

This guidance is based in the Immigration Rules.

About this guidance

About	this	guidance
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Key facts

Entry or extension requirements

Granting or refusing

<u>Dependants</u>

Immigration Rules part 3, paragraphs 75A to 75F

This guidance tells you about the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test for overseas-qualified doctors who want to practice medicine in the UK and the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) for overseas qualified nurses wanting to work in the UK in the future (under the points-based system).

Doctors who wish to practice medicine in the UK must register with the General Medical Council (GMC). If they qualify overseas and wish to register they must pass the PLAB test to demonstrate their knowledge of English and their medical expertise.

Doctors sitting the PLAB test and nurses undertaking the OSCE are included in the definition of business visitors, but they must meet the requirements of paragraphs 75A to 75F. For more information, see related link: Business visitors.

Doctors applying to take any other test or examination, such as those needed to enter one of the Royal Colleges, are treated as general visitors and must demonstrate they meet all the requirements of the general visitor route.

This means they must not be granted more than six months leave as a general visitor and they are subject to the normal restrictions on general visitors switching into other categories of leave. For more information, see related link: General visitors.

Dentists do not need to pass the PLAB test.

Doctors with leave to take the PLAB test cannot switch into skilled employment under the points-based system.

Doctors who come to the UK to take the PLAB test can do periods of clinical attachments during their leave. They do not need to apply separately to do a clinical attachment, unless the period of the attachment goes on beyond the end of their leave to take the PLAB test.

In this section

Changes to this guidance

Contact

Information owners

Links to staff intranet removed

External links

Paragraphs 75A to 75F of the Immigration Rules

Nurses who need to pass an OSCE before taking employment in the UK can enter using either this route or under Tier 2, depending on whether they already have a job offer and the sponsor has issued a certificate of sponsorship. If they enter under the visitor provisions they will not be able to switch into Tier 2 from inside the UK.

Changes to this guidance – This page tells you what has changed since the previous version of this guidance.

Contacts – This page tells you who to contact for help if your senior caseworker or line manager can't answer your question.

Information owner – This page tells you about this version of the guidance and who owns it.

Key facts

This page shows you the key facts for the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test.

Category: Doctors taking the PLAB test			
Eligibility criteria	An applicant must:		
	 be a graduate from a medical school and intend to take the PLAB test provide documentary evidence of a confirmed test date or of their eligibility to take the PLAB test by way of a letter or email from the General Medical Council or a test admission card not intend to take employment in the UK not intend to produce goods or provide services within the UK, including the selling of goods or services direct to members of the public not intend to do a course of study maintain and accommodate themselves and any dependants adequately without using public funds be able to meet the cost of their onward journey intend to leave the UK when their leave in this category expires unless they pass the PLAB test and are granted leave to do a clinical attachment not spend more than 18 months in the UK in this category already have leave in this category, if they are applying for an extension of stay in this category. 		
Eligibility criteria	An applicant must:		
	 be a graduate of an overseas nursing school and intend to take an OSCE provide evidence of a confirmed test date or of their eligibility to take an OSCE by way of a letter from the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) not intend to take employment in the UK (as a visitor) not intend to produce goods or provide services within the UK, including the selling of goods or services direct to members of the public not intend to do a course of study maintain and accommodate themselves and any dependants adequately without using public funds be able to meet the cost of their onward journey 		

category expires

• intend to leave the UK when their leave in this

	 not be applying for an extension.
Application forms	Application made outside UK - online
	application/VAF2 (in North Korea only)
	Extension (within UK- PLAB only) – FLR(O)
	Indefinite leave to remain – N/A
Cost of application:	Fees for Home Office services
Entry clearance	No
mandatory?	
Is biometric information required for applications made in the UK?	Yes
Code of leave to remain granted	Code 3 conditions.
Entry clearance	PLAB
endorsements	C: PLAB test. LTE 6 months. Code 3.
	OSCE
	C:Business Visitor. LTE 6 months. Code 3
Conditions of leave to	No work or study allowed. No recourse to public funds.
remain	0: 4
How long is leave to	Six months.
remain normally granted for?	Applications can be made to extend (PLAB only) by six months at a time to a maximum of 18 months.
Are dependants allowed?	
Are dependants allowed?	Only if they qualify as a general visitor in their own right.
Work and study allowed?	No. Only observation as part of the clinical attachment
	as part of the test process is permitted. Clinical
	attachments do not count as employment for this
	purpose.
Switching into this	No. Applicant must already have leave in this category
category allowed?	in order to be granted an extension.
Does this category lead to	No
settlement (indefinite leave	
to remain)?	
Is knowledge of language	No
and life required?	
CID case type	CID case type (Business) - LTR
Immigration Rules	75A to 75F
paragraphs	

