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FAQs for Undergraduate (graduate) Elective Training Programs

1. *Who can apply?*
Any medical student from any country can apply. They should have started the clinical terms of their medical course by the time of the proposed elective..

2. *I am an Indian National/Non resident Indian doing my medical studies in another country. Does it make it any easier for me to do the elective?*
Yes it does. If you are an Indian National or a Non Resident Indian (NRI) and your passport clearly states that your Nationality is Indian, then, we do not have to take the permission of the National Medical Commission for you. This means: You need to send only ONE bank draft for Rs. 1000 for the BMC and need NOT send the other one for the National Medical Commission. Also, the time for processing your application and had hence the lead-time required for your application can be reduced to just 6 weeks providing that vacancies for electives exist during the period desired by you.

3. *When should I apply?*
You should apply at least 5 months in advance of your anticipated date of commencement of the elective.

4. *How long can the elective period be?*
Minimum - 3 weeks; maximum - 12 weeks (for exceptions, please see the next point).In addition, if during an elective period, of say, 3 weeks, you choose to rotate through more than one specialty, this is also generally possible subject to availability of vacancies.

5. *Is it possible to spend a period of 4 months, which is required in Germany and do you have something like practical year (last year of medical studies) for your students?*
We will consider requests for an elective of period of 4 months on a case to case basis. As a rule only three months is permitted. Please note that after 3 months, an additional sum of fees as for 3 months will have to be paid.
Yes. We have a year of practical training (called internship) as the last year of medical training.

6. *Which time of the year are electives offered?*
All through the year - except May which is the summer vacation for the medical school here. Although you can come in May, it is exceedingly hot and some faculty will be on leave as well.

7. *Which time of the year is the best?*
November to February is the recommended period - as the weather is pleasant - (12 - 23 degrees C) From July to September we have heavy rains and the temperature will be around 27 C. Commuting may be difficult for a few days during this period due to water looging. However, this is also the time when most infectious diseases like malaria, gastroenteritis, typhoid, leptospirosis etc occur and a good learning opportunity. March to June is hot (38 - 42 degrees C).

8. *How many students do you accept? Is there any vacancy now?*

Each year, the National Medical Commission (NMC) of India permits 5% of the total intake to be taken for elective training. Since we have an intake capacity of 250 undergraduate students and hence we can accept a maximum of 12 elective students per year and not more. Please ensure that you apply well in advance

9. *Does the fee depend on the period?*
For any period up to 12 weeks, the fees are Rs*. 12,000. Beyond 12 weeks, up to 24 weeks an additional approximately, Rs. 12,000 has to be paid.

10. *Should I bring a cheque for the tuition fee or cash, rupees or US $?*
Only demand drafts from an Indian bank in favor of "BMC" are accepted. You can liaise with the local advisor for support in this process

11. *Where are the letters to the National Medical Commission and the Government of India to be sent?*
Send everything in a single envelope to us and we will handle the rest.

12. *What shall we write for question 7: Applicant's likely address in India during stay?*
If you know the address - write it here. If you do not, say "not yet finalized". If you plan to stay in the institute's hostel, you can write " KEM Hospital Campus in the hostel"

13. *Is it a problem that at present I don't have a likely address in India ?*
No. Simply state that the address in India is yet to be finalized.

14. *What is meant by question 16 in Proforma A: "Have you taken the minimum time to reach the stage of the course, if not, explain"?*
This is simply to see if you have failed and have had to repeat any terms. If not simply say "I have taken the minimum time".

15. *I have passed almost all my medical examinations. By the time I plan to come to India, I will certainly have done so. Is it necessary to specify all those examinations or does "all exams" suffice? (question 11 in Proforma A)?*
Mention the various medical examinations that you have passed such as first year exam, second year exam or similar exams

16. *What does the "letter of recommendation from the Dean mean"*
This can be a form letter addressed either to Dean GS Medical College " or "To whomsoever it may Concern" stating that applicant is a bonafide student of that college and is of good standing and has the permission from his institution to undertake the elective".

17. *Will it be possible for me to be specifically attached to particular departments during my elective?*
Yes. In your application material or covering letter, mention the specialties you would be interested in. We will then connect you to those heads of departments.

18. *How does the allocation of elective posts work? How would I be informed about it?*
In your application material, or covering letter, mention the specialties in which you would be interested. Almost always, you will be allowed to do the elective in the subject of your choice. We will inform you specifically only if this is NOT possible.

19. *In training for foreign medical students, is it possible for me to apply for several specialists in 3 weeks? For example, general surgery for 1 week, internal medicine for 1 week, infectious disease for 1 week?*
Yes. This is possible if you indicate it in your application material.

20. *Is there any outreach clinic in rural area? And, can elective students be allowed to join such kind of clinic?*
Yes. We have an outreach clinic. You have to ask for this specifically and this is assigned by our Preventive and Social Medicine department. The outreach clinic is about 25 KM away from the college and the students are transported back and forth each day by the institution.

