

Motion on the Union's Stance on the United Kingdom Medical Licensing Assessment

Proposed by - Dan Faehndrich – ICSMSU President

Seconded by

- Stephen Naulls - Deputy Chair & Welfare Lead BMA Medical Student Committee and Student Trustee
- Alistair Ludley - ICSMSU Academic Chair
- Jack Hall - ICSMSU Vice-Chair of Wellbeing Representatives, Representative to Council (Faculty of Medicine (Undergraduate))
- Tom Willis – ICSMSU Clubs & Societies Chair
- Muntaha Naeem – ICSMSU Management Group Treasurer
- Gargi Samarth – ICSMSU Academic Officer for Clinical Years
- Carmen Traseira – ICSMSU Academic Officer for Early Years
- Siddharth Basetti – ICSMSU Secretary & Communications Officer
- Aditi Reddy – ICSMSU Executive Treasurer
- Aisha Chaudry – ICSMSU Welfare Chair
- Syeda Zoha Imam – MBBS 2nd Year Wellbeing Representative
- Ciara Nuttall - MBBS 4th Year Wellbeing Representative
- Madura Nanthakumaran – MBBS 5th Year Wellbeing Representative
- Katriona Roisin – MBBS 6th Year Wellbeing Representative
- Aiken Yam – MBBS 6th Year Academic Representative
- Joseph O'Connell-Danes – Arts & Entertainments Board Chair
- Thomas Fernandez Debets – Sports Sector Chair

Abbreviations

- UKMLA - United Kingdom Medical Licensing Assessment
- GMC - General Medical Council – the Medical Practitioners' governing body
- ICSM - Imperial College School of Medicine
- BMA - British Medical Association, the Trade Union for Doctors
- AKT – Applied Knowledge Test, the written paper section of the UKMLA
- CPSA – Clinical and Professional Skills Assessment, the blueprint for minimal standards our practical exams as part of our finals must reach

Union Notes

1. The UKMLA is a national examination being introduced for medical students who are graduating from 2023 onwards in the UK (the current 2nd year medical students at ICSM), and any non-EEA (European Economic Area) foreign nationals wishing to practise in the UK by the Medical Practitioners' governing body, the GMC.
2. The GMC have stated that the aims of the UKMLA are *'to create a single, objective demonstration that those applying for registration with a licence to practise medicine in the UK can meet a common threshold for safe practice'*.¹
3. Currently ICSM students take their finals in the specialities of Paediatrics, Psychiatry, and Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the end of 5th year, with the remaining specialities being examined in their final year.
4. The GMC have stated there will most likely be 4 sittings of the AKT each year, but are yet to release the times during the year which the AKT will take place

5. The BMA Medical Student Conference in 2018 voted to maintain their opposition to the implementation of the UKMLA, while continuing to *'fully engage with development and implementation to create as fair a process as possible for medical students'* ²

Union Believes

1. The level of detail the GMC is currently able to provide for the content of the UKMLA is not satisfactory.
2. The fact the GMC have repeatedly failed to ensure they have put in place certain fail-safes to protect student wellbeing during discussions regarding the UKMLA is causing increased anxiety in the medical student population, both within ICSM and nationally.
3. The BMA will be an essential partner to engage with whilst advocating for our students as the UKMLA is developed and introduced.

Union Resolves

1. To publicly oppose the introduction of the UKMLA should the GMC fail to comply with each of the following:
 - a. Ensuring that there is a fair and free resit policy in place for all medical students who fail the UKMLA on their first sitting
 - b. That the CPSA will be able to be split over 5th and 6th year to ensure that there is not an unnecessarily high examination burden in ICSM students' final year
 - c. That the provisions for reasonable adjustments will not be centrally administered by the GMC; otherwise this may lead to students of equal ability at different universities achieving varying results (including discrepancies in pass or fails)
 - d. Publish the following data:
 - i. The GMC's 'blueprint' for the UKMLA
 - ii. Timings of examinations throughout the academic year
 - e. Adequate support and guidance is provided for international students, particularly where their visa status may be affected by failing the UKMLA
 - f. Providing students with free and accessible revision and mock exam materials
2. It will actively engage where possible with GMC consultation as opportunities arise, and push for further regular consultation by
 - a. Mandating the ICSMSU President to continue to engage with the consultation process, including regularly feedback to the student population and Officer Trustees information as it becomes available, during and beyond the 2018-19 Academic Year.
 - b. Mandating the Deputy President (Education) to attend relevant consultation opportunities and advocate for ICSM students and their educational needs.
 - c. Mandating the Deputy President (Welfare) to monitor the progress with the UKMLA and any additional impact this may have on ICSM students, particularly given the strenuous nature of 5th and final year already.

References:

¹ https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/MLA_consultation_document_English_writeable_distributed.pdf_69151379.pdf

² https://www.bma.org.uk/connecting-doctors/community_focus/b/latest_news/posts/why-we-oppose-the-uk-medical-licensing-assessment