



Returning to Hong Kong

Congratulations on finishing medical school! We are the committee of Hong Kong Medical Society of United Kingdom and we welcome you to the big family of future medics! For many, this is where the dream of returning to Hong Kong begins: Taking the HKMLE. Although in previous years, information on HKMLE have been difficult to find, the Medical Council has published a new platform in an attempt to make it more easily accessible.

We thought to summarise official information and incorporate past candidate's experiences into one document and make the whole process easier. To avoid misinformation, we have labelled all paraphrased official information with its sources (in blue hyperlinked headings). Whether you are a first year medical student unsure of HKMLE or a FY1 currently making your application, we hope this document may be of use!

Official HKMLE website: <https://leip.mchk.org.hk/EN/index.html>

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HKMLE

Requirements:

- Completed no less than 5 years of full time medical training
 - Include a period of full time internship resident in a hospital (eg: F1 or above)
 - Interrupted medical studies are considered case-by-case basis
- Holds medical qualification approved by council
- Applicant is of good character
 - 2 character references required

Examination Structure: Three Parts

Part I: Professional Knowledge

Exam Content and Style:

- Two papers, 120 MCQ each, available in both English and Traditional Chinese
- Single best answer format
- Based on HKU and CUHK question banks
- Negative marking; 1 mark per correct answer, deduction of **0.25** per wrong answer
- Passing mark set at **50% total**, but individual papers **no less than 40%**
- [Official Suggested readings](#)
- [Sample questions](#)

Comments from past successful licentiates:

- Aim very high MBBS level, but not as far as MRCP
- Resources:
 - MBBS finals material
 - CUHK/HKU question bank
 - HKMLE prep course run by successful licentiates in HK
 - Question Banks: OnExamination / Pastest / USMLE / GMAT
- Preparation time: varies between individuals
 - Did 6 weeks full time revision, 5 days a week
- Basically impossible to be exempt unless substantial experience of practice in relevant discipline

Content:

- Basic Sciences (pre-clinical disciplines, such as Anatomy, Pharmacology and Physiology)
- Medical ethics/Community medicine
- Medicine
- Surgery (& orthopaedics surgery)
- Psychiatry



- Paediatrics
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology

2019 Breakdown:

- Paper 1:
 - Basic sciences (10 MCQ)
 - Medicine (60 MCQ)
 - Psychiatry (15 MCQ)
 - Paediatrics (35 MCQ)
- Paper 2:
 - Basic sciences (10 MCQ)
 - Medical ethics/community medicine (15 MCQ)
 - Surgery (45 MCQ)
 - Ortho (15 MCQ)
 - O&G (35 MCQ)

Part II: Medical English Proficiency

Exam Content and Style:

- 3 hour written English paper
- 40 marks in total: 4 questions, 10 marks each
- Pass mark at 50% (20/40 marks)
- Question 1 and 2 each include an article and 10 True/False questions
 - Negative marking: 1 mark deducted per wrong answer
 - No deduction for unanswered questions
- Question 3 and 4 requires writing an English passage/letter in response to a scenario

Comments from past successful licentiates:

- Comprehension, summarising results, writing a clinic letter
- No clinical knowledge required
- Should not pose barrier for UK graduates
- Only graduates who started medical school in 2010 may be exempt

Part III: Clinical Examination (OSCEs)

Exam Content and Style:

- Must pass both Part I and II **before applying** to sit Part III
- Covers 4 specialties: Medicine, Surgery (& orthopaedics), Paediatrics, Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- Exam can be conducted in English, Cantonese or Putonghua (options are on application form)
 - Examiners will normally speak English throughout but some examiners may choose to speak Cantonese or Putonghua to facilitate communication
 - Patient might not necessarily speak English



- Only has capacity for 72 candidates per round
- After passing doctors are required to undergo 12 month internship under HA hospitals to be eligible for full registration with Medical Council, **beginning on 1 January or 1 July** unless granted deferral

Comments from past successful licentiates:

