



The ROYAL
COLLEGE of
SURGEONS of
EDINBURGH

International Postgraduate Deanery (IPD)

NHS Employing Unit
(NHS EU) Brochure





Col. Paul Parker is the International Postgraduate Dean.

He is a Birmingham based Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon and a previous Trauma and Orthopaedic Lead within the Deanery.

Welcome

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the College's International Postgraduate Deanery (IPD) Programme.

What is IPD?

The primary function of the International Postgraduate Deanery (IPD) is to facilitate training opportunities for surgeons in the ten surgical specialities.

We are looking to support higher level surgical trainees to undertake temporary training placements in the UK; to quality assure their training; to offer mentorship and support; and of course, to evidence training achievements.

We are proud to award our successful trainees with the College's MIPDEd (Membership of the International Postgraduate Deanery).

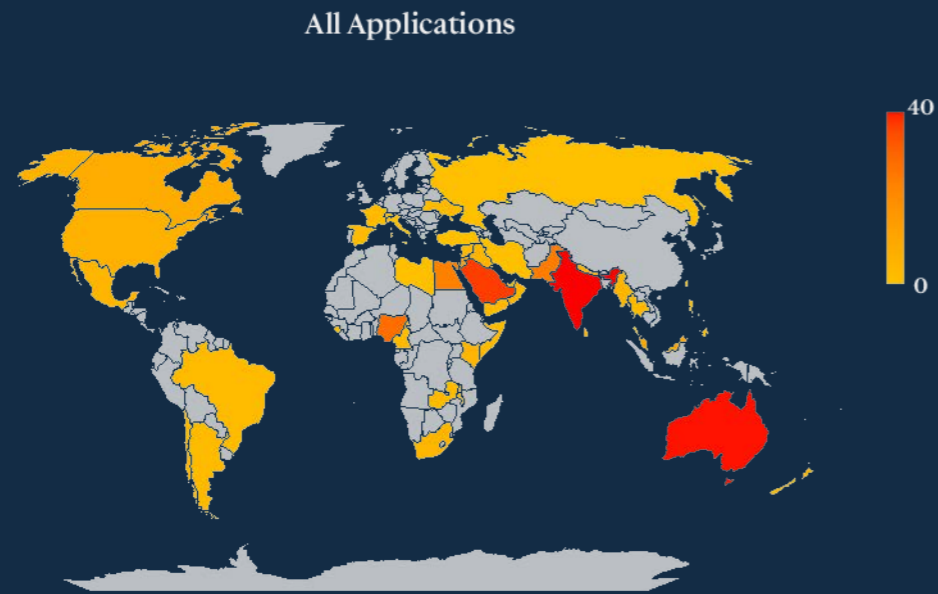
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Parker".

Col. Paul Parker
International Postgraduate Dean

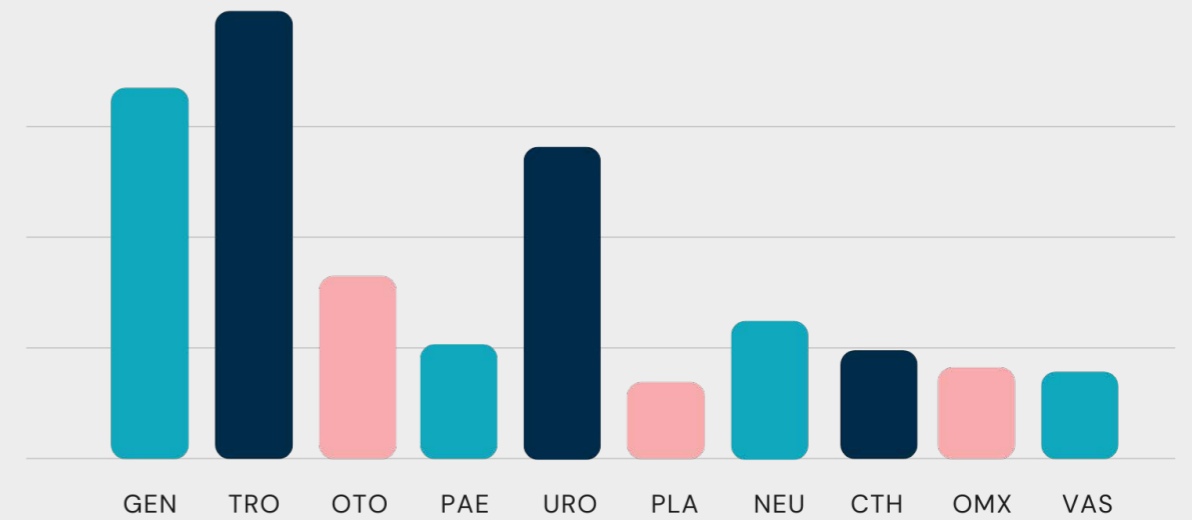
Facts and Figures

- We have been providing UK training to IMGs for over 30 years
- More than 1500 IMGs trained
- 855 trainees have started their training with the IPD since 2019
- Between 100 and 140 trainees start in post each year across all surgical specialties

IPD Applications by Country Heat Map



TRAINEE STARTS BY SPECIALTY



- Vast majority of trainees specialise in General Surgery and Trauma and Orthopaedics
- A significant number of posts are also in Urology

Who is it for?

