

Registration of Overseas Doctors in Hong Kong

A new pathway to be created by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government for admission of qualified non-locally trained doctors who are Hong Kong permanent residents to practise in Hong Kong.

Background of the new pathway

Hong Kong is facing a severe shortage of doctors to meet the increasing demand for public healthcare services amidst the ageing population. In particular, there is an acute shortage of paediatricians trained in child assessment. There is hence an imminent case to create a new pathway under the Medical Registration Ordinance for qualified non-locally trained doctors to obtain full registration in Hong Kong as an alternative to the current pathway of passing the Licensing Examination, subject to certain criteria being met.

Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021

The HKSAR Government introduced on June 2 the Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021 (the Bill) into the Legislative Council. The Bill proposed that a non-locally trained doctor would be eligible for full registration in Hong Kong, if they fulfil certain criteria, including:

- (a) he/she is a Hong Kong permanent resident;
- (b) he/she holds a recognised medical qualification awarded by a non-local medical school and possesses medical registration in any place where the non-local medical schools concerned are located;
- (c) he/she has been engaged in full-time employment as a medical practitioner with special registration in any of the public healthcare institutions (i.e. the Hospital Authority (HA), the Department of Health and the medical schools of the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong) for at least five years after obtaining specialist qualification; and
- (d) he/she is considered by the employing healthcare institutions to have served satisfactorily and competently as a medical practitioner during the period of five years (or more).

More details about the new pathway to be created, the following is enclosed

for your reference –

(1) Press release by the HKSAR Government about the Bill:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202105/18/P2021051800390.htm?fontSize=1>

https://www.fhb.gov.hk/en/press_and_publications/otherinfo/210500_amendments_mro/index.html

(2) A brief to the Legislative Council about the Bill:

https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr20-21/english/brief/fhcr1f326192_20210518-e.pdf

Assistance sought

With your connection to doctors and medical practitioners in Canada and also your Hong Kong connection, please sharing the above information with medical students and doctors who are Hong Kong permanent residents for their consideration of practising in Hong Kong. They are most welcome to contact Deputy Director Miss Florence Tsang by email (florence_tsang@hketotoronto.gov.hk) if they would like to receive future updates about this new pathway.