- Ask for interpreter even just to be safe
- What they look for:
 - Final MBBS level OSCE skills
 - Good communication and professional manners
 - Running commentary
 - Handwashing (alcohol may be hidden!)
- No set pass rate, pass rate range from 10-40 out of 72
- Partial exemptions are possible but require substantial experience/qualifications
- Surgery (& orthopaedics): 10 stations + 2 rest
 - Venepuncture, hernia, varicose veins, shoulder exam, thyroid, handwashing, X-ray/CT interpretation
- Medicine: 1 long case (1 hour), 4 x short case (8 min) + 4 x mini stations (4 mins)
 - 1 hour: full history + Viva questions from examiner(s)
 - 30 min history, 10 min examination, 20 min present findings/Viva
 - Only mention what you want to talk about!
 - 8 minute: cardio, resp, neuro, abdo, thyroid, breast
 - 4 minute: lab test or imaging interpretation
- Paediatrics: previously hardest (obscure syndromes) but lately OSCE based (easier)
- O&G: station/paper based, MBBS finals standard stations, 10 stations + 1 rest
 - Gynae History, breast exam, PV, speculum, STD testing/counselling

Timeline:

[Examinations are now scheduled twice a year.](#)

The examinations happen across two rounds/cycles a year, every March to May and September to December, usually referred to as 1st and 2nd sittings respectively.

September to December - 2nd Sitting 2018

	Examination	Application Period	Examination Date (Tentative)
Part I	Examination in Professional Knowledge	16 April 2018 to 15 May 2018	4 and 5 September 2018
Part II	Proficiency Test in Medical English	16 April 2018 to 15 May 2018	3 September 2018
Part III	Clinical Examination	14 September 2018 to 28 September 2018	2 weeks from late November to early December 2018



March to June - 1st Sitting 2019

	Examination	Application Period	Examination Date (Tentative)
Part I	Examination in Professional Knowledge	15 October 2018 to 16 November 2018	5 and 6 March 2019
Part II	Proficiency Test in Medical English	15 October 2018 to 16 November 2018	4 March 2019
Part III	Clinical Examination	15 March 2019 to 29 March 2019	2 weeks from late May to early June 2019

Official Exam Statistics

Official statistics no longer includes pass rates by countries, however we have attached screenshots of (2004-2006 rates) at the end of this document.

Resits

Part I: A pass in Part I can be retained for 5 attempts in Part III for 5 years, otherwise, Part I has to be taken again before attempting Part III again.

Part II: A pass in Part II can be retained for 5 attempts in Part III for 5 years, otherwise, Part II has to be taken again before attempting Part III again.

Part III: Having passed 3 subjects in Part III, those passes can be retained for 1 further attempt. If 4th subject is passed at the further attempt then Part III is passed. If not, all 4 subjects have to be taken again.

Failing **any part 5 times consecutively prohibits** any further attempts at HKMLE unless there is exceptional circumstances justifying 6th attempt.

Internship

Enter a 12 month internship at an HA approved hospital beginning on 01 July or 01 January after passing HKMLE **unless** deferral has been granted. Upon satisfactory completion of internship, candidate becomes eligible for full registration with the Medical Council.

Applicant is typically expected to begin period of internship in the upcoming July/Jan dates

- Passing at June sitting of the 2019, candidate is expected to begin internship on **either** 01 July 2019 or 01 Jan 2020
- Passing at December sitting of the 2019, candidate is expected to begin internship on **either** 01 Jan 2020 or 01 July 2020

Comments from past successful licentiates:



Exemptions

Exemption from a specialty of internship training

- Application for exemptions must be made prior to beginning of the internship
- Eligibility:
 - Holds specialist qualification equivalent to Fellowship of Hong Kong College of Physicians
 - Candidate will only take 6 months of internship training in surgical disciplines
 - Holds specialist qualification equivalent to Fellowship of the College of Surgeons of Hong Kong
 - Candidate will only take 6 months of internship training in medical disciplines
 - Holds specialist qualification equivalent to Fellowship of other Colleges under HKAM (except Dental Surgeons)
 - Candidate will only take 3 months internship training **each** (for both medical and surgical disciplines)

