

License to practice medicine in Israel for a doctor who completed the studies of medicine abroad and has not done an internship

A doctor who has completed his studies abroad, who holds a recognized diploma and has not completed the internship in the country where he studied, will be eligible to practice medicine in Israel only after having successfully withstood the government examination prior to medical internship, after which one year's internship at a recognized institution will follow.

USMLE Examination

According to an amendment to the Medical Doctors' Regulations that was approved by the Knesset Labour, Welfare and Health Committee and published in the government gazette, a physician who successfully sits the USMLE examinations, in accordance with the rules detailed below, will be entitled to a waiver of the government examination prior to internship in medicine and to receive authorization to undertake an internship in medicine.

The process of obtaining the license to practice medicine for graduates from abroad, who do their internship in Israel includes the following steps (detailed information appears below):

1. Submission of an application for an examination prior to internship
2. Examination, or exemption based on USMLE examination, and Internship (12 months)
3. Temporary license
4. Permanent license

1. Submission of an application for an examination prior to internship

Admission to take the government examination for internship is granted by the Ministry of Health Medical Professions Licensing Division.

The application and relevant documents are provided in the Service Details below.

The application for examination may be submitted no less than 60 days prior to the examination.

2. Examination and Internship

Examination prior to internship

- The examinations are administered twice per year (winter examination and summer examination).
- After inspection of the documents by The Medical Professions Licensing Department the doctor will be sent to undergo the government examination prior to internship. The application form for the examination will be forwarded to the scientific council of the Israel Medical Union for registration of the doctor and scheduling him for an examination.
- The doctor will receive information concerning the date of the examination, its location and results directly from the examination committee at the scientific council of the Israel Medical Association, 35 Jabotinsky Str. Ramat Gan, tel. 03-6100444.

Waiver of the Government Examination prior to Internship in Medicine USMLE examinations

According to an amendment to the Medical Doctors' Regulations that was approved by the Knesset Labour, Welfare and Health Committee and published in the government gazette, a physician who successfully sits the USMLE examinations, in accordance with the rules detailed below, will be entitled to a waiver of the government examination prior to internship in medicine and to receive authorization to undertake an internship in medicine:

- A holder of a recognized degree from overseas who has not yet undertaken an internship
- A doctor who successfully sat the USMLE examinations: Step 1 and one of the parts (ck) of Step 2 (USMLE Step 1; USMLE Step 2 ck) shall be exempt from the government examination prior to internship in medicine, and will be eligible for authorization to undertake an internship in medicine in Israel.

All this is subject to meeting the remaining conditions of the Medical Doctors' Ordinance and Regulations.

Internship

After having successfully withstood the government examination prior to internship, the doctor will be granted a permit of internship and will be assigned to one of the medical institutions in Israel.

Doctors eligible for internship at hospitals in Israel are assigned by the medical services in the Ministry of Health.

The internship lasts one year (12 months).

3. Temporary License

To obtain a Temporary license to practice medicine in Israel, at the end of the internship, the intern must submit an official certificate from the internship manager to the Medical Professions Licensing Department, confirming that the internship was successfully completed, with full details of each and every ward in which the internship was performed.

After inspection of the documents, notice will be given to the applicant regarding his eligibility for a Temporary license. Receipt of the license is conditional upon payment of the licensing fee.

Payment can be made at the postal bank (a payment voucher will be sent by the Medical Professions Licensing Department)

Payment may also be made on the internet.

After payment of the fee, the temporary license will be sent to the doctor **by registered post**.

4. Permanent License

A doctor who graduated abroad and who has received a temporary permit, has worked for a minimum of 12 consecutive months and who has received favourable professional reviews from a specialist doctor, and who has successfully met the requirements of the law and the regulations, is eligible for a permanent license.

The doctor must submit the application for a permanent license to the Medical Professions Licensing Department and must attach the **original** temporary license and the professional review.

Those eligible will be mailed a permanent license fee payment voucher. Payment can be made at the postal bank (a payment voucher will be sent by the Medical Professions Licensing Department). Payments may also be made on the internet:

After payment of the fee, the license will be sent to the doctor by **registered post**.

Criminal record check

In order to grant the license, the Ministry of Health must receive certification from Israel Police that the applicant has no criminal record.

The Medical Professions Licensing Department in the Department of Health will apply to Israel Police for this certification. After it is received, the license will be issued to graduates who have satisfied all other legal requirements.

By law, the Ministry of Health may not request this certification directly from the applicant.

Reception Area

The request must be sent **by registered mail** to the Medical Professions Licensing Department, Ministry of Health, 39 Yirmiyahu St., P.O.Box 1176, Jerusalem 9101002 Israel.

Documents for the department can be submitted at the ground floor of the office, at the security screening point. The documents must be in a sealed envelope. It is your responsibility to receive a confirmation of your document admission upon submission.

The information provided by candidates is used to contact them. If false information is provided, the submission will not be processed.

Required Documents

Required documents to be attached to the application to take the government examination prior to internship

- 2 copies of the Questionnaire for workers in the health care professions
- 2 passport photographs.
- 2 photocopies of your identification card, including the attachment showing your address. Tourists: Photocopy of your passport with a valid Israeli visa.
- 2 copies of the application for examination.
- Final degree from a recognized university, or alternatively certification from the university that you have completed your studies and have fulfilled all requirements to be eligible for a degree in medicine, which will be awarded at a certain time.
- Official certification of the date that you commenced and completed your studies.
- Syllabus of the program of study at schools of medicine: subjects studied, courses, examination grades – divided into years (preferably divided into semesters) during the six years of study, including starting and finishing dates.
In the event of studies in more than one institution, the same documents must be presented for each institution separately. In addition, the courses taken must be presented in detail, and the requirements for completion of the courses from the previous institution.

Translation and validation of documents and certificates

- Original certificates must not be sent to the Medical Professions Licensing Department. Instead, **only copies must be sent.**
- **Certified copies of documents should be certified by a licensed notary in Israel. The original notarized certification (with the red ribbon) should be sent to the Division, as well as an additional copy of it (a total of two copies).**

- Documents in languages other than Hebrew and Arabic must be translated into Hebrew by a qualified translator in Israel. A copy of the original document and its translation must be submitted.
- Israel graduates are permitted to submit copies of diplomas, certificates of eligibility for a degree and certificates of practical training, where the fact of their being true to the original has been confirmed by the secretariat of the relevant faculty.