

The Ultimate PLAB Exam Guide (2025 Edition)

What is the PLAB Exam?

The Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) exam is a gateway for international medical graduates to practice medicine in the United Kingdom. It ensures that doctors possess the skills and knowledge equivalent to a UK-trained doctor starting their Foundation Year 2.

Why Take the PLAB Exam?

Passing the PLAB exam opens doors to practicing medicine in the UK, allowing international doctors to join the NHS workforce and advance their careers.

For more information, visit the official [GMC website](#).

PLAB Exam Structure

The PLAB exam consists of two parts:

1. **PLAB 1:** A written, theory-based exam.
2. **PLAB 2:** A practical, skills-based assessment.

PLAB 1 Overview

- Format: 180 multiple-choice questions.
- Duration: 3 hours.
- Focus: Application of knowledge in patient care.
- Frequency: Held 4 times annually in various locations worldwide, including the UK.
- Question Format: Clinical scenarios with five answer choices. Select the best one.

PLAB 2 Overview

- Format: Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE).
 - Duration: 16 stations, each lasting 8 minutes.
 - Focus: Clinical skills like history-taking, physical examination, diagnosis, and communication.
 - Location: Conducted exclusively at GMC Assessment Centres in Manchester, UK.
 - Frequency: Dates available throughout the year.
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Eligibility Criteria

1. Primary Medical Qualification:

You must hold a recognized medical degree listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools.

2. English Proficiency:

- IELTS: Minimum overall score of 7.5, with 7.0 in each component.
- OET: Grade B in all areas.

Exam Fees and Cancellation Charges (2025-26)

Exam	Fee
PLAB 1	£268
PLAB 2	£981

Cancellation Charges:

Exam	Timeframe	Fee
PLAB 1	More than 42 days	£26.80
PLAB 1	42 days or less	£268
PLAB 2	More than 42 days	£98.10
PLAB 2	42–29 days	£490.50
PLAB 2	28 days or less	£981

Note: Rescheduling requires cancellation of the current booking, with applicable charges.

How to Prepare for the PLAB Exam

- Understand the format and practice extensively using mock exams.
- Focus on patient scenarios rather than memorizing facts.
- Improve English communication skills, especially for PLAB 2.

Exam Results

Results are emailed approximately six weeks after the exam. You can access them in the "My Tests" section on the GMC portal.