Changes to this guidance

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Key facts

Entry or extension requirements

Granting or refusing

Dependants

This page lists the changes to the 'Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test and the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)' guidance, with the most recent at the top.

Date of the change	Details of the change
6 November 2014	Change request:
	 Changes made throughout the guidance to reflect the rules change of 6 November 2014
24 January 2014	Six month review by the modernised guidance team:
	Minor housekeeping changes.
	For previous changes you will need to access the archived guidance. See related link: PLAB test – archive.

Related links See also

Contact

Information owner

Links to staff intranet removed

External links

Paragraphs 75A to 75F of the Immigration Rules

Entry or extension requirements

About this guidance

Key facts

Entry or extension requirements

Granting or refusing

Dependants

This section tells you how to check if a person applying for leave to take the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test or the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)meets the requirements for that category.

When considering an application you must check:

- the application is valid
- the applicant's passport or travel documents are genuine
- the applicant meets the substantive requirements for the category
- there are no general grounds for refusal.

For more information, see related links:

- Specified application forms and procedures
- · General grounds for refusal.

People taking the PLAB test or the OSCE are included in the definition of a 'business visitor' in paragraph 6 of the Immigration Rules. An applicant must meet the requirements of paragraph 75A to 75F of the Immigration Rules. They must:

- be a graduate from a medical school and intend to take the PLAB test or a graduate from an overseas nursing school and intend to take the OSCE
- provide documentary evidence of a confirmed test date or of their eligibility to take the PLAB test by way of a letter or email from the General Medical Council or a test admission card or provide evidence of a confirmed test date or of their eligibility to take an OSCE by way of a letter from the Nursing and Midwifery Council.
- not intend to take employment in the UK
- not intend to produce goods or provide services within the UK, including the selling of goods or services direct to members of the public
- not intend to do a course of study

In this section

PLAB testing process

Objective Structured Clinical Examination process

<u>Documents the</u> applicant must provide

Related links See also

Links to staff intranet removed

External links

Paragraph 6 of the Immigration Rules

Paragraphs 75A to 75F of the Immigration Rules

- maintain and accommodate themselves and any dependants adequately:
 - out of resources available to them without recourse to public funds or taking employment, or
 - be maintained and/or accommodated by relatives or friends who can prove they are able and intend to do so, and are legally present in the UK, or will be at the time of their visit
- be able to meet the cost of their onward journey

For PLAB only they must meet all the above plus the following:

- intend to leave the UK when their leave in this category expires unless they pass the PLAB test and are granted leave to do a clinical attachment
- not spend more than 18 months in the UK in this category
- already have leave in this category, if they are applying for an extension of stay in this category.

PLAB extensions only

The applicant must not be in breach of immigration laws, except for any period of overstaying:

- for 28 days or less which will be disregarded, or
- where the application was submitted before 9 July 2012.

For more information, see related link: Applications from overstayers (non family routes).

More information

For more information on these requirements and when doctors are eligible to take the PLAB test, see related links:

- PLAB testing process
- Documents the applicant must provide.

PLAB testing process

This page tells you how the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) testing In this section About this guidance process works. **Objective Structured Clinical Examination** Key facts Doctors who qualify overseas, and hold a qualification not recognised in the UK, must pass process the PLAB test in order to register with the General Medical Council (GMC). Entry or extension Documents the requirements Before coming to the UK, they must pass a pre-assessment International English Language applicant must provide Testing System (IELTS) test. This is designed to find out if the doctor has a reasonable Granting or refusing command of the English language before they can sit the PLAB test. IELTS tests can be **External links** taken in various countries, including the UK. Paragraphs 75A to 75F Dependants If the doctor passes the different stages of the test, they can sit the PLAB test in the UK. of the Immigration Rules Doctors must take the PLAB test to demonstrate their knowledge of medical English and their medical skills and knowledge. The PLAB test consists of two separate assessments, part 1 and part 2. The GMC requires doctors to pass part 1 before they can take part 2 of the test. If a candidate fails part 1 by a wide margin, the GMC does not allow them to re-sit part 1 for a period of at least four months from the date of the failed test.