The IPD is open to all UK NHS Employment Units (NHS EU) to help offer training placements to international surgical graduates.

The IPD team will help support GMC registration and IPD Quality Assurance (QA) of UK Training.

IPD Pathways

International Doctors can join IPD via three routes:

1. Doctors who have secured a post

This is the most popular route, doctors will be supported to secure GMC registration and full quality assurance of UK training provided.

2. Doctors seeking a post

Doctors who have yet to secure a UK post can apply for an Intention to Sponsor Letter. Provisional eligibility checks are undertaken and a letter enables doctors to apply for NHS posts which require GMC registration.

3. Doctors seeking training support

This route is open to doctors who have reached the UK via a third party, are in an NHS training post and would like to have their training accredited.



Eligibility Criteria - Sponsored Post & Trainer

Minimum requirements of the post

To be considered for eligibility for the RCSEd International Postgraduate Deanery, Trainers must provide a post that:

- Is in a unit(s) that offers posts approved by the General Medical Council (GMC) for training, in accordance with the GMC Standards for Medical Education and Training;
- Is at an appropriate level to provide significant training opportunities for an International Medical Graduate (typically ST4+);
- Is funded in accordance with UK employment regulations;
- Offers significant training elements, similar to that of a UK trainee of an equivalent level;
- Is for a minimum of 12 months, but no more than 24 months (periods of training for 6 months+ may be considered);
- Is funded by the National Health Service (NHS), a university, or other supporting organisation; and

Minimum requirements of the Trainer

Any Consultant agreeing to act as the Trainer for the above mentioned post must:

- Have worked as a Clinical supervisor and as an Educational Supervisor* and
- Be a Fellow in good standing of one of the four UK/Irish Surgical Royal Colleges, or a Specialty Association recognised by the Joint Committee for Surgical Training.

It is expected that Trainers will also meet the standards set out in the Faculty of Surgical Trainers' *Standards for Surgical Trainers'* document. It is preferable for Trainers to hold a Membership or Fellowship of the Faculty of Surgical Trainers.

*If a post includes rotations, all Trainers must meet the relevant requirements.

Minimum requirements of the trainee

- Be an IMG who has qualified outside the UK.
- Not be a resident in the UK at the time of application.
- Not be in receipt of any provisions relating to UK nationally.
- Have obtained a primary medical qualification acceptable to the GMC in which the programme of study comprised of at least 5,500 hours over a minimum of three years (this can be checked on the GMC website).
- Have obtained an acceptable postgraduate qualification. Your post graduate training and skills are required to be comparable to that of a UK trainee of similar experience who has taken the UK MRCS (which includes a basic science exam and a final practical clinical exam).

English Language Proficiency

- Doctors may demonstrate their English language proficiency by providing evidence of the following (if required).
- Have achieved a pass in the UKVI Academic Modules of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS): An overall score of 7.5, with a minimum score of 7.0 in all four modules within the last two years; or
- Hold a valid Occupational English Test (OET) certificate. Trainees must have taken the "Medicine" version of the test, obtaining at least a 'B' grade in each of the testing areas (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) in the same test within the last two years.
- Doctors who have a passport and Primary Medical Qualification from a country where English is the first and native language. Applicants must provide a copy of their passport upon application to show they meet these criteria.

