

Dear Sir/Mdm,

RE: Review of IELTS requirement for international medical students studying in Australia

I am a 5th year international medical student from Singapore studying at the University of [REDACTED]. I am writing to give my feedback on the English registration standard for international medical students studying in Australia. I understand that all international students applying for internship are required to take the IELTS examination as part of the English language skills registration standard, except if they were assessed in English at secondary and tertiary levels in the following countries where English is the first language: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom or United States of America. Unfortunately, although Singapore uses English as the common language for business, government and medium of instruction in schools, it was not considered in this list.

While the Boards consider reviewing the IMG English language proficiency requirements, I would like to give my opinion on waiving the IELTS examination requirement for international medical students studying/graduating in Australia. International medical students undergo the same medical examinations as our peers in medical school. Upon graduation, international medical students would have proven competency in the English language by completing numerous written reports, assignments and exams- the same examinations their local peers undertake.

Singaporean students studying medicine in [REDACTED] like myself would have completed secondary education in Singapore with the GCE 'O' Levels and GCE 'A' Levels (academic qualification used in United Kingdom). Moreover, [REDACTED]'s rigorous entry requirement into the medical course requires us to demonstrate a minimum standard of proficiency in English not only on paper qualification in terms of GCE 'O' and 'A' Level results but also during the interview stage.

As such, I humbly and sincerely request that the Boards take into consideration of the points mentioned above so that I (and other medical students) may, if possible, avoid additional fees for taking the exam and also save the time and effort that would have to be put into preparing for the IELTS exam. Especially when we have to worry about our school examinations along with the ongoing distressing internship crisis that is affecting all international students.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,  
Foong Ming Ho