



## English Language Proficiency for Postgraduate Training

<b>Section:</b>	<b>Registration</b>		
<b>Applicable Legislation:</b>			
<b>Approved by :</b>	<b>Approval Date:</b>	<b>Reviewer:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>
<b>Registration Committee Executive Committee</b>	<b>February 5, 2016 February 19, 2016</b>	<b>Registration Manager</b>	<b>February 2017</b>

### Preamble

This policy applies to post-graduate trainees, such as residents. The standards for English language proficiency set out in this policy are intended to apply also to "fellows", whether hospital or university based.

As well, until such time as further policies are developed, these standards will be applied to applications for licensure to programs supporting an Area of Focused Competence (AFC). It is recognized that in some situations, applicants for an AFC program or hospital-based fellowship may well be granted Defined Licences, limited to the term of the AFC program, based on these English proficiency requirements.

### Purpose

In order to appear on the Education Register, an applicant must "have demonstrated proficiency in the English language as required by the Registrar". This policy sets out the Registrar's requirements.

### Policy

#### CANDIDATES EXEMPTED FROM LANGUAGE TESTING:

1. Candidates for registration for postgraduate training who received their undergraduate medical education in Canada are not required to provide evidence of English Language proficiency in any form.
2. Candidates for registration for postgraduate training who received their undergraduate medical education with English as the primary language of instruction are not required to provide evidence of English Language proficiency through test scores. The College requires a letter of



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attestation from the Program Director or Fellowship Sponsor in Nova Scotia confirming that, in the opinion of the Program Director or Fellowship Sponsor, the candidate's proficiency in English allows for safe and effective communication with patients.

### NON-EXEMPTED CANDIDATES:

1. All non-exempted candidates must demonstrate English language proficiency by attaining and submitting:
  - (a) An overall average score of 7.0 or higher the academic version of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), taken within 24 months prior to application; or
  - (b) An overall average score of 24 or higher on the academic version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFLS), taken within 24 months prior to application.
2. Non-exempted candidates may submit IELTS or TOEFL test scores taken more than 24 months prior to application only when:
  - (a) They are practising medicine in a jurisdiction where English is a first language and that they were licensed to do so based on IELTS or TOEFLS scores equivalent to or higher than those set out above.
  - (b) They are currently enrolled in a postgraduate medical education program and were admitted to the program based on IELTS or TOEFLS scores equivalent to or higher than those set out above.
3. In addition to the test score requirements set out above, applications for non-exempted candidates must include a letter from the Program Director or Fellowship Sponsor attesting that,



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in the opinion of the Program Director or Fellowship Sponsor, the candidate's English language proficiency allows for safe and effective communication with patients.

4. Non-exempted candidates seeking a Post-Graduate Training Licence for an elective of 3 months or less may demonstrate English language proficiency on the sole basis of a letter of attestation, as set out above, from the Program Director providing the elective.