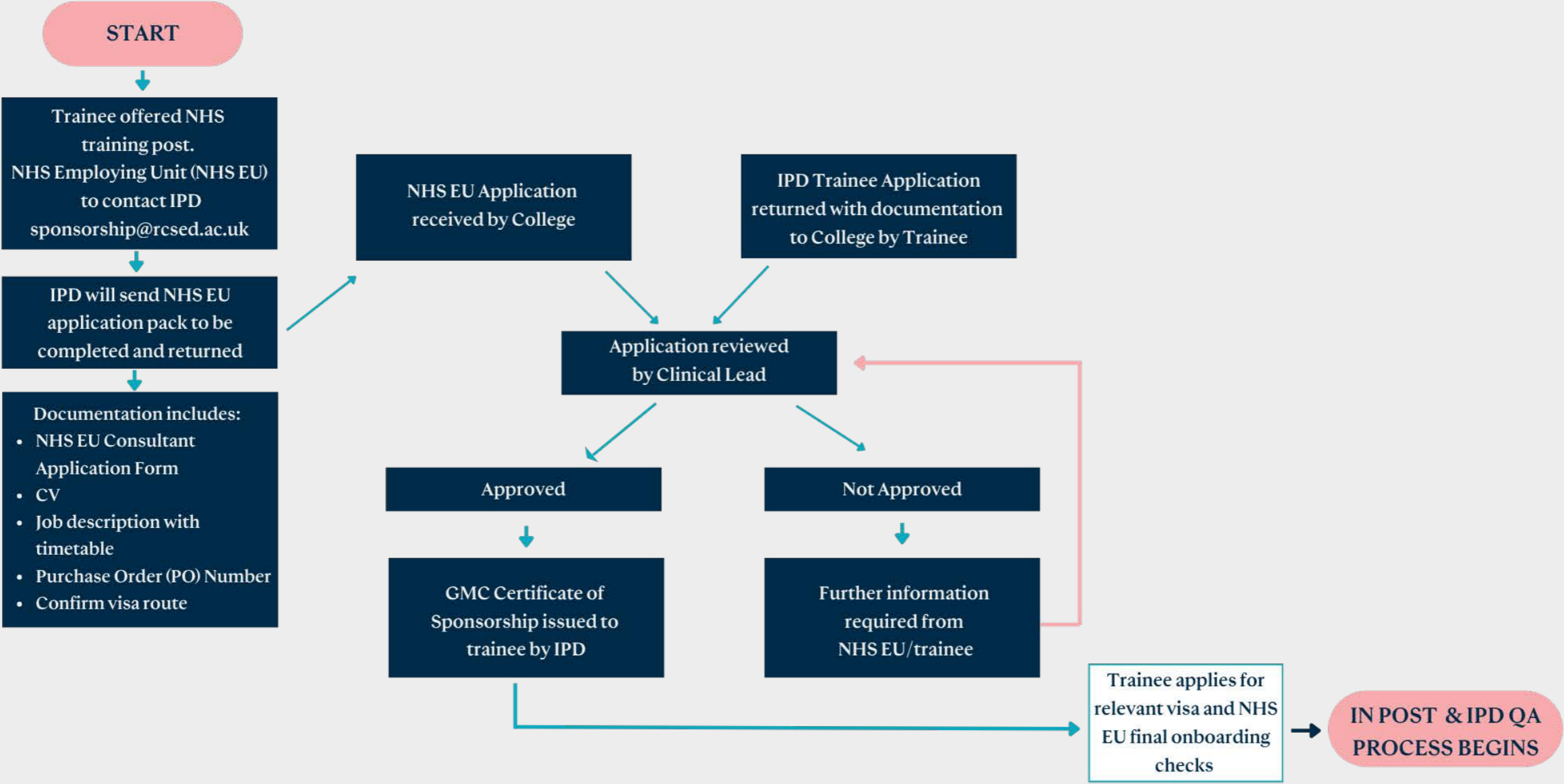
Clinical Experience

- Have an acceptable internship of not less than 12 months;
- Have completed at least one year of specialty practice at the point of application;
- Have been in clinical surgical practice for 3 of the last 5 years, including the most recent 12 months immediately prior to seeking registration with the GMC. Applicants cannot have been absent from clinical practice for more than two months in any 12-month period. Observerships and clinical attachments are not considered to be clinical practice; and
- Be able to provide the GMC with a Certificate of Good Standing (CGS) from the regulatory body in the country/countries where they have practiced in the 5 years prior to application, or since qualifying as a doctor, if less than 5 years qualified.

Processes

What we need from the Trusts:

The IPD team would be happy to set up a Microsoft Teams call with you and your team to provide an overview of the process. Once you are ready to proceed, we will ask you to provide an NHS EU Application Form, CV, Job Description and PO Number.



Quality Assurance

In line with our International Postgraduate Deanery (IPD) regulations, international medical graduates need to complete a few tasks that we require for our records in order to quality assure their training. Successful completion of training entitles international medical graduates to an IPD Completion Certificate and Diploma as well as use of the postnominals MIPDEd.

Induction

The International Postgraduate Deanery (IPD) team are based in both Birmingham and Edinburgh. The team delivers two inductions each year to welcome international medical graduates from around the world who come to work and train in the NHS and develop their surgical skills and competencies. This two-day event is designed to ensure they make the most of their time in the NHS, and to provide them with the non-technical skills required to ensure they can hit the ground running.

Working diligently behind the scenes, the IPD team brings this event to life - liaising with clinicians and high-demand speakers and managing every unexpected twist along the way. It's not only the team's highlight of the year but also a key moment for trusts to invest in their trainees by ensuring they have the dedicated time to participate.



Testimonials

"We highly appreciate your assistance with the process you have been extremely helpful."

RM, Medical Workforce Manager

"Incredibly helpful as always."

AC, Consultant

"I cannot thank you enough for all your timely help and the kindness with which you helped."

Dr, NS Trainee

"I just wanted to let you know that I completed my Fellowship post in the UK."

I would not have been able to do this without all your support last year, with all the problems I was facing with the registration system. Just wanted to thank you once again for your amazing work."

MP, Trainee

"As always thanks again to you and your team for supporting the education of international neurosurgeons at GOSH – it really brings benefits to the trainee, the Trust/NHS and to their home country with the knowledge and skills that they have acquired."

GJ, Consultant

Contact Us

For further information about the International Postgraduate Deanery, please contact sponsorship@rcsed.ac.uk

Or visit the IPD website [here](#).