

MTI Doctors – Tier 2 and Tier 5 employment

Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and NHS Employers statement

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Employers will be aware that doctors joining the MTI scheme come to the UK on a UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) Tier 5 visa. This is a visa limited to two years for MTI doctors primarily from low and lower-middle income countries, to come to the UK for a period of training and then return to their home country.

It is widely recognised that this benefits the individual doctor, the health system in their country of origin and the NHS.

It is not intended to provide a steppingstone to longer term employment in the UK under a Tier 2 visa.

During COVID-19, UKVI relaxed the regulations so that individuals could transfer from Tier 5 work to a Tier 2 position without leaving the UK. This was largely because of the difficulties doctors faced in actually returning to their home countries. That provision, however, ended on 31 July.

As the national sponsor of the MTI scheme, on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the UKVI, we would urge employers not to take any actions which actively encourage individual MTI doctors to transfer from the MTI scheme to Tier 2 posts (e.g. by returning home and applying for a Tier 2 post).

Such actions undermine the integrity of the MTI scheme for doctors and crucially, with their sponsoring bodies in their home countries.

The Academy is undertaking a review of the arrangements for the MTI scheme with colleges, national education authorities, DHSC and employers. We will specifically be looking at measures to avoid, but would, in the meantime, seek the support of employers to do what they can to maintain the integrity of the scheme.