

# Internship in Israel

All medical school graduates must take an internship in order to receive a permanent license to practice medicine in Israel.

## **Internship assignment**

After successfully passing the governmental examination before the internship, the physician will be issued an internship permit and will then be assigned to one of the medical institutions in Israel.

The Ministry of Health's Medical Administration assigns physicians to internships in hospitals in Israel based on a draw.

## **Duration of the internship**

A medical internship in Israel lasts 12 months, of which one month is a vacation. The internship should be taken continuously.

The internship period must be finished within two years at the most from the time of receiving an internship permit.

## **Starting the internship**

The internship period is to be started at the latest one year after receiving the announcement of passing the governmental examination before the medical internship.

## **Hospitals for taking an internship**

At least 5 internship months in mandatory subjects will be taken in hospitals in which only part of the internship is conducted

The other 6 months will be taken at another recognized hospital of the intern's choice, after arrangement with the internship coordinator at the hospital at which the internship is taken and the internship coordinator at the other requested hospital.

## **Duty shifts**

During the internship, the internship must perform at least 4 duty shifts a month, for a total of 44 duty shifts.

## **Clinical instructing for interns**

Shortly before the internship begins, a clinical instructing week for interns will commence. Participation in this instructing constitutes a condition for starting the internship.

## **Orientation workshop**

Before starting the internship, the intern must participate in an orientation workshop held at the Medical Simulation Centre.

This workshop is not part of the internship and the intern will not be paid for participating in it.

The workshop may be scheduled by calling telephone: 03-5305700

### **Absence in the internship period**

A period of absence from the internship, owing to: reserve military duty, illness or birth, for a cumulative total of 30 days per semester, will be considered as part of the internship.

This period **may not be** deducted from the mandatory months that last up to one month only.

Any period beyond the 30 days will require the internship to be extended without deducting vacation time.

The internship will be extended in arrangement with the internship coordinator at the hospital. **A request for extending the internship is to be addressed to the Medical Professions Licensing Department.**

### **Failing an internship**

An intern who fails a mandatory subject may repeat the internship in that branch unpaid for an identical period. At the end of the repeat internship, an oral examination must be passed before the director of the department at which the repeat internship is taken and two senior physicians in that department.

An internship round **may not be** repeated more than once. An intern who fails twice one of the mandatory subjects will be recommended not to practice medicine in Israel.

**Any change during the internship requires receipt of prior written approval, from the intern supervisor at the hospital and from the Medical Professions Licensing Department of the Ministry of Health.**

### **Prohibition of issuing documents**

During the internship, writing of prescriptions, birth certificates, death certificates, medical opinions and any certificates is prohibited.

In addition, the intern is not allowed to sign for discharging a patient from an emergency room, a hospital department or any other medical facility.

Besides these restrictions, **the intern has all of the rights and duties of a licensed physician.**

## **Internship Tracks**

According to the internship regulations, there are two internship tracks:

### **1. Internship rotating**

The 12 internship months include:

- 9 mandatory months (3 months in an internal medicine department, 2 months in a surgery department, 2 months in a paediatrics department, 1 month in an emergency medicine department, 2 weeks in an anaesthesiology department and 2 weeks in an intensive care department).  
The 2 internship months in an internal medicine department and the 2 internship months in a surgery department must be taken in immediate succession.
- 2 months of the intern's choice (a sequence of one month in each department)  
The choice months may be taken in any department that is recognized for residencies in Israel, in primary medicine, in recognized medical laboratories and recognized medical institutes. One month may also be taken at a university hospital overseas. To take a month overseas, approval from the internship supervisor at the hospital at which the internship is being taken is required.  
[With the approval of the internship supervisor at the hospital at which the internship is being taken, the 2 choice months may be taken outside the hospital at which the internship is being taken].
- 1 month of vacation

### **2. Internship Straight**

This track has three options to choose from:

- **Direct internship in internal medicine**

The 12 internship months in this track include:

2 months in a surgery department, 2 months in a paediatrics department, 1 month in an emergency medicine department, 6 months in an internal medicine department and 1 month vacation.

The 6 months in internal medicine must be taken during the last months of the internship.

This period may be split for working in two hospitals if these hospitals consent.

An intern who finishes the direct internship in this track and subsequently takes a residency in internal medicine will have the 6 months of the internship recognized as part of his residency in internal medicine.

- **Direct internship in surgery**

The 12 internship months in this track include:

3 months in an internal medicine department, 1 month in a paediatrics department, 1

month in an emergency medicine department, 6 months in a surgery department and 1 month vacation.

The 6 months in surgery must be taken during the last months of the internship.

This period may be split into working at two hospitals if they consent.

An intern who completes the direct internship in this track and then takes a residency in general surgery will have the 6 months of the internship in the surgery department considered as part of his residency in general surgery.

- **Direct internship in paediatrics:**

The 12 internship months in this track include:

3 months in an internal medicine department, 1 month in a general surgery department, 1 month in an emergency medicine department, 6 months in a paediatrics department and 1 month vacation.

The 6 months in paediatrics must be taken during the last months of the internship.

This period may be split into working at two hospitals if they consent.

An intern who completes the direct internship in this track and then takes a residency in paediatrics will have the 6 months of the internship in the paediatrics department considered as part of his residency in paediatrics.

**Further information:** an intern who chooses one of the internship tracks after starting the internship will not be able to change tracks.

**The intern must make sure at the beginning of the internship that he receives the internship book containing additional information on the internship** (overseas graduates will receive the internship book from the intern supervisor at the hospital to which he is assigned for his internship).

After successfully finishing the internship the Ministry of Health system will be updated by the hospitals at which the internship was taken, and those satisfying the other requirements of the law will be entitled to a permanent license.