



WHAT IS THE FELLOWSHIP SCHEME IN FRANCE ?

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The French Ministry of Health is giving foreign practitioners from countries that are not EU Member States, members of the European Economic Area or Switzerland to **advance their training in their specialist area of interest** in French health facilities.

These are high-level programmes undertaken in health facilities and research and training units in medicine, dentistry and pharmacy by foreign practitioners looking to acquire or further a skill in their speciality (“subspeciality”), and who, in this regard, are granted a licence to practise medicine in France for the duration of this training.

Such programmes provide **training requiring a provisional licence to practise medicine** within French teams at teaching hospitals or public or private not-for-profit facilities, which also train future French healthcare professionals, for **periods of between 3 months and 2 years maximum**.

The Fellowship is a specific scheme and must not be confused with the schemes allowing qualified practitioners from outside the European Union to legally practise medicine in France on a long-term basis, which follow different objectives.

WHO IS THIS SCHEME FOR ?

It has been designed for specialist practitioners – medical consultants, dentists and pharmacists – with a speciality training qualification allowing them to legally practise this speciality in their country of origin. There are no requirements concerning number of years of experience: practitioners who have just completed their speciality training may apply for this scheme.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS ?

The practitioner’s application must be made as part of **a cooperation agreement** :

- ▶ between his/her country of origin and the French State;
- or
- ▶ between a person governed by public or private law of his/her country of origin and a French public or private not-for-profit health facility and/or French university.

WHO DO I NEED TO CONTACT ?

- ▶ The facility in which I am working, in my country of origin, and only where the possibility is provided by a cooperation framework agreement ;
- ▶ Via the home facility, the practitioner then forwards the application for provisional licence to practise (see list of supporting documents below) to the host facility.

NB : Individual applications submitted directly to the French authorities will not be accepted.

HOW CAN I APPLY FOR A PROVISIONAL LICENCE TO PRACTISE ?

The host facility submits the provisional licence to practise application to the **National Centre for Hospital Practitioner Management** (www.cng.sante.fr).

The provisional licence to practise application must contain :

- ▶ the French host facility's agreement to host the practitioner ;
- ▶ the photocopy of his/her identity document ;
- ▶ a copy of the specialist practitioner's training qualification(s) ;
- ▶ his/her CV ;
- ▶ a certificate from the competent authorities of his/her country of origin stating that his/her training qualification(s) allow him/her to practise his/her speciality in this country ;
- ▶ his/her additional training plan, specifying the link with his/her speciality ;
- ▶ a copy of his/her criminal record or equivalent document, dated within the last three months and issued by a competent authority of the country of origin or country from which s/he has come ;
- ▶ a copy of his/her criminal record in France (<https://www.cjn.justice.gouv.fr/cjn/b3/eje20>) ;
- ▶ the French language proficiency test certificate (unless s/he is exempt).

With the exception of the identity document, all of the supporting documents must be written in French, or translated by a certified translator.

The host facility will then forward the application to the National Centre for Hospital Practitioner Management (CNG). Note that the CNG must receive the application at least six months prior to the date on which the specialist practitioner wishes to take up his or her duties.

Where applicable, the specialist practitioner shall be notified by the Ministry of Social Affairs that a provisional licence to practise has been granted. The Ministry shall make this decision once the CNG has consulted with the competent medical association.

Once the practitioner has received the provisional licence to practise, s/he will need to carry out the following formalities: obtain a visa, get the necessary vaccinations and register with the Département-level Council of the competent association in France.





WHAT LEVEL OF LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY IS REQUIRED ?

Official language certificates, tests or qualifications issued by a nationally or internationally accredited certifying body, demonstrating and validating proficiency in the communication skills at B2 level of the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages :

- ▶ Diplôme de compétence en langue (DCL) issued by the French Ministry of National Education, Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF) issued by the CIEP, the French public institution for educational and training cooperation,
- ▶ Test de connaissance du français (TCF).

OR

- ▶ A **certificate drawn up by the host facility** mentioning that the specialist practitioner will only undertake duties in a research capacity, not involving any clinical work in contact with patients or the delivery of care.

FOR WHICH SPECIALITIES ?

All medical and pharmaceutical activities are concerned.

FOR HOW LONG ?

The provisional licence to practise ("Fellowship") bears on a training programme enabling the practitioner to acquire or further a skill in his/her specialist area of interest over a period that can last from 3 months up to 2 years maximum.

WHAT TYPES OF VISA ARE APPLICABLE ?

- ▶ Specialist practitioners who will be paid either by the host facility (which may then be reimbursed by the home facility), or by the home facility directly, will be able to apply for a long-stay visa which will be considered a valid "temporary worker" residence permit (VLS-TS) and then, where applicable, for a "temporary worker" temporary residence document.
- ▶ Specialist practitioners who will not be paid by the host facility in France may apply for an "intern" VLS-TS residence permit.

FOR WHAT PURPOSE ?

Following their training period, practitioners will be issued with a document drawn up by the host health facility certifying to the additional training followed.

WHAT CONSTITUTES THE FINAL STEP IN THE PROCEDURE ?

The final step in the procedure is the signature of an individual host agreement between the practitioner, his/her sponsor and the French host health facility (see example of an individual agreement in the annex to the ruling).

This agreement particularly stipulates the following information :

- ▶ the specialist practitioners involved: pharmacists, dentists or medical consultants ;
- ▶ the financial cover arrangements for the foreign specialist practitioner regarding the training being followed in France, provided by the foreign sponsor or the French host health facility on the basis of national statuses ;
- ▶ the requirement for French language proficiency (unless the practitioner is exempt).

FOR WHAT REMUNERATION ?

Remuneration is provided for in a host agreement with the health facility, either in the form of direct payment by the country of origin, or payment by the health facility, possibly with reimbursement by the country of origin.

REFERENCE LEGISLATION

- ▶ Articles L. 4111-1-2 and L. 4221-1-1 of the French Public Health Code (CSP).
- ▶ Decree No. 2017-1601 of 22 November 2017 on the provisional licence to practise medicine, dentistry or pharmacy under Articles L. 4111-1-2 and L. 4221-1-1 of the CSP :
 - Articles R. 4111-33 to R. 4111-38 of the CSP for specialist dentists and medical consultants ;
 - Article R. 4221-33 of the CSP for specialist pharmacists.
- ▶ Ruling of 19 March 2018 laying down the procedure for issuing the provisional licence to practise medicine, dentistry or pharmacy and the example of a host agreement mentioned in Article R. 4111-35 of the CSP.



TO FIND OUT MORE

- ▶ on line : www.social-sante.gouv.fr/fellowship
www.cng.sante.fr/autorisation-dexercice

WHO CAN I CONTACT ?

- ▶ French embassy in the country of residence: social affairs advisers, regional global health advisers, and/or cultural action and cooperation services.

