

Clinical English Language Training

Applicant FAQs

09/01/2023

Who can apply?

Who can apply for this course?

These English courses are for a defined group of applicants. You are eligible to apply for funded Clinical English language training if you are one of the following:

- i. A Ukrainian citizen holding a professional qualification in health or social care resident in the State pursuant to the Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55/EC).
- ii. A programme refugee holding a professional qualification in health or social care resident in the State.
- iii. A recognised refugee and recipient of subsidiary protection pursuant to the International Protection Act 2015 who hold a professional qualification in health or social care.

We are currently only inviting applicants who are highly likely to achieve professional registration with the statutory regulator, please see the section “Professions who can apply for English language courses through this initiative” for further details.

Please note the College of Anaesthetists is providing temporary administrative support for this language initiative for all healthcare professionals.

Are you providing this course to all non-native English speakers?

These English courses are for a defined group of applicants. You are eligible to apply for funded Clinical English language training if you are one of the following:

- i. A Ukrainian citizen holding a professional qualification in health or social care resident in the State pursuant to the Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55/EC).
- ii. A programme refugee holding a professional qualification in health or social care resident in the State.
- iii. A recognised refugee and recipient of subsidiary protection pursuant to the International Protection Act 2015 who hold a professional qualification in health or social care.

We are currently only inviting applicants who are highly likely to achieve professional registration with the relevant statutory regulator, please see the section “Professions who can apply for English language courses through this initiative” for further details.

I am a refugee can I apply?

Applicants who hold certain international protection status can apply. You are eligible to apply for funded Clinical English language training if you are one of the following:

- i. A Ukrainian citizen holding a professional qualification in health or social care resident in the State pursuant to the Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55/EC).
- ii. A programme refugee holding a professional qualification in health or social care resident in the State.
- iii. A recognised refugee and recipient of subsidiary protection pursuant to the International Protection Act 2015 who hold a professional qualification in health or social care.

We are currently only inviting applicants who are highly likely to achieve professional registration with the relevant statutory regulator, please see the section “Professions who can apply for English language courses through this initiative” for further details.

I am an EU citizen can I apply?

Only applicants who hold certain international protection status can apply. You are eligible to apply for funded Clinical English language training if you are one of the following:

- i. A Ukrainian citizen holding a professional qualification in health or social care resident in the State pursuant to the Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55/EC).
- ii. A programme refugee holding a professional qualification in health or social care resident in the State.
- iii. A recognised refugee and recipient of subsidiary protection pursuant to the International Protection Act 2015 who hold a professional qualification in health or social care.

We are currently only inviting applicants who are highly likely to achieve professional registration with the relevant statutory regulator, please see the section “Professions who can apply for English language courses through this initiative” for further details.

Professions who can apply for English language courses through this initiative

Which health and social care professions can apply for this initiative?

The funding is being provided to aid eligible applicants in removing barriers to professional **registration such as English language proficiency**. We are currently only inviting applicants who are highly likely to achieve professional registration with the relevant statutory regulator.

We expect the majority of eligible applicants to be doctors and dental professionals for whom English language proficiency is a requirement to apply for statutory registration, which will allow them to operate in their chosen profession.

Doctors will need to provide evidence that they:

- a) have a primary medical qualification awarded by a medical school listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools (*Note: where the listing includes a Sponsor Note indicating that it is an acceptable medical school in Canada or for the purposes of USMLE*)

And

- b) are currently registered with a home country or other Medical Regulator or previously registered with a Medical Regulator, in another country, within a reasonable timeframe

Dental professionals will need to provide:

- a) A copy of a Period of Adaptation Letter from the Irish Dental Council.

Or

- b) A copy of the confirmation of their application to register with Irish Dental Council

Or

- c) Evidence they are currently registered with a home country or other Dental Regulator or previously registered with a Dental Regulator, in another country, within a reasonable timeframe.

In some circumstances a non-doctor or non-dental professional will be offered a clinical English language course where they are in receipt of a letter from the relevant professional regulator confirming English language training is a requirement for registration.