Deferral

- Deferral is generally only granted under special circumstances:
 - Engagement in active clinical practice/clinical training
 - Pregnancies
 - Sickness
- Maximum period of deferral is **3 years** from the latest date to begin internship
- Once deferred, applicant must undertake internship as instructed, **failing to do so requires applicant to pass all 3 parts of the examination again**

Reduction in duration in a specialty of internship training

- Can only apply for reduction in **1** specialty of internship throughout the entire duration
- Must have commenced training in that particular specialty
- All reduction criteria below must be met:
 - Passed all 3 parts of HKMLE at first attempt
 - Completed at least 6 weeks of internship in that specialty
 - Supervisor recommendation for reduction
 - Holds a postgraduate medical qualification in that specialty that is recognised by HKAM as an intermediate qualification
 - Practiced for at least 24 months as clinician in that specialty at a local institution recognised by HKAM

Appeal

Appeals must be made within 14 days of being notified of the decision.

Applicant is not allowed to sit or apply for HKMLE until after final conclusion of appeal.



Any applications submitted prior to appeal will be placed on hold until final conclusion.

Appeals can be made for/against following sub-committees:

- Credentials
 - Qualification vetting processes and determining eligibility
 - Examination
 - Prepare and conduct examination
 - Certify passes and failures
 - Internship
 - Posting, supervision and posting of interns
 - Exemption
 - Considers exemptions for examination and internship training
 - Review
 - Consider appeals against Credentials, Examination and Internship subcommittees
-

Limited Registration

What is it?

General Register of Medical Council allows eligible persons to register as a medical practitioner in Hong Kong with limited registration. This allows the doctor to work in the public sector under a temporary contract for a maximum duration of 3 years (previously only 1 year). By the end of 2017, there are 144 doctors working in Hong Kong under limited registration. Applications for certain positions are accepted all year round.

Employment for limited registration includes Department of Health (DH), Hospital Authority (HA), HKU and CUHK, for teaching, research, or clinical/hospital work.

The posts/positions available is subject to the needs of HA and DH at the time of application. Department of Health vacancies [here](#). These may include:

- Paediatrics, internal medicine, O&G
- Community medicine, public health, family medicine, occupational and environmental medicine
- Pathology, forensic pathology, anatomical pathology, chemical pathology, clinical microbiology and infection, immunology

Eligibility

- Selected for an employment determined and promulgated by Medical Council
- Obtained acceptable overseas qualification
- Has had adequate and relevant full-time post-qualification clinical experience
- Registered with medical authority outside HK
- Of good character

[Job requirements:](#)



- Good spoken and written Chinese and English
- Preferably fluent Cantonese
- Must be permanent residents of HKSAR at time of appointment
- Acceptable overseas medical qualification registrable with medical authority outside Hong Kong

HKMLE while on limited registration

This segment will be updated soon!

HKMLE Statistics

香港醫務委員會所舉辦的2004年度執業資格試													
學訓練的地方	考生人數 Number of candidates												
	Part I – Professional Knowledge 第一部份：專業知識考試					Part II – English exam 第二部份：醫學英語技能水平測驗					Part III - Clinical Exam 第三部份：臨床考試		
	No. candidates		No. passed		%								
	應考人數		合格人數		合格率	應考人數		合格人數		合格率	應考人數		合格人數
	總人數	其中已在 香港以外 註冊人數	總人數	其中已在 香港以外 註冊人數		總人數	其中已在 香港以外 註冊人數	總人數	其中已在 香港以外 註冊人數		總人數	其中已在 香港以外 註冊人數	總人數
內地 China	41	11	2	0	4.88%	13	3	8	2	61.54%	11	6	4
台灣 Taiwan	5	3	0	0	0.00%	2	1	2	1	100.00%	1	1	0
英國 UK	5	5	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
澳洲 Austr	8	8	2	2	25.00%	0	0	0	0	-	1	1	1
荷蘭 Holland	1	1	0	0	0.00%	1	0	1	0	100.00%	0	0	0
加拿大 Canada	3	2	2	1	66.67%	0	0	0	0	0.00%	6	4	3
美國 USA	2	2	1	1	50.00%	0	0	0	0	0.00%	1	1	0
孟加拉 Bangladesh	2	0	0	0	0.00%	2	2	1	1	50.00%	0	0	0
南非 SA	1	1	0	0	0.00%	1	1	1	1	100.00%	0	0	0
日本 Japan	1	1	0	0	0.00%	1	1	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0
俄羅斯 Russia	1	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
尼泊爾 Nepal	1	1	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
菲律賓 Phillipines	2	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
新西蘭 NZ	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	1	1	1
合計	77	39	7	4	9.09%	20	8	13	5	65.00%	21	14	9



