



Medical Training Prioritisation Act 2026

Academy statement

For many years the NHS has relied on international medical graduates (IMGs) working alongside doctors trained in UK and Irish medical schools.

The numbers graduating from UK and Irish medical schools are increasing, leading to unsupportable competition ratios for jobs across all medical specialties and encouraging some UK graduates to emigrate to take up roles in other countries. The Medical Training Prioritisation Act 2026 was designed to support the pipeline of home-grown medical talent, encourage them to stay in the UK and contribute to the NHS. It also allows international colleagues who have 'significant experience' of working in healthcare in the UK to be prioritised for jobs alongside UK medical graduates. The government is now seeking views on what 'significant experience' actually means.

The Academy believes 'significant experience' should be no less than two years — to match doctors' foundation training — and no more than three years. This allows IMGs to gain the cultural competence and understanding of how the NHS works and rewards international colleagues who are already delivering high-quality patient care across all parts of the country.