Which Dental professions can apply?

The following dental professions are eligible to apply

1. Dentists
2. Dental Hygienists
3. Dental Nurses
4. Orthodontic Therapists
5. Clinical Dental Technicians

I am not a Doctor or a Dental profession can I apply?

Yes, you can apply. However, we are currently only inviting applicants who are highly likely to achieve professional registration with the relevant statutory regulator.

You will need to provide a letter or email from your professional regulator stating that your application has been checked and English language training is the final requirement for your registration.

Regulated Professions

What is a regulated profession?

A regulated profession is one where access to, or practice of a profession, is restricted to those who meet the professional qualifications required by law.

Who are the professional regulators for each discipline/ profession?

The professional regulators are:

	Profession	Regulator
Medical	Doctor	Medical Council of Ireland
Nursing & Midwifery	Nurse	Nursing & Midwifery Board Ireland
	Midwife	Nursing & Midwifery Board Ireland
Dental	Dentist	Dental Council
	Dental Hygienist	Dental Council
	Dental Nurse	Dental Council
	Orthodontic Therapist	Dental Council
	Clinical Dental Technician	Dental Council
Pharmacy	Pharmacist	Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland
Health & Social Care Profession	Social Worker	CORU
	Dietitian	CORU
	Physiotherapist	CORU
	Occupational Therapist	CORU
	Optician	CORU
	Radiographer	CORU
	Speech & Language Therapist	CORU
	Medical Scientist	CORU
	Podiatrist	CORU

Pre-hospital emergency care	Paramedic	Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC)
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For other professions the Minister for Health is the competent authority for several health and social care professions.

The Department of Health, through the Validation Unit (validation_unit@health.gov.ie), administers the process in respect of the following professions on behalf of the Minister. The assessment processes of the Directive 2005/36/EC on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications are also applied to qualifications which are outside the Directive's scope (i.e. non-EEA qualifications or EEA qualifications of non-EEA nationals).

Please go to the relevant link below for information on the application process for that profession:

- [Audiology](#)
- [Clinical Biochemistry](#)
- [Environmental Health](#)
- [Orthoptics](#)
- [Psychology](#)

Registration with an Irish professional regulator

Doctor: I have not applied for registration with the Irish Medical Council can I apply?

Yes, Doctors can still apply before starting the registration process with the Irish Medical Council. However, we recommend that you engage with the Irish Medical Council before you apply so you understand the registration needs.

If you are a doctor you will need to provide evidence that you:

- a) have a primary medical qualification awarded by a medical school listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools (*Note: where the listing includes a Sponsor Note indicating that it is an acceptable medical school in Canada or for the purposes of USMLE*)

And

- b) are currently registered with a home country, or other Medical Regulator, or previously registered with a Medical Regulator, in another country, within a reasonable timeframe

Doctor: I have applied to the Irish Medical Council and am awaiting a response, can I apply?

Yes, you can apply.

If you are a doctor you will need to provide evidence that you:

- a) have a primary medical qualification awarded by a medical school listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools (*Note: where the listing includes a Sponsor Note indicating that it is an acceptable medical school in Canada or for the purposes of USMLE*)

And

- b) are currently registered with a home country, or other Medical Regulator, or previously registered with a Medical Regulator, in another country, within a reasonable timeframe

Dental Professional: I have not applied for registration with the Irish Dental Council can I apply?

No, you cannot apply at this time. Dental professionals must have started the registration process.

Dental professionals will need to provide:

- a) A copy of a Period of Adaptation Letter from the Irish Dental Council.

Or

- b) A copy of the confirmation of your application to register with Irish Dental Council.

Or

- c) Evidence they you currently registered or have been previously registered with either the Dental Council (or equivalent) or in your home country or another country, within a reasonable timeframe.

Dental Professional: I have applied to the Irish Dental Council and am awaiting a response, can I apply?

Yes, you can apply.

Dental professionals will need to provide:

- a) A copy of a Period of Adaptation Letter from the Irish Dental Council.

Or

- b) A copy of the confirmation of your application to register with Irish Dental Council.

