



MEDICAL INTERNSHIP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Medical Internship is a one-year programme following the completion of medical school studies. Medical school graduates must successfully complete same in order to be apply for full registration as a Physician with the Medical Council of Jamaica.

Applicants from Universities where the exit examinations are recognized by the Medical Council of Jamaica (MCJ) are designated as Medical Interns whilst Applicants from schools without such a recognition are designated as Locum Interns.

Please note that the only Medical Institutions fully recognized by the Medical Council of Jamaica from the Caribbean are the University of the West Indies and the University of Guyana.

There are two intake periods for Internship each year; January and July.

Applications are open for these two intake periods, from October 1 to November 15 – for the January Intake and April 1 to May 15 for the July Intake, each year.

Applications will NOT be accepted outside of the pre-determined periods for applications.

Applications may only be submitted via the link on the MOHW Website. Applications sent via any other methods will not be processed.

1) How can I apply for Medical Internship?

Effective as of the October to November 2025 application period only online applications via the Ministry of Health & Wellness' (MOHW), website is accepted for Medical Internship and the Senior House Officer Programme.

2) Can I submit more than one Application form?

No. Submitting more than one application form will delay the processing of your application.

3) When can I apply for the upcoming Internship cycle?

The application period for the July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 cycle ; is April 1 – May 15 2026.

4) What is the MOHW Orientation/Observership Programme?

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The MOHW Orientation/Observership programme is a four-month period of supervised clinical rotations of four (4) core medical specialties: Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, General Surgery and Paediatrics before starting internship. The programme is now being phased out and there will be no observership period as of 2027.

Graduates will be able to start internship once they have passed the qualifying examinations and spaces are available.

5) What are qualifying examinations.

The qualifying exams are the exit examinations for the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Undergraduate Medicine programmes (MBBS) at the University of the West Indies and the University of Guyana and the CAMC examinations.

6) What is the CAMC Exam?

The Caribbean Association of Medical Councils (CAMC) Exam is a Regional Licensing Exam administered by The Caribbean Association of Medical Councils. It is administered in two parts. Part 1 is theoretical in its construct, and Part 2 tests clinical competence.

THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF JAMAICA (MCJ) FACILITATES THE EXAM IN JAMAICA.

Locum Interns must pass both parts of the CAMC Exam (or an equivalent) and successfully complete Internship to gain full registration as a Doctor in Jamaica.

7) Which Exams are equivalent to passing CAMC 1 & 2?

In the Jamaican context; the only equivalents to passing CAMC 1 and 2 are:

- Passing all three steps of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE).
- Passing both parts of the United Kingdom's Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) Test.
- Passing the MBBS exams i.e. the Medical School exit exams from the University of the West Indies or the University of Guyana

8) Who is in charge of placing Interns?

The Health Services Planning and Integration (HSPI) Branch of the Ministry of Health and Wellness does all Internship placements for all Government Hospitals except the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI).

The UHWI has its' own placement officer for Interns & Senior House Officers therefore applicants wishing to gain employment there need to apply directly to the Human Resources Department at UHWI.

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9) How will I be contacted about my placement?

MOHW – HSPI does NOT give routine updates on the application process to Interns. All Applications are reviewed/considered and the approved list is completed two to three weeks before the start of an Internship cycle.

Successful applicants are contacted via e-mail regarding their placement by the Human Resources Department of their respective Region.

DUE TO THE HIGH VOLUME OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED ONLY SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS ARE CONTACTED.

10) What do I do after I am placed?

After being advised of placement, Officers must contact the Medical Council of Jamaica and the Human Resources Department of the Regional Health Authority to which they are assigned in order to be provisionally registered to practice and fill out the necessary administrative paperwork before assuming duties.

IF YOU HAVE DECIDED TO TURN DOWN THE JOB OFFER SENT BY A REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY, PLEASE REPLY TO THE PERSONNEL OFFICER'S E-MAIL WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT (48) HOURS & ADVISE THEM OF SAME SO THE POST CAN BE REASSIGNED TO SOMEONE ELSE BY MOHW'S HEAD OFFICE.

11) What is a Selection Certificate?

A selection certificate (job offer letter for Interns) is a letter to the Medical Council of Jamaica, stating an Officer's name and placement. This crucial document is sent to the MCJ and the respective Regional Health Authority by HSPI.

This document is essential for a provisional license to practice being issued by the MCJ.

12) Can I make changes to my placement site after the receiving my placement e-mail/job confirmation?