21. *Are 6 photocopies of my Belgian identity-card sufficient? In Belgium, all citizens have identity- cards and passports are needed only when travelling in foreign countries.*
No, we need photocopies of your passports.

22. *What are bank drafts?*
These are called demand drafts in India. There are the same as "Pay orders" or "Bankers' Cheques".

23. *In what currency should the bank drafts be?*
Indian rupees; not US$ or such. Some students from Germany have particular problem with this. You may have to approach different banks for this. Please note that this payment can only be in the form of a demand draft and in Indian rupees only. Those who have problems with this, can ask their friends or

relatives in Bombay (if they have any) to make demand drafts in India and send it to the college with clear mention of what the drafts are being sent for.
Students from France and Germany can contact the following banks in their countries.

France
State Bank Of India
Paris Branch
State Bank of India
12-14 Rond-Point Des Champs Elysees
75008 Paris
France
Tel:53772300
Telex: SBIPR 643063 F
Fax: 45-63-39-70
SWIFT: SBIN FR PP
ISD CODE: 00-33-1
Cable: THISTLE
Email: sbifrance@aol.com, ceosbiparis@aol.com

Bank Of India
3, rue Scribe F-75009
Paris France
Tel: 00 33 1 42 66 50 04
Fax: 00 33 1 42 66 50 06
Website: http://www.bankofindia.fr/

Germany
State Bank Of India
Frankfurt Branch
Mainzer Landstrasse 61
60329 FRANKFURT am Main
Phones:
(069) 27237-139 Accounts
(069) 27237-133 Remittances
(069) 27237-157 LCs
(069) 27237-117 Guarantees
Fax:
(069) 27237-172 Accounts
(069) 27237-148 Remittances
(069) 27237-138 LCs
ISD Code: 0049
SWIFT SBINDEFF
Website: www.statebank-frankfurt.com
Email: bmc@statebank-frankfurt.com

24. *What bank drafts do we have to provide?*
You have to provide two drafts. One for the National Medical Commission for Rs. 10000/- and the other in favor of the BMC for Rs.1000/-

25. *Is it possible to have a family member/friend within India mail these drafts to you separate from the my application that I will mail from here?*
Yes. This can be done. However, the drafts should be accompanied by a letter clearly stating on whose behalf these drafts are being sent.

26. *We were under the impression that the processing fee for the National Medical Commission was Rs. 5900.We now see that this has been changed to Rs. 10000. Why has this been done?*

Effective March 1, 2023, the National Medical Commission has increased its processing fee for giving permissions for electives from Rs. 5900 to Rs. 10000. As we have no control over this, we have changed the processing fee accordingly. Please note that the processing fee for the BMC remains unchanged at Rs. 1000.

27. *Is the fee to be attached with the application form?*
No, only the demand drafts. The fees are to be paid once you arrive in the college. They can be paid by cash or demand drafts (these can be made from local banks here in Bombay).

28. *How is the matter of Visa handled? Is that arranged through my application, or do I have to apply for one through the Indian embassy here?*
You have to arrange for visa in your country before you leave for India . You can come in for an elective ONLY on \a student's visa. If you come any other visa, we will not be able to take you for an elective. Visa is entirely and wholly your responsibility.

29. *Details of whom to contact on arrival.*
You should contact the clerk (Phone 91 22 24107434) in the students section of the college office on the ground floor of the college building. Currently Mr Kiran is the clerical staff

30. *Can we start the elective even before you receive approvals from the government authorities?*
No. You can start your electives only after we receive permission from the Medical Council of India. Please confirm after about 12 weeks of sending your application.

31. *What is the language of communication?*
English is the language of teaching and communication amongst consultants, residents, medical students and nursing staff. Only a few patients speak English. Hence, for communicating with patients, knowledge of Marathi, Hindi and other Indian languages will help. Fellow students or paramedical personnel help in interpreting.

32. *Are there any local students? Will there be other elective students?*
Yes. Local students are invariably posted except during vacation times. So too, there may be other elective students.

33. *Is there a dress code?*
None in particular except that white coats- full or half sleeves- are compulsory when entering the hospital area.

34. *Should we prepare our vaccination record before our elective study, and whom should we give them to?*
Please see the document on Blood Borne Viruses. The hospital as such has no special vaccination requirements. You can be guided by the Visa requirements for this.

35. *Can you make arrangements for me to stay?*
Limited accommodation is available for male students in the hostel on the campus. Please write to the hostel warden Dr. Mahesh Belhekar (boyshostel@kem.edu) for men and Dr. Anita Chalak (dranitachalak@gmail.com) for ladies regarding this. More details about the boys hostel are available here

36. *We are willing to stay in hostels or hotels, but worry about availability in a city as large as Mumbai. Would you be able to provide any assistance in this matter?*
Many hotel rooms are available in Mumbai for all budget needs.; you can look for them on your arrival

here. Unfortunately, we cannot help you with hotel room booking.