Or

- c) Evidence they you currently registered or have been previously registered with either the Dental Council (or equivalent) or in your home country or another country, within a reasonable timeframe.

Dental Professional: I have a decision letter from the professional regulator saying English competence is required for registration, can I apply?

Yes, you can apply.

Dental professionals will need to provide:

a) A copy of a Period of Adaptation Letter from the Irish Dental Council.

Or

b) A copy of the confirmation of your application to register with Irish Dental Council.

Or

c) Evidence that you are currently registered or have been previously registered with either the Dental Council (or equivalent) or in your home country or another country, within a reasonable timeframe.

Nurses/Midwives and all other Health & Social Care Professionals: I have not applied for registration with an Irish professional regulator can I apply?

No you cannot apply at this time. At this time we can only accept applications from Nurses/Midwives and all Health and Social Care Professionals who have already engaged with the relevant Irish regulator. The relevant Irish regulator will need to have assessed your registration application and have informed you that the only requirement for you to gain registration is to complete English Language training. You will need to provide a letter or email from your professional regulator stating that your application has been checked and that English language training is the final requirement for your registration and include this letter with your application.

The reason we are asking for this letter is so we can prioritise healthcare professionals who are most likely to gain professional registration in their profession and that English language has been identified as the particular requirement barrier to gaining registration.

Nurses/Midwives and all other Health & Social Care Professionals: I have applied to the professional regulators and am awaiting a response, can I apply?

No you cannot apply at this time. We are currently only inviting applicants who are highly likely to achieve professional registration with the relevant statutory regulator. You will need to provide a letter or email from your professional regulator stating that your application has been checked and English language training is the final requirement for your registration.

Nurses/Midwives and all other Health & Social Care Professionals: I have a decision letter from the professional regulator saying English competence is required for registration, can I apply?

Yes, you can apply.

If you are a non-doctor or non-dental professional you can apply. However, we are currently only inviting applicants who are highly likely to achieve professional registration with the relevant statutory regulator. You will need to provide a letter or email from your professional regulator stating that your application has been checked and English language training is the final requirement for your registration.

English Language Course

What type of language course are you providing?

The English Language programme will be tailored to meet individual requirements to equip applicants with exam strategies and techniques to meet the requirements of IELTS [International English language Test System] OR OET [Occupational English Test].

Please note the College of Anaesthetologists is providing temporary administrative support for this language initiative for all healthcare professionals.9

Who is paying for this course?

The Department of Health are funding this programme.

Will the professional regulators accept the English course you are providing?

Yes they will. Each of the regulators requires a stated level of English language proficiency as detailed in the table below.

Regulator	ILETS Overall Score	OETS Overall Score	Cambridge CEFR 1 Test
Medical Council	7	B	-
Dental Council	7	B	-
NMBI	7	B in 3 components C+ in 1 component	-
CORU	7	B in 3 components C+ in 1 component	C
CORU SLTs only	8	A in 3 components B in 1 component	C Minimum Score of 185

Applying for this Clinical English Language Course

Doctor: What documents do I need to apply for this course?

If you are a qualified Doctor you will need to provide copies of the following:

1. Temporary Protection cert (commonly known as the Yellow cert) as evidence of their lawful permission to be in the State.

OR

A programme refugee permission letter AND an Irish Residence Permit.

OR

A ministerial grant letter, a ministerial declaration of RS or SP (as appropriate) AND an Irish Residence Permit.

AND

2. Proof of registration with a home country, or other Medical Regulator, or previously registered with a Medical Regulator, in another country, within a reasonable timeframe

AND

3. Copy of Passport

AND

4. A signed declaration

Dental Professions: What documents do I need to apply for this course?

If you are a qualified dental professional you will need to provide copies of the following:

1. Temporary Protection cert (commonly known as the Yellow cert) as evidence of their lawful permission to be in the State.

OR

A programme refugee permission letter AND an Irish Residence Permit.

OR

A ministerial grant letter, a ministerial declaration of RS or SP (as appropriate) AND an Irish Residence Permit.

