

## LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE TIER 2 VISA INFORMATION SHEET

### What is a Tier 2 Visa?

Tier 2 is an employer-led visa category which means that employers must be registered with the Home Office in order to sponsor any skilled workers they wish to recruit from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland.

Non-EEA GP trainees in the UK must have a Tier 2 visa in order to study here. During the duration of their studies they are sponsored by Health Education England.

### Post-qualification

Upon qualification these GPs must either obtain work within a sponsor practice or return to their home country.

### Sponsor practices

Sponsor practices may employ a non-EEA GP trainee upon qualification, providing the doctor with a sponsorship certificate. The doctor is then able to work at the allocated practice before applying for 'indefinite leave to remain'. Doctors can apply for indefinite leave to remain after being here on a Tier 2 Visa for 5 years.

### NHS England International GP Recruitment Programme

The NHS England International GP Recruitment Programme offers support for non-EEA doctors when they have completed their GP training in the UK to encourage retention. International GPs who have trained overseas are also supported to relocate. Initially the focus was on doctors from the EEA but has now been widened to include Australia and New Zealand.

Both these non-EEA groups of doctors will require visas and sponsoring practices.

There is more information available at the NHS England website [here](#).

### Practice matching

NHS England will support non-EEA GP trainees by matching them with vacancies at practices that hold visa sponsorship licences in their preferred locations.

Please note that standard recruitment processes then apply for the roles within these practices.

Non-EEA trainees considering staying in England after qualifying are encouraged to contact [england.intrecruitment@nhs.net](mailto:england.intrecruitment@nhs.net) as early as possible to help ensure that practices with sponsorship licences will be available in the areas where they would like to work after qualifying. NHS England is creating a database of Tier 2 Sponsor practices to support this.

### Funding

NHS England is offering a package of funding to support any practice who wants to become Tier 2 Visa sponsors. Funding available includes reimbursement of sponsor licence fee (even if unsuccessful), Certificate of Sponsorship fee, first 2 years of Immigration Skills Charge, Visa fees for GP trainee and their family.

## Issue

NHS England are aware that there are a number of non-EEA GP Trainees who qualify each year in February and August that are looking for practices who are able to provide them with Tier 2 sponsorship. The number of GP Practices who are Tier 2 Visa sponsors is limited and often non-EEA GP Trainees will be forced to return to their home country if they are unable to find employment with a practice that can continue their sponsorship. In 2018 this issue affected over 500 GP Trainees nationally and the problem will be exacerbated if recruitment from Australia and New Zealand is successful. Below is a table demonstrating the number of trainees currently on a T2 visa and the dates they are expected to CCT. We have only included the trainees who are due to CCT in 2019.

Count of GMC Number	
<b>General Practice (East)</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>5</b>
Aug	5
<b>General Practice (South)</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>5</b>
Feb	2
Apr	1
Aug	2
<b>General Practice (West)</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>10</b>
Feb	4
Aug	5
Sep	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>20</b>

## Sponsor practices in Yorkshire and Humber

Sponsor Organisation Name	Town	County	Practice Covered
City Health Care Partnership CIC	Hull	East Yorkshire	Kingston Medical Centre Calvert Practice The Quays Riverside Medical Centre CHCP Newington & Calvert Wolds View Primary Care Centre
Dr Gilkar & Partners	Bradford	West Yorkshire	Little Horton Lane Medical Centre
One Medicare Limited	Leeds	West Yorkshire	The Light Surgery Wetherby Surgery Harewood Surgery Westgate Surgery Shakespeare Medical Practice Shakespeare Walk in Centre Sheffield City Walk in Centre
South & East Leeds General Practice Group Ltd	Leeds	West Yorkshire	City View Medical Practice
Bilton Medical Centre	Bradford	West Yorkshire	Bilton Medical Centre
Primary Care Doncaster Ltd	Doncaster	South Yorkshire	GP Federation

## **Training for LMCs**

In order that the Yorkshire and Humber LMCs can provide guidance and advice to both practices and GPs a webinar is planned to explain the process which practices must go through to become sponsors.

LMCs will be provided with an information pack to support their work, along with a useful contact list. It is hoped that the LMCs may be able to encourage practices to sign up to become sponsors, increasing coverage across the patch and improving employment opportunities for non-EEA GPs.

***WEBINAR Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019 from 1.30pm to 2.30pm: Tier 2 Visa Sponsorship for GP Practices – NHSE Funding Available!***

This webinar is to raise awareness of the Tier 2 Visa sponsor process, requirements, fees and the funding which is available from NHS England to support practices and GPs.

To book a place please click on the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/igpr-lmc-webinar-tier-2-sponsorship-registration-59102389839>