Objective Structured Clinical Examination process

About this guidance	This page tells you how the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) process works.	In this section
Key facts Entry or extension requirements	Nurses from an overseas nursing school, who wish to work in the UK as a nurse at some point in the future are required to take an Objective Structured Clinical Examination. Typically, they will have undertaken a three year nursing programme in their country. Their	Documents the applicant must provide PLAB testing process
Granting or refusing	qualifications gained overseas are assessed by the Nursing and Midwifery Council before they make a decision on the applicant's eligibility to take the OSCE.	Links to staff intranet removed
<u>Dependants</u>	Applicants will receive a confirmation letter from the NMC detailing their eligibility to take the OSCE in the UK. It is then up to the applicant to schedule a test.	External links
	Where the individual is sponsored to work in the UK under Tier 2, they can take the OSCE on the Tier 2 visa. See related links.	Paragraphs 75A to 75F of the Immigration Rules

Documents the applicant must provide

	·	
About this guidance	This page tells you the documents a person applying for leave to take the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test must provide from the General Medical Council	In this section
Key facts	(GMC) to show they are eligible to take the test or to take the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).	PLAB testing process
		Objective Structured
Entry or extension	A candidate who applies for leave to sit the PLAB test must produce evidence from the GMC	Clinical Examination
<u>requirements</u>	that they have a test date or are eligible to take the test. This can be a:	process
Granting or refusing	GMC letter or email	External links
	test admission card.	
Dependants		Paragraphs 75A to 75F
o o o naanto	A candidate who applies to take the OSCE must provide:	of the Immigration Rules
	A letter from the Nursing and Midwifery Council confirming either:	
	 a scheduled test date, or their eligibility to undertake the OSCE. 	

Granting or refusing

About this guidance	This section tells you how to grant or refuse applications for leave to take the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test in the UK.	In this section
Key facts	For more information, see related links:	Grant or refuse entry clearance
Entry or extension requirements	 Grant or refuse entry clearance Grant or refuse entry at UK port 	Grant or refuse entry at UK port
Granting or refusing	Grant or refuse extension of stay.	Grant or refuse extension of stay
<u>Dependants</u>		External links
		Paragraphs 75A to 75F of the Immigration Rules
		PLAB guidance from GMC

Grant or refuse entry clearance

About this guidance

Key facts

Entry or extension requirements

Granting or refusing

Dependants

This page tells you how to grant or refuse applications made overseas for leave to take the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test or the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).

For guidance on the requirements, see the link on the left: Entry or extension requirements.

Entry clearance is not mandatory, except for people whose nationality requires them to have a UK visa. For more information on which nationalities require a visa, see related link: Appendix 1 of the Immigration Rules.

Grant entry clearance

If a person meets all the requirements of paragraph 75A of the Immigration Rules, and paragraph 320 of the general grounds for refusal does not apply, you must grant entry.

You must grant entry clearance for six months. You must endorse their entry clearance: PLAB

'C: PLAB test. LTE 6 months. Code 3'.

OSCE

C:Business Visitor. LTE 6 months. Code 3

Refuse entry clearance

If the applicant does not provide the evidence that is required to show that they meet the requirements of paragraph 75A or if paragraph 320 of the general grounds for refusal does apply, you must refuse the application.

In this section

Grant or refuse entry at UK port

Grant or refuse extension of stay

Related links See also

Links to staff intranet removed

External links

Appendix 1 of the Immigration Rules

Paragraphs 76A to 75F of the Immigration Rules

Paragraphs 320 to 324 of the Immigration Rules

Paragraph 41 (iii) - (vii) of the Immigration Rules (General Visitor rules)

Grant or refuse entry at UK port

About this guidance

Key facts

Entry or extension requirements

Granting or refusing

Dependants

This page tells you how to grant or refuse entry at a UK port to a person seeking entry to take the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test or the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).