AND

2. A copy of a Period of Adaptation Letter from the Irish Dental Council.

OR

A copy of the confirmation of their application to register with Irish Dental Council.

OR

Evidence they are currently registered with a home country or other Dental Regulator or previously registered with a Dental Regulator, in another country, within a reasonable timeframe.

AND

3. Copy of Passport

AND

4. A signed declaration

Nurses/Midwives and all other Health and Social Care Professional: What documents do I need to apply for this course?

1. Temporary Protection cert (commonly known as the Yellow cert) as evidence of their lawful permission to be in the State.

OR

A programme refugee permission letter AND an Irish Residence Permit.

OR

A ministerial grant letter, a ministerial declaration of RS or SP (as appropriate) AND an Irish Residence Permit.

AND

2. A copy of a Decision Letter from the relevant regulator.

AND

3. Copy of Passport

AND

4. A signed declaration

How do I provide the relevant documents required for this course?

After you apply we will contact you to request all relevant documents.

Please note the College of Anaesthesiologists is providing temporary administrative support for this language initiative for all healthcare professionals.

Doctor: I am a Doctor, what is the process?

Qualified eligible doctors can apply through www.regpath.ie

After you apply we will contact you to request all relevant required documents outlined above.

Your documents will be reviewed and if your application is deemed eligible:

1. All applicants will undergo an entrance / diagnostic assessment and needs analysis.
A score of B1 on the CEFR scale is deemed the minimum entry requirement for applicants to cope with the demands of the course.

If you score less than B1 [Intermediate] on the CEFR scale you are welcome to apply again at a later point in time, after you have had the opportunity to further improve your English.

Pathway 1: Applicants who score a C2 [Proficient] on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) scale on the Entrance Placement Assessment will be offered a 2-week Intensive programme including exam preparation followed by official IELTS/OET exam.

OR

Pathway 2: Applicants who score B2 or C1 [Intermediate-Advanced] on the CEFR scale on the Entrance Placement Assessment will be offered a 4-Week Intensive programme including exam preparation followed by the official IELTS/OET exam.

OR

Pathway 3: Applicants who score B1 [Intermediate] on the CEFR scale will be offered a 12-week programme. Applicants who are deemed likely to meet an overall 7.0 in IELTS with no skill less than 6.5 and/or B in all OET skills will complete a Mid-Programme Review after 6 weeks. If successful applicants will complete the remaining 6 weeks including exam preparation followed by the official IELTS/OET exam.

2. On successful completion of the IELTS/OET Exam, with an overall IELTS score of 7 or more, or OETS score of B or higher, you will be eligible to apply for the PRES 2 or equivalent exam.
3. If you are unsuccessful on your first attempt at the exams, you will be able to re-sit the exam for a second time.
If you are unsuccessful after the second attempt, any future re-sits will need to be paid for at your own expense.

Dental Professions: I am a Dentist/Dental Hygienist/Dental Nurse/Orthodontic Therapist/Clinical Dental Technician, what is the process?

Qualified eligible Dental professionals can apply through www.regpath.ie

After you apply we will contact you to request all relevant required documents outlined above.

Your documents will be reviewed and if your application is deemed eligible:

1. All applicants will undergo an entrance / diagnostic assessment and needs analysis.
A score of B1 on the CEFR scale is deemed the minimum entry requirement for applicants to cope with the demands of the course.

If you score less than B1 [Intermediate] on the CEFR scale you are welcome to apply again at a later point in time, after you have had the opportunity to further improve your English.

Pathway 1: Applicants who score a C2 [Proficient] on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) scale on the Entrance Placement Assessment will be offered a 2-week Intensive programme including exam preparation followed by official IELTS/OET exam.

OR

Pathway 2: Applicants who score B2 or C1 [Intermediate-Advanced] on the CEFR scale on the Entrance Placement Assessment will be offered a 4-Week Intensive programme including exam preparation followed by the official IELTS/OET exam.