37. *What arrangements are possible for meals?*
The hospital has three canteens / cafeterias which serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. Numerous restaurants are located within a 5 minutes' walking distance from the hospital, which serve all kinds of Indian and Chinese dishes, and fast food. As a matter of fact, there will be restaurants with 2-5 minutes' walking distance at any location in Mumbai. The cost of a sumptuous breakfast, lunch and dinner will be US $ 2 - 4.

38. *Other than the fee for the elective course itself, is there any other payment necessary for our elective study?*
No.

39. *I will be arriving at Mumbai airport. Will there be a shuttle service picking me up from the airport, and if yes how much will it cost?*
There are no shuttle services. Please hire a prepaid taxi at the airport. The fare to the hospital will be Indian rupees 1200-1500. Akbar Cabs have a good safety record and functional seat belts at the back.

40. *How much will transport or commuting cost?*
Travelling by bus will cost from Rs.10 to Rs.50 one way (US$1 = Rs 85 approximately). Trains too will charge Rs.10 - Rs.30. Cabs charge approximately Rs.28 per kilometer with a minimum fare of Rs.28. It maybe worth remembering that a resident doctor pays for his living expenses (excluding accommodation), books, travel, entertainment, and all other expenses with a monthly salary of approximately US$ 125 - 200.
Bombay's traffic can be chaotic and students are warned to be cautious while crossing roads as motorists usually do not respect pedestrians' right of way.

41. *Is there anything else we need that may not be listed on your website?*
No. We need no further documentation. The details on the website are up to date.

42. I was wondering about the hours and schedule of the clinical elective, Which days of the week will I be working, what hours, and is call required?
Pl. see http://www.kem.edu/college/course_descript.htm for details.

43. *Is post exposure prophylaxis available for HIV.*
Yes. It is available on the campus. Please see
the additional guidance on Blood Borne Viruses
management.

44. *What about immunizations?*
Make sure that all the major vaccinations like MMR, DTP, Polio, etc are up to date and also that Malaria chemoprophylaxis is taken. Rabies and Japanese encephalitis shots are not necessary. While in Mumbai, you are advised not to eat uncooked food and preferably stick to bottled water.

45. *Is your medical school a University Medical Center?*
Yes. We are affiliated to the Maharashtra University of Medical Sciences (Maharashtra is the state in which the city of Mumbai (Bombay) is located)

46. *There is some delay in getting the bank drafts, shall I send the application first and the bank drafts later.*
No. There is nothing we can do with the application without the bank drafts. So please send all material together.

47. *What type of electrical outlets India has and; what do I need to use my appliances there?*
We have 220V AC. The plugs have round connections. You may like to bring a Universal
adaptor with you.

48. *Would I be assigned an advisor?*
Yes - you can reach out during your tenure as well as ahead of time to Dr Nithya Gogtay (91-9820495836 WhatsApp) Prof and Head of Clinical Pharmacology and Dr Shraddha More (91-9930676735 WhatsApp), Associate Professor Medicine

49. *What is the telephone number of the college and hospital?*
91 22 2410 7000 is the telephone number for the college and the hospital.
Is it always better to keep the cell phone numbers of your advisors handy.

50. *In case of an emergency, is there an evacuation plan for foreigners?*
There has been no need for this in the last 100 years! But the institute has a disaster management plan in place and this will be activated.

51. *If I got sick while on elective, would I be able to access health care?*
Yes, at the institute.

52. *Is there internet access at the university and hospital and is it available 24 hours a day?*
All departments have internet access - so does the library. There are many cyber cafes around the campus.

53. *Can we email the application forms to KEM now so that the respective supervisors can sign them and return it to us via email?*
The certificate of competition will be issued only after the elective is over and all forms will be signed only after you complete the elective.

54. *Can you tell me if I have to pay the whole fee (Rs. 24,000 for 16 weeks) when I arrive, or do I have to pay Rs. 12,000 when I arrive and again Rs. 12,000 when 12 weeks have passed?*
You pay all in one go

55. *Is the K.E.M. Hospital connected to Bombay University?*
Bombay is situated in the state of Maharashtra. A few years back, a separate medical university called the Maharashtra University of Medical Sciences (MUHS) was created by the government and all medical courses of the University of Bombay were transferred to this university. Thus, our college affiliation was also transferred from the University of Mumbai (Bombay) to MUHS. The University of Mumbai no longer runs any medical courses. Bombay is now called Mumbai.

56. *Are universal precautions observed in KEM hospital and Seth GS Medical College?* Yes.

*Rs. 1 US $ = Rs. 85 approx.