CAREERS BEYOND BORDERS
Global Pathways for All Professionals

PATHWAY GUIDE

Working in Ireland as a doctor

Every doctor in Ireland must be on the Medical Council's register before starting work. If you qualified outside the EU, you either pass the PRES exam or show an exemption. Many doctors, including those with a Pakistani internship that meets the Council's rules or a PLAB 2 pass, can skip the PRES.

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Regulator
Medical Council of Ireland

Employment permits
Department of Enterprise (applied for by your employer)

Our support
Ireland: complete pathway support

Our fee
$300 USD

The three routes at a glance

	General registration (exempt from PRES)	General registration (PRES exam)	Supervised Division
Licensing	General Division, Medical Council of Ireland	General Division, Medical Council of Ireland	Supervised Division, tied to one post
Exams	None if the exemption is accepted	The PRES, the Council's pre-registration examination	Depends on the post and your plan for General registration
Documents	Degree, internship certificate with rotations, PLAB 2 or higher qualification evidence	Degree, internship certificate, EPIC report	Degree, internship, employer declaration for the post
Employer	Many doctors start in non-consultant hospital doctor (NCHD) posts	Many doctors start in NCHD posts	An approved post is required first
Immigration	Employment permit (Critical Skills or General), applied for with your employer	Employment permit, applied for with your employer	Employment permit through the employer

Can you skip the PRES?

If you qualified outside the EU, you either pass the PRES or show an exemption. The Council lists three kinds of exemption:

1. **An equivalent internship.** The Council recognises internships from certain countries. For Pakistan, the internship must have started after 31 December 2008 and its rotations must meet the Council's rules on length and approved rotations.
2. **A higher qualification** on the Council's Appendix I list, together with a 12-month internship that includes 3 months in medicine and 3 months in surgery, or 3 years in an accredited training programme.
3. **PLAB 2.** The Council has agreed that applicants for General registration who pass PLAB 2 are not required to sit the PRES. Upload the GMC email confirming your pass.

For a Pakistani internship, your certificate should come from the Pakistan Medical Commission and list each rotation by specialty.

General registration (exempt from PRES)

Doctors who qualified outside the EU and can skip the Council's PRES exam because of PLAB 2, a recognised internship, or a recognised higher qualification.

Requirements

- [ ] Internship completed
- [ ] Has a basis for PRES exemption: PLAB 2, an internship in a country the Council recognises, or a listed higher qualification

What you'll need

- If you rely on a Pakistani internship: it must have started after 31 December 2008 and its rotations must meet the Council's rules.
- If you rely on a higher qualification: it must be on the Council's Appendix I list, with a 12-month internship (3 months medicine, 3 months surgery) or 3 years in an accredited training programme.
- If you rely on PLAB 2: upload the GMC email confirming your pass.
- EPIC verification of your degree and internship certificate.

Documents

- [ ] Primary medical degree (verified through EPIC)
- [ ] Internship certificate showing every rotation by specialty (for Pakistan, from the Pakistan Medical Commission, listing each rotation by specialty)
- [ ] Your exemption evidence: GMC email confirming PLAB 2, or your higher qualification certificate with internship or training evidence
- [ ] Certificates of good standing
- [ ] Passport and CV

Step by step

1. Decide which exemption you'll use: recognised internship, PLAB 2, or a higher qualification.
2. Start EPIC verification of your degree and internship certificate.
3. Apply online for General registration through the PRES route and select your exemption.
4. Once registered, apply for posts; many international doctors start as non-consultant hospital doctors (NCHDs).
5. Your employer applies for your employment permit.

General registration (PRES exam)

Doctors who qualified outside the EU and don't have a PRES exemption. You sit the Council's Pre-Registration Examination System.

Requirements

- [ ] Internship completed

What you'll need

- A PRES exam sitting. We help you choose the right date.
- EPIC verification of your degree and internship certificate.

Documents

- [ ] Primary medical degree (verified through EPIC)
- [ ] Internship certificate
- [ ] Certificates of good standing
- [ ] Passport and CV

Step by step

1. Check first whether any PRES exemption applies to you.
2. Register for EPIC verification.
3. Apply for General registration through the PRES route.
4. Sit and pass the PRES.
5. Apply for posts; your employer applies for the employment permit.

Supervised Division

Doctors offered a specific, approved supervised post in Ireland before they hold General registration.

What you'll need

- The post must be an individually numbered, identifiable post approved by the Council.
- Registration ends if you leave that post.

Documents

- [ ] Primary medical degree and internship certificate
- [ ] Employer declaration for the approved post
- [ ] Certificates of good standing
- [ ] Passport and CV

Step by step

1. Get an offer for a post approved for Supervised Division registration.
2. Prepare the Council application with the employer's declaration.
3. Work in that post under supervision.
4. Move to General registration through the PRES or an exemption.

The Supervised Division in brief

Supervised registration applies only to an individually numbered, identifiable post approved by the Council, and it ends if you leave that post. A doctor can't stay in the Supervised Division for more than two years in total, so treat it as a bridge to General registration.

Employment permits

Doctors are eligible for both a Critical Skills Employment Permit and a General Employment Permit. In HSE roles the employer applies, and the Critical Skills permit is for a job lasting at least two years.

Registration, immigration and hiring

These are three separate decisions, made by different organisations. Getting one doesn't give you the others.

Professional registration	Registration with the Medical Council of Ireland, usually in the General Division.
Immigration	An employment permit (Critical Skills or General), applied for by your employer. Doctors on permits can later move to Stamp 4 permission.
Hiring	Many international doctors start in non-consultant hospital doctor (NCHD) posts. A Critical Skills permit is for a job of at least two years.

Costs

Our fee

$300 USD

Ireland: complete pathway support

Paid to Careers Beyond Borders for our advice and preparation only.

Paid separately to others

- Medical Council of Ireland application and registration fees
- EPIC verification fees
- PRES fees, if you sit the exam
- Employment permit and immigration fees

Official fees change from time to time. We confirm the current amounts with you before you pay.

What's included in our service

- [ ] Exemption check: recognised internship, PLAB 2 or a higher qualification
- [ ] EPIC verification guidance for your degree and internship certificate
- [ ] Medical Council application prepared with you and reviewed before you submit
- [ ] Irish-style medical CV and cover letter
- [ ] NCHD job search and interview preparation
- [ ] Employment permit document checklist
- [ ] Your Ireland pathway PDF and a written step-by-step plan

From our experience

- For a Pakistani internship, the start date matters: it must have started after 31 December 2008, and rotations must meet the Council's rules.
- Many doctors from Pakistan or with PLAB 2 can skip the PRES entirely, so check exemptions before booking anything.
- Supervised registration only covers the approved post and has a time limit, so treat it as a bridge to General registration.

How we help

- Exemption check against your documents
- EPIC and Council application preparation
- Irish-style CV and NCHD job search
- Employment permit document checklist

How we work with you

1. **Start with the Pathway Finder.** It's free and takes a few minutes. You see which routes suit your profile and what you'll need, before we ask for anything.
2. **Talk it through.** In a 30-minute consultation we go through your Finder results, your documents and your priorities, and agree the route that makes sense.
3. **Get a written plan.** You leave with the order of steps: verification, exams, applications and job search.
4. **We prepare the application with you.** If you choose a pathway package, we work through the checklist with you, review your documents and CV, and prepare each application before you submit it.
5. **Job search and interviews.** We help you target the right employers, write a CV that fits the country, and prepare for interviews.
6. **Stay with you to the next milestone.** We keep working with you until the step the package covers is done, and we tell you plainly when something is outside our control.

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