OR

Pathway 3: Applicants who score B1 [Intermediate] on the CEFR scale will be offered a 12-week programme. Applicants who are deemed likely to meet an overall 7.0 in IELTS with no skill less than 6.5 and/or B in all OET skills will complete a Mid-Programme Review after 6 weeks. If successful applicants will complete the remaining 6 weeks including exam preparation followed by the official IELTS/OET exam.

2. On successful completion of the IELTS/OET Exam, with an overall IELTS score of 7 or more, or OETS score of B or higher, the certificate will be accepted by the Irish Dental Council has having successfully completed this element of any Period of Adaptation.
3. If you are unsuccessful on your first attempt at the exams, you will be able to re-sit the exam for a second time.

If you are unsuccessful after the second attempt, any future re-sits will need to be paid for at your own expense.

Nurses/ Midwives and all Health & Social Care Professionals: I am a Social Care Professional (not a Doctor or Dental Professional), what is the process?

Qualified eligible Nurses/ Midwives and other Health and Social Care Professional (**not a Doctor or Dental Professional**), in receipt of a Decision Letter from NMBI or CORU, can apply through www.regpath.ie

After you apply we will contact you to request all relevant required documents outlined above.

Your documents will be reviewed and if your application is deemed eligible:

1. All applicants will undergo an entrance / diagnostic assessment and needs analysis. A score of B1 on the CEFR scale is deemed the minimum entry requirement for applicants to cope with the demands of the course.

If you score less than B1 [Intermediate] on the CEFR scale you are welcome to apply again at a later point in time, after you have had the opportunity to further improve your English.

Pathway 1: Applicants who score a C2 [Proficient] on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) scale on the Entrance Placement Assessment will be offered a 2-week Intensive programme including exam preparation followed by official IELTS/OET exam.

OR

Pathway 2: Applicants who score B2 or C1 [Intermediate-Advanced] on the CEFR scale on the Entrance Placement Assessment will be offered a 4-Week Intensive programme including exam preparation followed by the official IELTS/OET exam.

OR

Pathway 3: Applicants who score B1 [Intermediate] on the CEFR scale will be offered a 12-week programme. Applicants who are deemed likely to meet an overall 7.0 in IELTS with no skill less than 6.5 and/or B in all OET skills will complete a Mid-Programme Review after 6 weeks. If successful applicants will complete the remaining 6 weeks including exam preparation followed by the official IELTS/OET exam.

2. On successful completion of the IELTS/OET Exam, with an overall IELTS score of 7 or more, or OETS score of B or higher, the certificate will be accepted by the relevant professional regulator has having successfully completed this element of any Period of Adaptation.
3. If you are unsuccessful on your first attempt at the exams, you will be able to re-sit the exam for a second time.

If you are unsuccessful after the second attempt, any future re-sits will need to be paid for at your own expense.

Completing the language course

How will be the language course be delivered?

The language course will be delivered online.

Students will be grouped together based on their linguistic level.

- There will be a maximum of 15 candidates per group
- Each group will have 1 expert IELTS/OET tutor
- Classes will be delivered at a set time each day for 2 hours.
- The tutor will be available for 1-1 tuition daily after the 2 hour class

How many hours will the language course take?

A minimum of 15 hours per week is required to meet this programmes specifications. 2 hours per day of this will be classroom time and the remaining hours will be a mixture of 1.1 tuition and recorded sessions.

Is there a set schedule of hours for this course?

It is expected there will be 10 hours of direct online live contact per week with an IELTS or OET expert tutor. Additional hours can be facilitated via recorded lessons and one-to-one sessions.

There will also be access to an online Learning Management System (LMS) which will give you access to IELTS/ OET content for self-directed learning. Written and verbal feedback will be provided on all assignments submitted.

Will I get paid for completing the language training?

There is no payment for completing the Clinical English language training

Can I work while I am completing this course?

There is no requirement for you to give up work while undertaking this course.

What level of English Language training is being provided?

A score of B1 on the CEFR scale is deemed the minimum entry requirement for applicants to cope with the demands of the course.

