

Medical Training Initiative scheme and coronavirus

Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, HEE and NHS Employers Statement for potential applicants and current MTI doctors

9 April / 2020

In response to the coronavirus pandemic it has been agreed not to suspend recruitment to the Medical Training Initiative (MTI) scheme at the current time. However, potential applicants need to be aware that:

- The entry of doctors to the UK will be subject to the same Government rules and advice as anyone else i.e. if entry or travel from a particular country is restricted that applies to MTI applicants. Similarly, where there are not restrictions, applicants will be allowed to enter the UK
- It is recognised that the pandemic may entail doctors working in unfamiliar circumstances or outside their usual areas of practice. All doctors should receive proper induction and training for this work. However, potential applicants should bear this in mind before applying
- As far as is possible MTI doctors would continue to receive suitable educational and training experience recognising that this may not be as in normal circumstances.

Advice for current MTI doctors on placements in the UK:

- UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) have stated that, due to the current difficulties with travel for those doctors who have obtained their visas but are unable to travel due to restrictions, a new Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) will NOT be required. Under these exceptional circumstances they will consider the current CoS to be valid beyond its expiration date. Each case will be handled individually by UKVI and affected individuals should contact the NHS team inbox (UKVINHSTeam@homeoffice.gov.uk) with details of their situation, role and employer to get advice on the best course of action depending upon their particular circumstances
- On 31 March 2020 the Home Office announced that all doctors, nurses and paramedics with visas due to expire before 1 October 2020 will have them automatically extended for one year. This extension to NHS visas will be automatic, there will be no fee attached and it will be exempt from the Immigration Health Surcharge. The UKVI will be writing to all institutions that employ NHS workers from overseas and asking them to provide the details of those whose leave will expire prior to 1 October 2020. For those whose visas expire shortly after 1 October 2020, UKVI have stated that the situation will remain under constant review dependent upon how the situation develops
- The visa extensions will be granted on identical leave conditions as the original conditions that are about to expire for each worker. Should an applicant wish to change route or job role, a new application would be required
- UKVI state that they are working to identify processes for processing applications under the current reduced service being operated.