THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE
OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG

Guidelines 3 -
Internship: Exemption, Reduction, Deferment

Application

1. Candidates who have passed the Licensing Examination may apply for:-
   (a) exemption from a specialty of internship training;
   (b) deferment of internship training; and
   (c) reduction of the period of internship training.

2. Documentary proof in support is required.

3. Applications for exemption, deferment or reduction should be considered according to the following guidelines.

Guidelines for exemption from a specialty

4. An applicant is eligible to apply for exemption from a specialty of internship training only if:-
   (a) he/she has satisfactorily completed internship in an accredited hospital with a training system comparable to the Hong Kong system; and
   (b) he/she has been in active and continuous practice for at least three years.

5. The following are relevant factors for consideration of exemption:-
   (a) the results in Part I (Examination in Professional Knowledge) and Part III (Clinical Examination) of the Licensing Examination;
   (b) not less than 3 years of practical experience in the relevant specialty in an institute in Hong Kong.

6. In general, exemption will be granted in respect of a specialty in which the applicant has obtained a specialist qualification which is comparable to a Fellowship of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine.

7. Exemption of internship in respect of a particular specialty will normally be granted for not more than 3 months.

8. Exemption cannot be granted in respect of all specialties.

Guidelines for deferment

9. Candidates passing the Licensing Examination are required to commence internship training on either 1 January or 1 July of the following year.

10. The Internship Sub-committee will consider applications for deferment only in exceptional circumstances. In general, deferment will not be granted to a candidate unless he is engaged in active clinical practice.

11. Deferment will not be granted for more than 12 months unless under exceptional circumstances.
Guidelines for reduction of the period of internship training

12. Application for reduction of the period of internship training in a specialty can be made only after the applicant has commenced internship in the relevant specialty.

13. Reduction will only be granted if the applicant has served internship for a sufficient duration to enable the Internship Sub-committee to assess his/her performance and ability. Previous attested experience is also relevant.

14. Reduction in a particular specialty will normally be granted if the applicant:-
   (a) has passed all 3 parts of the Licensing Examination at the first attempt; and
   (b) has completed at least 6 weeks of internship training in the relevant specialty, and
   (c) has the recommendation of his/her supervisor that internship in the relevant specialty be reduced; and
   (d) has obtained a post-graduate medical qualification in the relevant specialty which is recognized by the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine as equivalent to an intermediate qualification; and
   (e) has practised for at least 24 months as a clinician in the relevant specialty in a local accredited institution recognized by the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine.

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Licentiate Committee
Medical Council of Hong Kong