If you score less than B1 [Intermediate] on the CEFR scale you are welcome to apply again at a later point in time, after you have had the opportunity to further improve your English.

The English Language programme will be tailored to meet individual requirements to equip you with exam strategies and techniques to meet the requirements of IELTS [International English language Test System] OR OET [Occupational English Test].

If I fail my exam can I re-sit it?

If you are unsuccessful on your first attempt at the exams, you will be able to re-sit the exam for a second time.

If you are unsuccessful after the second attempt, any future re-sits will need to be paid for at your own expense.

What language support are you providing for those with medium or low English language?

This initiative does not include support for those with medium or low levels of English. We are currently only inviting applicants with high levels of English who are highly likely to achieve professional registration with the relevant statutory regulator.

Will I get a certificate when I complete the course?

On successful completion of either the IELTS or OET exam you will be provided with a certificate.

The Selection Process

What is the selection process for choosing who does the course? *Please note the College of Anaesthesiologists is providing temporary administrative support for this language initiative for all healthcare professionals.*

1. The first step is to apply after which we will contact you to request all relevant required documents outlined above.

Those applicants who provide the required documents and are assessed as eligible will be asked to complete an entrance / diagnostic assessment and needs analysis.

A score of B1 on the CEFR scale is deemed the minimum entry requirement for applicants to cope with the demands of the course.

If you score less than B1 [Intermediate] on the CEFR scale you are welcome to apply again at a later point in time, after you have had the opportunity to further improve your English.

2. **Pathway 1:** Applicants who score a C2 [Proficient] on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) scale on the Entrance Placement Assessment will be offered a 2-week Intensive programme including exam preparation followed by official IELTS/OET exam.

OR

Pathway 2: Applicants who score B2 or C1 [Intermediate-Advanced] on the CEFR scale on the Entrance Placement Assessment will be offered a 4-Week Intensive programme including exam preparation followed by the official IELTS/OET exam.

OR

3. **Pathway 3:** Applicants who score B1 [Intermediate] on the CEFR scale will be offered a 12-week programme. Applicants who are deemed likely to meet an overall 7.0 in IELTS with no skill less than 6.5 and/or B in all OET skills will complete a Mid-Programme Review after 6 weeks. If successful applicants will complete the remaining 6 weeks including exam preparation followed by the official IELTS/OET exam.

How will you assess my English Language competence?

All applicants will complete an online placement assessment that will generate a Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) level (A1 to C2), a score out of 120, and the time taken.

Other supports to help achieve professional registration

What medical exams are available from this funding?

At this stage, information on funding for medical exams is not available and will be updated as this pathway is established.

However, if you have already achieved your IELTS/OETS please email info@coa.ie with your details, using IELTS / OET in the subject heading. Once the pathway for medical exams is established we will contact you to discuss your individual circumstances.

In the meantime you may wish to visit the Medical Council's website for information regarding registration; <https://www.medicalcouncil.ie/ukraine/>

Additional questions

Do I have to pay this money back when I get a job?

There is no requirement to repay the cost of the Clinical English language training.

Can I still receive social welfare while I am completing this course?

Social Welfare rules will apply and will depend on your individual circumstances.

Will childcare be provided while I attend a course?

Child care will not be provided.

Will I get a job from this?

Successfully achieving the IELTS/OET exam will support applicants in gaining registration with the relevant regulator.

I have further queries about the Clinical English language course that are not answered above?

If you have queries related to the Clinical English language course once you have applied, please contact us via email at denise@casteleducation.com

I have further queries about the application process that are not answered above?

If you have queries related to the application process once you have applied, please contact us via email at info@coa.ie

How will you contact me?

We will usually contact you via email.

Please note the College of Anaesthesiologists is providing temporary administrative support for this language initiative for all healthcare professionals.

Contact Us**I have further queries about the Clinical English language course that are not answered above?**

If you have queries related to the Clinical English language course once you have applied, please contact us via email at denise@casteleducation.com

I have further queries about the application process that are not answered above?

If you have queries related to the application process once you have applied, please contact us via email at info@coa.ie