香港醫務委員會所舉辦的2005年度執業資格試															
或醫學訓練的地方	考生人數														
	第一部份：專業知識考試					第二部份：醫學英語技能水平測驗					第三部份：臨床考試				
	應考人數		合格人數		合格率	應考人數		合格人數		合格率	應考人數		合格人數		合格率
	總人數	其中已在香港以外註冊人數	總人數	其中已在香港以外註冊人數		總人數	其中已在香港以外註冊人數	總人數	其中已在香港以外註冊人數		總人數	其中已在香港以外註冊人數	總人數	其中已在香港以外註冊人數	
內地	44	9	4	1	9.09%	23	1	16	1	69.57%	11	5	4	2	36.36%
台灣	5	4	0	0	0.00%	3	3	3	2	100.00%	2	2	0	0	0.00%
英國	11	10	4	4	36.36%	0	0	0	0	-	4	4	0	0	0.00%
澳洲	5	5	1	1	20.00%	0	0	0	0	-	1	0	0	0	0.00%
巴基斯坦	1	1	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-
加拿大	1	1	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	-	1	1	0	0	0.00%
美國	2	1	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	-	1	1	0	0	0.00%
孟加拉	2	2	0	0	0.00%	1	1	1	1	100.00%	0	0	0	0	-
日本	1	1	0	0	0.00%	1	1	1	1	100.00%	0	0	0	0	-
新西蘭	3	3	1	1	33.33%	0	0	0	0	-	1	1	0	0	0.00%
印度	1	1	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-
尼泊爾	1	1	1	1	100.00%	0	0	0	0	-	1	1	1	1	100.00%
菲律賓	4	1	0	0	0.00%	1	0	1	0	100.00%	0	0	0	0	-
合計	81	40	11	8	13.58%	29	6	22	5	75.86%	22	15	5	3	22.73%

香港醫務委員會所舉辦的2006年度執業資格試															
完成醫學訓練的地方	考生人數														
	第一部份：專業知識考試					第二部份：醫學英語技能水平測驗					第三部份：臨床考試				
	應考人數		合格人數		合格率	應考人數		合格人數		合格率	應考人數		合格人數		合格率
	總人數	其中已在 香港以外 註冊人數	總人數	其中已在 香港以外 註冊人數		總人數	其中已在 香港以外 註冊人數	總人數	其中已在 香港以外 註冊人數		總人數	其中已在 香港以外 註冊人數	總人數	其中已在 香港以外 註冊人數	
內地	40	7	1	1	2.50%	24	3	17	3	70.83%	5	3	3	2	60.00%
台灣	8	4	1	1	12.50%	6	3	6	3	100.00%	1	1	0	0	0.00%
英國	19	19	7	7	36.84%	0	0	0	0	-	6	6	3	3	50.00%
澳洲	11	10	4	3	36.36%	0	0	0	0	-	4	3	2	2	50.00%
加拿大	3	3	2	2	66.67%	0	0	0	0	-	2	2	0	0	0.00%
美國	5	4	1	0	20.00%	1	1	1	1	100.00%	2	1	0	0	0.00%
孟加拉	3	3	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-
印度	2	2	1	1	50.00%	1	1	1	1	100.00%	1	1	0	0	0.00%
捷克	1	0	0	0	0.00%	1	0	1	0	100.00%	0	0	0	0	-
緬甸	1	1	0	0	0.00%	1	1	1	1	100.00%	0	0	0	0	-
新西蘭	1	1	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	-	1	1	1	1	100.00%
巴基斯坦	1	1	1	1	100.00%	0	0	0	0	-	1	1	0	0	0.00%
烏克蘭	1	1	0	0	0.00%	1	1	1	1	100.00%	0	0	0	0	-
日本	1	1	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-
愛爾蘭	2	2	2	2	100.00%	0	0	0	0	-	2	2	0	0	0.00%
俄羅斯	1	0	0	0	0.00%	1	0	1	0	100.00%	0	0	0	0	-
菲律賓	5	2	1	0	20.00%	0	0	0	0	-	1	0	0	0	0.00%
合計	105	61	21	18	20.00%	36	10	29	10	80.56%	26	21	9	8	34.62%



