Application for deferment will only be considered in special circumstances which may include but not limited to pregnancy, sickness, engagement in clinical training or employment in clinical practice etc.
12. The maximum period allowed for deferment is normally 3 years counting from the latest date when he/she ought to have started undergoing the prescribed period of assessment.
13. If deferment is granted, the qualified applicant must start undergoing the prescribed period of assessment immediately after the deferment has lapsed, failing which he/she will have to take and pass all three parts of the Licensing Examination again.

Guidelines for reduction of the period of assessment for a specialty of internship training

14. Application for reduction of the period of assessment for a specialty of internship training can be made only after a qualified applicant has commenced internship training in that specialty. For the avoidance of doubt, a qualified applicant who has been exempted from a specialty of internship training can no longer apply for further reduction of the prescribed period of assessment for other specialties of internship training.
15. Reduction will only be granted if a qualified applicant has commenced internship training for that specialty for a sufficient duration to enable the Internship Sub-committee to assess his/her performance and ability.
16. Reduction of the period of assessment for a specialty of internship training will normally be granted if a qualified applicant:-
 - (a) has passed all 3 parts of the Licensing Examination at the first attempt; and
 - (b) has completed at least 6 weeks of internship training in that specialty, and
 - (c) has the recommendation of his/her supervisor that internship in that specialty be reduced; and
 - (d) has obtained a post-graduate medical qualification in that specialty which is recognized by the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine as equivalent to an intermediate qualification; and
 - (e) has practised for at least 24 months as a clinician in that specialty in a local accredited institution recognized by the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine.

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Licentiate Committee

The Medical Council of Hong Kong

(revised in May 2015)