

January 21 2019

Reference: 407501719

Re: Accreditation of Foreign Medical Education by Israel Ministry of Health

To preserve the high quality of medical care in Israel, and simultaneously to motivate future medical students to apply to high quality medical schools – graduates of foreign medical schools and candidates of foreign medical schools who desire to practice medicine in Israel in the future are advised to consider the following prerequisites when selecting a foreign medical school.

This document supplements the prerequisites previously released ([see here](#)) for graduates of foreign education programs that apply for qualification to take the medical licensing exam.

With regard to the assessment procedure of foreign studies, as noted below, it has been decided to give importance to successful completion of the accreditation process of medical schools and hospitals in which the education was acquired, when considering qualification to take the medical licensing exam. It has also been decided to make a distinction between individuals who already started their medical education and individuals who are set to start their education. Additionally, it has been decided to extend the clinical chapter of the licensing exams for all examinees.

A. Background – Accreditation of Medical Schools and Hospitals

Accreditation of medical schools – Since 2018, the accreditation process of medical schools around the world has been part of the initiative of the World Federation for Medical Education. The purpose of accreditation is to assure the quality of medical education. The initiative allows medical schools around the world to undergo an accreditation process by their own national academic bodies authorized by the WFME.

Accreditation of hospitals that provide medical education – The goal of such accreditation process is to improve and ensure the hospitals' standard of quality. The accreditation processes are carried out by various bodies and they are not identical in content or quality. Generally speaking, a hospital that successfully completed a qualitative accreditation process is better than a hospital that did not. High standards are crucial for satisfactory medical education.

Below is the list of organizations approved by the Ministry of Health to accredit foreign hospitals, meaning that their clinical training is also accredited:

- USA - JCI (JOINT COMMISSION INTERNATIONAL)
- Canada - AC (ACCREDITATION CANADA)
- England – CHKS (HEALTH & CARE STANDARDS)



- Australia – ACHS (THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF HEALTH CARE STANDARDS)
- Germany – DNV GL

B. Candidates of Medical Studies, 2019 and Onwards

Foreign medical candidates that will start studying in 2019 or later will be able to apply for qualification to take the state medical exam in Israel only if their medical education in its entirety was completed in a medical school that satisfied one of the following prerequisites:

1. The medical school is located in one of the OECD countries;
2. The medical school successfully completed the WFME accreditation process, and the hospital in which the clinical studies took place underwent accreditation by an approved body as specified in clause (A) above.

In principle, a student starting to study in 2019 or later in a foreign medical school that does not meet one of the aforementioned prerequisites and applies for qualification to take the state medical licensing exam in Israel, will not be allowed to take the exam.

The head of the Health Profession Licensing Division of the Ministry of Health is authorized to make exceptions in the following cases:

- To accredit a medical school even if it does not satisfy one of the aforementioned prerequisites, provided there are special circumstances that indicate that the quality of education satisfies Israeli standards.
- To deny accreditation of a medical school even if it satisfies one or more prerequisites in the aforementioned, in case there is reasonable doubt regarding the school's quality of education, which may not satisfy Israeli standards. This exception will be made valid one year after the date that the exception was made and will apply only to those who started their studies in said school.
- Notices of exceptions will be released to the Ministry of Health website.

C. Medical Graduates Who Started Their Medical Education Before 2019

With regard to graduates of foreign medical schools who started their education before 2019, each case will be examined according to current standards published on the Ministry of Health website. In addition, depending on whether the medical school or hospital in which the clinical education took place has successfully undergone the accreditation process either before the commencement of the studies or during – this will be taken into consideration when deliberating the qualification to take the state medical exam in Israel.



D. The State Medical Licensing Exam

In 2019, the clinical part of the licensing exam will be extended in order to make sure that graduates of foreign medical schools satisfy the applicable clinical standards of Israel's health system, all examinees will be affected.

Sincerely,

Prof. Shaul Yatziv,

Head of the Medical Professions Licensing Division