



# Foreign Qualification Recognition

**Concurrent session #1**  
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**The UK perspective**



# Overview

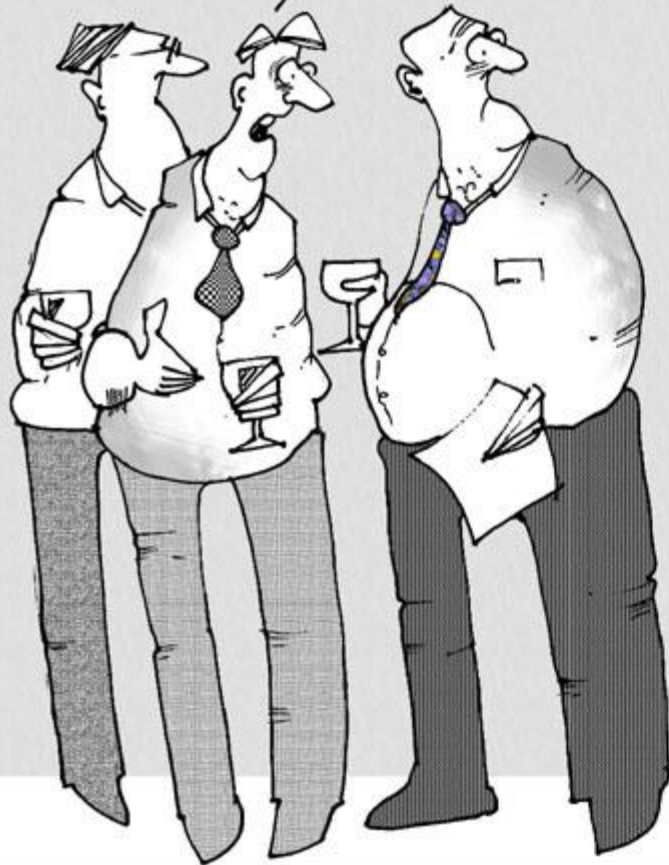
## Doctors

- **To work as a doctor in the UK the successful applicant must be registered with the GMC and, if from outside the EEA, satisfy the UK's strict immigration rules**
  - **All doctors must have a license to practice in the UK – this is issued by the GMC**
  - **All doctors must follow the GMC's Good Medical Practice guidance and be subject to the GMC Fitness to Practise actions**

## Nurses

- **Nurses from EU countries have free access to the UK**
- **A series of policy changes has made it much more difficult for non-EU nurses to enter the UK:**
  - **2008 - UK immigration policy changed, with the introduction of a points-based work permit system**

HE'S GROWN A LOT FASTER  
THAN WE EXPECTED!



© FRAN

# Professional mobility

European Commission  
Internal Market & Services DG

- **Article 4** – same rights and obligations
  - the recognition of professional qualifications by the host Member State (MS) allows the beneficiary to gain access in that MS to the same profession as that for which s/he is qualified in the home MS and to pursue it in the host MS under the same conditions as its nationals
- **Article 22** on CPD for privileged professions
  - in accordance with the procedures specific to each Member State continuing education and training shall ensure that persons who have completed their studies are able to keep abreast of professional developments to the extent necessary to maintain safe and effective practice



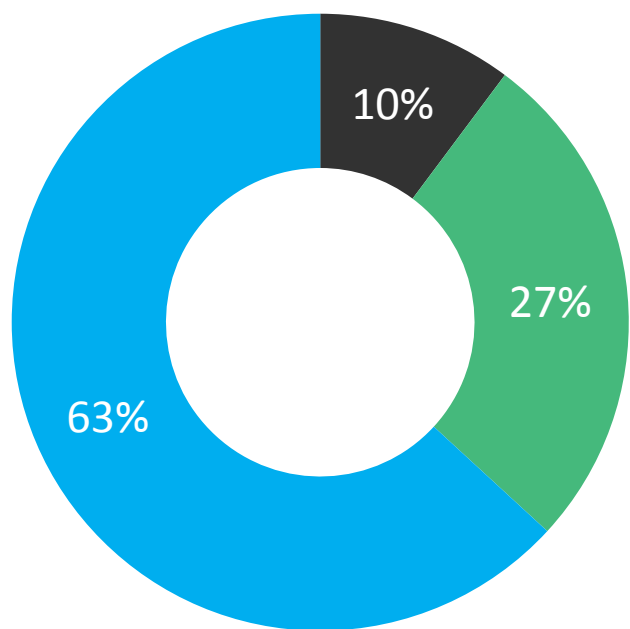
# Linguistic knowledge

European Commission   
Internal Market & Services DG

- Requirement to exercise the profession
- **Article 53** of Directive 2005/36
  - “Persons benefiting from the recognition of professional qualifications shall have a knowledge of languages necessary for practising the profession in the host Member State”
- Tests in individual cases allowed
- One-size fits it all tests not allowed

# Foreign trained doctors practising in the UK

## Doctors by World Region of Primary Medical Qualification (PMQ)



■ EEA (excluding UK) ■ International ■ UK

## Top 10 countries of qualification

PMQ Country	%
UK	63.1
India	10.0
Pakistan	3.6
South Africa	2.2
Ireland	1.6
Nigeria	1.6
Germany	1.3
Egypt	1.3
Greece	1.1
Italy	1.0

