

The following information is important for all medical graduates thinking of coming to the United Kingdom to take part 2 of the PLAB examination.

It is issued on behalf of the UK Academy of Medical Royal Colleges.

1. Competition for House Officer and Senior House Officer posts in the UK is currently very high.
2. 36% of overseas graduates who passed PLAB part 2 in June 2003 were still unemployed 6 months later.
3. Your first post in the UK may only be a non-training, locum or honorary post.
4. There are on average 210 applicants for each junior doctor advertisement in the UK. Eight recent advertisements have attracted over 1000 applicants.
5. Because of the very large numbers of applicants, varying, sometimes random, methods of selection are used to shortlist candidates.
6. There are on average 400 applicants for each House Officer advertisement. Graduates who have not completed their House Officer posts (or equivalent) in their home country may find it very difficult indeed to obtain a post in the UK.

The UK welcomes and will always welcome overseas graduates. However, it does not wish them to be disadvantaged because of lack of information on the current very high level of competition for junior posts and the long periods of time that they may spend unemployed.

This information is accurate as of December 2004. Further up-to-date details on unemployment and competition for junior doctor posts are available on <http://www.bmjcareers.com/juniorcomp> and <http://www.gmc-uk.org/register/default.htm>.