Dear Colleagues,

The Medical Council of Ireland is reviewing how it recognises 3rd country basic medical qualifications, and we would like to see how other regulators approach this matter.

I would be grateful if you would respond to the questions below:

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| What standards must a 3rd country basic medical qualification meet to be accepted? | The nominal duration of medical studies is 6 years (360 European Credit System credits), consists of theoretical and practical training. There is a list of subjects that has to be a part of the curriculum. If the education was acquired at least five years ago, then the applicant must prove that they have worked as a doctor for at least three years in a row during the last five years. |
| How do you decide if these standards have been met? E.g. transcripts, contact medical school | Diploma and diploma supplement + evaluation report by the Estonian ENIC/NARIC Centre + any additional documents the applicant presents in case we ask for them. |
| How do you obtain information about 3rd country qualifications?  | Estonian ENIC/NARIC Centre; diploma and diploma supplement. If there are any further questions then we can always ask for a document issued by the university/relevant state agency.  |
| Must the medical school awarding the medical degree/ diploma meet any specific standards? E.g. listed in WDOMS, or accredited by WFME etc | Has to be a university recognized by the country that the university is in. We get the confirmation from the Estonian ENIC/NARIC Centre.  |
| Do you automatically recognise degrees awarded by any 3rd country? | No, we don’t. |
| Does a mandatory aptitude test apply? | Yes, if the qualification meets the requirements then the applicant has to pass a compliance examination (generally about four months of practice period and a theory exam). |
| Are there any restrictions on registration for doctors with 3rd country qualifications e.g. adaptation period or supervised post. | If the doctor gets registered then they have full rights.  |

Please send your responses to me at Ann.curran@mcirl.ie by 19th September 2025.

Many thanks for your assistance with my query.

Ann Curran

Registration Operations & Projects Lead