Due to the high volume of applicants placed each cycle the transfer of placement sites is difficult to accommodate and highly unlikely to be granted due to the limited availability of Posts.

It is therefore extremely important that Officers think carefully when selecting all three placement sites on their application. If you cannot be placed at your first choice, then you will be sent to your second/third choice.

13) How do I get an Internship post at the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI)?

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Officers wishing to be placed at the UHWI should submit their forms at the Human Resources Department at UHWI.

Additionally, it is highly recommended that all students from the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the University of the West Indies apply for a MOHW hospital placement, even if UHWI is their first choice.

If a candidate is granted a Post at both at GOJ hospital and UHWI, then they must choose one.

If the application to UHWI was declined and the Applicant has not applied to MOHW, then they will not be considered for a MOHW post.

14) Do I have to pass CAMC 1 & 2 before I can be placed as Locum Intern?

Yes. HSPI reviews each application in detail before making a final decision. Passing both parts of the CAMC Exam (or an equivalent) **is necessary.**

15) I have not done any Clinical rotations in Jamaica, and my university is not recognized by MCJ but I have passed CAMC 1 & 2. Can I be placed as a Locum Intern?

Yes. Officers who pass CAMC 1 & 2 (or an equivalent) will be considered for the Internship programme after a detailed review of all their qualifications if posts are available. **Jamaicans** who are fully qualified will be placed first.

16) Are Interns given free housing at rural hospitals?

Interns are responsible for finding their own accommodations. Some hospitals have rooms available on the compound. However, acquiring a room there requires Officers to liaise with the Hospital Administrator/the Regional Personnel Manager regarding vacant rooms.

It is highly recommended that Applicants have a plan in place regarding housing when deciding on their placement sites.

17) How do I get a work permit?

Work permits are processed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

Usually, Officers must have a job offer in place before they can apply for a Jamaican work permit.

If you are a Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) national, it is highly recommended that you apply for a CARICOM skills certificate to ease your transition into the Jamaican workforce until you can acquire a Jamaican work permit.

18) If I have been rejected, then does my application roll over to the next cycle?

No. Once a cycle is over then all applications are filed away, and a new batch of applications is accepted in the next cycle. If you have been unsuccessful in securing a Post in one cycle, then

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you will have to **reapply for future cycles** if you are still interested in acquiring an Internship Post.

ADDITIONALLY, APPLICATIONS ARE PROCESSED ONE CYCLE AT A TIME. E.G. YOU CANNOT APPLY FOR THE 2026 SUMMER CYCLE OF INTERNSHIP IN OCTOBER 2025.

- 19) Can MOHW – HSPI write a letter to the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA) recommending me to stay in the country while I wait on my internship placement?**
No. HSPI does not write letters to PICA recommending an extension of stay for international graduates in Jamaica. If and when an Officer is placed, then they can consult the Human Resource Department of their Region for guidance.

- 20) I am currently an Intern however I have not been able to sit CAMC due to a lack of spaces. Can I extend my internship?**

No. The internship period is for one year. MOHW will not grant Internship extensions for the purposes of sitting CAMC. The CAMC examinations are now required to start internship. In the phasing in period 2025-2026, Jamaican applicants prior to July 2025 have been accepted to do Orientation and some to start Locum internship without passes in both CAMC Part 1 and 2. Preference is given to those with CAMC Part 1. These persons will be required to complete the examinations during internship. There will be no extension of internship unless there are extenuating circumstances to be considered.

MOHW considers an extension of Internship only in special circumstances.

E.g. An Intern fell ill during Internship and therefore needs to repeat/extend their rotation(s). The Intern has failed a rotation and must repeat the unsuccessful rotation.

If an Intern requires an extension of an internship, then they should write a formal letter through their Senior Medical Officer/Regional Personnel Manager to Dr. Naydene Williams (Director of MOHW's Health Services Planning & Integration Branch) requesting same. Please note all Internship extension requests should be accompanied by the relevant supporting documents (e.g. Internship Assessment sheets, etc.)

- 21) Who is a Senior House Officer?**

The Senior House Officer (SHO) Programme is the next step in employment in the Ministry of Health and Wellness facilities after internship.



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It is an advanced programme after Internship which allows preliminary training within medical subspecialties and primary care. It consists of 3-month or 4-month long rotations. Completing the SHO programme is requirement to work in public service as a Medical Officer (MO1) or for entry into UWI's DM Programme.