1977年至2011年醫生執業試結果

1977年至1996年執業試考試結果

年份	第一部			第二部 (3月)			第二部 (5月)			第三部			完成非駐院 實習人數
	考生 人數	合格 人數	%	考生 人數	合格 人數	%	考生 人數	合格 人數	%	考生 人數	合格 人數	%	
1977	1129	171	15	170	145	85	-	-	-	142	112	79	-
1978	722	74	10	95	78	82	-	-	-	106	40	38	-
1979	422	91	22	106	85	80	-	-	-	138	70	51	106
1980	498	82	16	105	81	77	-	-	-	135	50	37	43
1981	402	51	13	74	64	86	-	-	-	131	82	63	64
1982	464	54	12	64	54	84	-	-	-	102	59	58	54
1983	347	84	24	67	63	94	33	29	88	126	107	85	79
1984	351	127	36	108	82	76	47	30	64	129	73	57	62
1985	479	121	25	98	75	77	44	34	77	167	85	51	106
1986	391	96	25	88	56	64	44	37	84	179	65	36	74
1987	334	45	13	40	31	78	18	7	39	141	42	30	84
1988	225	21	9	25	14	56	12	8	67	83	30	36	64
1989	138	19	14	17	17	100	7	4	57	76	31	41	41
1990	132	45	34	33	27	82	11	5	45	86	26	30	31
1991	190	21	11	25	18	72	5	3	60	68	37	54	29
1992	201	52	26	49	41	84	8	5	63	84	35	42	27
1993	216	28	13	22	15	68	12	8	67	72	25	35	36
1994	197	10	5	12	9	75	4	2	50	54	22	41	35
1995	241	52	22	35	28	80	17	14	82	75	25	33	26
1996	260	13	5	12	10	83	2	1	50	58	22	38	22

註：香港醫務委員會執照簽發總數：983

1996年以來舉辦的執業資格試考試結果

年份	專業知識考試			醫學英語技能 水平測驗 (3月)			醫學英語技能 水平測驗 (9月)			臨牀考試			完成駐院 實習人數
	考生 人數	合格 人數	%	考生 人數	合格 人數	%	考生 人數	合格 人數	%	考生 人數	合格 人數	%	
1996	154	11	7	-	-	-	140	88	63	40	12	30	-
1997	178	13	7	15	12	80	90	48	53	27	9	33	11
1998	165	43	26	7	7	100	51	43	84	49	17	35	6
1999	165	20	12	5	4	80	57	39	68	49	9	18	16
2000	132	13	10	1	0	0	48	28	58	42	10	24	10
2001	124	13	10	*	-	-	50	37	74	35	9	26	10
2002	104	11	11	*	-	-	31	13	42	33	13	39	7
2003	76	11	14	*	-	-	30	26	87	27	7	26	9
2004	77	7	9	*	-	-	20	13	65	21	9	43	7
2005	81	11	14	*	-	-	29	22	76	22	5	23	10
2006	105	21	20	*	-	-	36	29	81	26	9	35	5
2007	117	22	19	*	-	-	34	33	97	37	18	49	8
2008	138	12	9	*	-	-	38	25	66	23	8	35	9
2009	158	41	26	*	-	-	39	22	56	48	15	31	12
2010	168	43	26	*	-	-	65	64	98	72	21	29	11
2011	221	51	23	*	-	-	54	50	93	76	21	28	15

*2001年3月起停辦

Last Update: Oct 2018