For guidance on the requirements, see the link on the left: Entry or extension requirements.

Entry clearance is not mandatory, except for people whose nationality requires them to have a UK visa. For more information on which nationalities require a visa, see related link: Appendix 1 of the Immigration Rules.

Granting entry

If a person meets all the requirements of paragraph 75A of the Immigration Rules and none of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 320 or 321 apply, you must grant entry.

You must grant leave on code 3 conditions, for a maximum of six months.

Refusing entry

You must refuse leave to enter if the passenger does not meet all of the requirements of paragraph 75A of the Immigration Rules or if any of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 320 to 322 of the Immigration Rules applies.

For more information on refusing entry, see related link: Refusal of leave to enter.

In this section

Grant or refuse entry clearance

Grant or refuse extension of stay

Related links See also

Links to staff intranet removed

External links

Appendix 1 of the Immigration Rules

Paragraphs 75A to 75F of the Immigration Rules

Paragraphs 320 to 324 of the Immigration Rules

Grant or refuse an extension of stay

About this guidance

Key facts

Entry or extension requirements

Granting or refusing

Dependants

This page tells you how to grant or refuse applications for leave to remain to take the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test.

For guidance on the requirements, see the link on the left: Entry or extension requirements.

Grant an extension

If the person meets all the requirements of paragraph 75D of the Immigration Rules, and none of the general grounds for refusal in paragraph 322 apply, you must grant leave to remain.

If the applicant meets the requirements on each occasion, you must grant up to six months leave to remain at a time on code 3 conditions.

The maximum amount of time a person can spend in the UK in this category is 18 months. You must not grant a person leave that would mean they would spend more than 18 months in total in the UK in this category.

Refuse an extension

If an applicant does not meet all the requirements in paragraph 75D of the Immigration Rules or if any of the general grounds for refusal in paragraph 322 apply, you must refuse an extension of leave.

Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

There is no provision in the Immigration Rules for OSCE visitors to extend their leave. Where an application is received on this basis it will fall to be refused under paragraph 322 (1) of the Immigration Rules.

In this section

Grant or refuse entry clearance

Grant or refuse entry at UK port

Related links

<u>Documents the</u> <u>applicant must provide</u>

See also

Links to staff intranet removed

External links

Paragraphs 75A to 75F of the Immigration Rules

Paragraphs 320 to 324 of the Immigration Rules

Dependants

About this guidance	This page tells you which dependants can be granted leave to join a person with leave to take the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test or the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).	Related links See also
Key facts Entry or extension	Family members of people with leave to take the PLAB test and OSCE who wish to join	Links to staff intranet removed
requirements	them in the UK must apply and meet the requirements of the general visitors or child visitors rules.	External links
Granting or refusing	For more information, see related links:	Paragraphs 75A to 75F of the Immigration Rules
<u>Dependants</u>	General visitorsChild visitors.	

Contact

About this guidance

Key facts

Entry or extension requirements

Granting or refusing

Dependants

This page explains who to contact for more help with a specific case in the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test and the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) category.

If you have read the relevant Immigration Rules and this guidance and still need more help with this category, you must first ask your senior caseworker or line manager.

If the question cannot be answered at that level, you may email the study and visit operational policy team for further guidance on the policy.

Changes to this guidance can only be made by the guidance rules and forms team (GRaFT). If you think the policy content needs amending you must contact the study and visit operational policy team, who will ask the GRaFT to update the guidance, if appropriate.

The GRaFT will accept direct feedback on broken links, missing information or the format, style and navigability of this guidance. You can send these using the link: Email: guidance rules and forms team.

Related links

Changes to this guidance

Information owners

External links

Paragraphs 75A to 75F of the Immigration Rules

Links to staff intranet removed

Information owner

About this guidance

Key facts

Entry or extension requirements

Granting or refusing

Dependants

This page tells you about this version of the 'Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test and the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)' guidance and who owns it.

Version	12.0
Valid from date	6 November 2014
Policy owner	Study and visit operational policy team
Cleared by director	Sonia Dower
Director's role	Director, operational policy and rules
Clearance date	28 May 2013
This version approved for	John Thompson
publication by	
Approver's role	Head of migration policy
Approval date	4 November 2014

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Contact

External links

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Links to staff intranet removed