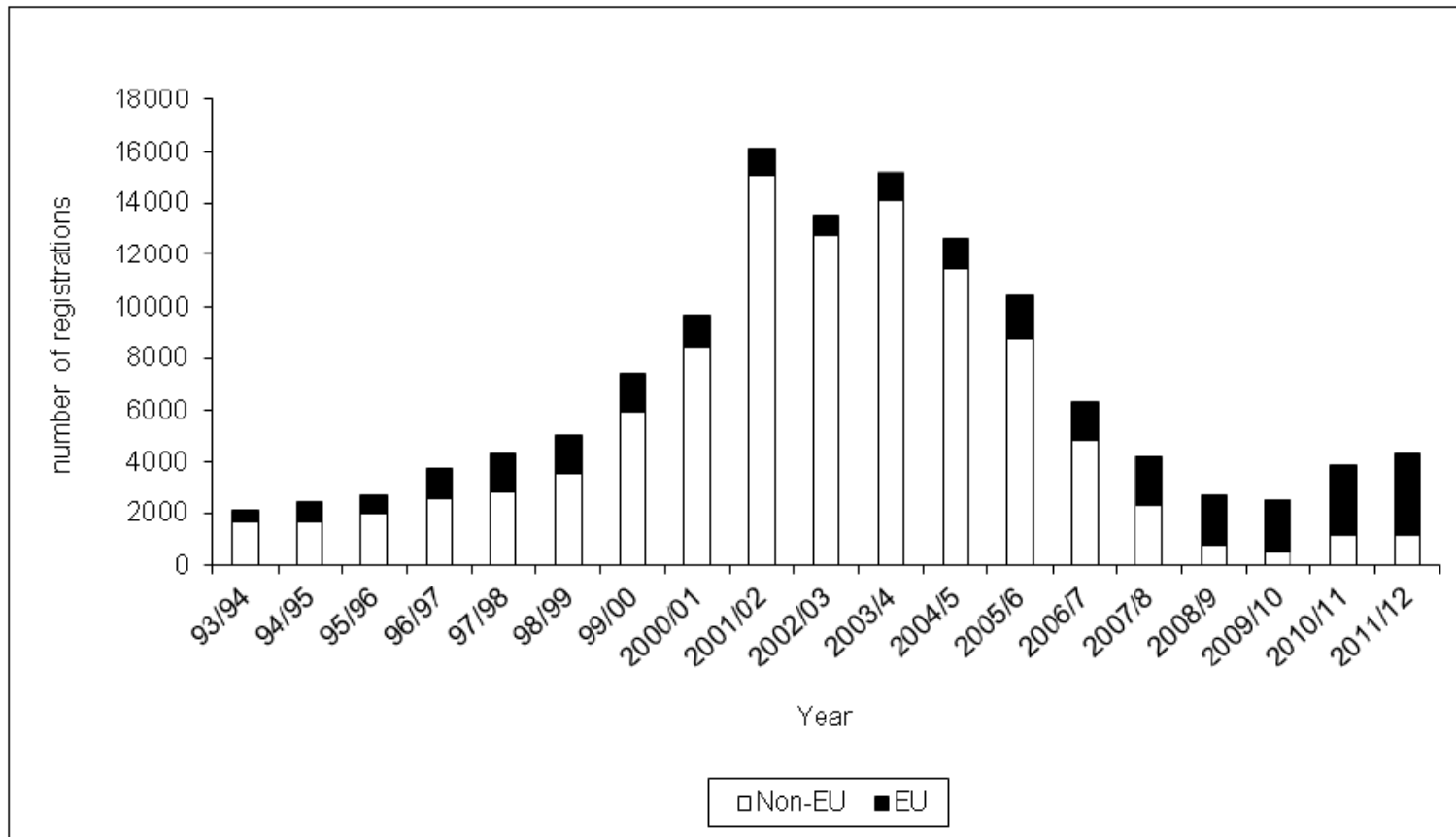
### Source

General Medical Council (2013). List of Registered Medical Practitioners – statistics. Accessed online April 2013:

[http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/register/search\\_stats.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/register/search_stats.asp)

# Foreign trained nurses registered in the UK

Admissions to the UK nursing register from EU countries and other (non EU) countries  
1993/4 to 2011/12



**Source**

RCN Labour Market Review (2012). Accessed online April 2013: [http://www.rcn.org.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/482200/004332.pdf](http://www.rcn.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0016/482200/004332.pdf)

# Revalidation

## Types of revalidation

Country	Time frame (yrs)	CME/CPD	Peer review	Compulsory	Penalty/reward	Lead regulator	Other authorities
Belgium	3	Yes	Yes	No	Financial incentive (increased salary by about 4%)	Minister of Public Health (G) and INAMI/RIZIV (IF)	NA
France	5	Yes	Yes (EPP)	Yes	Law suit by Regional Council of the Physician's Order (not monitored)	National Councils for CME (PB)	Regional Councils for CME (PB), Regional Council of the Physicians' Order (PB), High Health Authority (IA)
Germany	5	Yes	Yes	Yes (GPs & specialists contracted by SHIF)	Non-compliance results in reduced reimbursement; then after two years withdraw of accreditation	Regional Chambers of Physicians (PB)	State Ministry of Health or Social Affairs (G), Regional Associations of SHIF Physicians (PB), Federal Association of SHIF-Physicians (PB)
The Netherlands	5	Yes	Yes (visitatie)	Yes (specialists)	Removed from medical register	Central College of Specialists (PB)	Central Information Centre for Professional Practitioners in Healthcare (G)
Spain	NA	Yes (9 of 17 regions)	NA	No	Varies between regional commissions	Spanish Medical Association (PB)	Ministry of Health and Education (G), Medical Colleges (PB); Commission of Continuing Education of Health Professionals; Accreditation Council for CME (PB)
United Kingdom	5	Yes	Yes (360-degree feedback exercise)	Pending: GPs and specialists	Failure will result in practice supervision	Department of Health (G)	General Medical Council (PB), Royal Colleges (GPs, specialists) (PB)