

Practice Medicine in Denmark

Denmark is located in the northern part of the European continent bridging Europe with the Nordic countries. With a population of 5.5 millions and no more than 40,000 square kilometres, Denmark is about 1/250 of China, no bigger than a middle sized Chinese city.

Denmark is well managed in many aspects with the highest standard of social welfare among developed countries. Generally, the Danish healthcare system is well organized with high standard. Medical consultation and hospital treatment are free of charge for every one lives in Denmark, includes visitors holding a visa longer than 3 months (for tourist holding visa shorter than 3 months, emergency consultation/treatment is free of charge). All patients are guaranteed that any hospital treatment should be initiated within max. a month after the diagnosis is confirmed.

However, the healthcare system is always a hot issue of debate, there is no such a system that can satisfy patient, politician and healthcare professional at the same time. Due to the increasing pressure of aging (also among healthcare professionals), insufficient medical school recruitment, the short of medical professionals incl. doctors and nurses has been the recent hot issue in Danish healthcare system, which opens the option for third country doctors to practise in Denmark.

Following are some information collected from the published guidelines from the Danish National Board of Health. Interested individuals are welcome to contact me for further information.

Third country doctor

Applicants who are not covered by the EU doctors' directive or the Nordic agreement (third country doctors)

A doctor who is not a citizen of an EU/EEC country or a Nordic country has no rights guaranteed by treaty to automatic recognition as a doctor in Denmark, but may apply for an authorization depending on an individual assessment.

Application

An application form can be found under the link

<http://sst.dk/English/Education%20and%20authorization/Noedvendig%20dokumentation%203land.aspx>.

Documentary requirements

The necessary documentation must be submitted in 2 copies one of which should be in the form of original

documents (which will be returned by registered mail) or in the form of certified true copies. Please do not use a colour copy machine for copies

Language requirements

No specific tests or level of language skills are required to obtain temporary authorization. However, the law of "Authorisation of Health Care Professionals and on Health Care" (autorisationsloven) lays down that every doctor must practise medicine carefully and conscientiously, and, to comply with this provision, doctors are required to be capable of responsible communication in Danish with patients, relatives, other hospital staff etc. The appointing authority (ex. hospitals) must evaluate the extent to which the doctor can meet these requirements of the Practice of Medicine Act.

The National Board of Health will regard the language requirement as having been satisfied when the doctor has passed all of the required examinations, and has completed probationary appointments with positive assessments.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

You must send documentation as evidence of your education either in the form of certified true copies or in the form of original documents

All copies of original documents must be certified true copies. Embassies, police, respective university/educational institution or notary public can certify copies. The authority in question must stamp and sign each copy and confirm that the copy is a true copy of the original document. Private individuals cannot certify copies. The National Board of Health may in some cases require original documents.

Translation into Danish or English must be performed by

1) The educational institution or the authority that issued the document or 2) by a state-authorized translator. Translator's name and stamp must be legible. Should the stamp not be in Danish or English, a state-authorized translation of the stamp is required. The translator must seal the translation together with the document in the original language. The National Board of Health may in some cases accept other translations. Documents in English, Norwegian or Swedish need not be translated.

The application form and documentation must be sent in 2 copies one of which must be in the form of original documents or certified copies. Please note, however, that the Certificate of Current Professional Status must always be in the original form and mailed directly from the respective competent authority to the National Board of Health. The qualifications are assessed only after all documents listed in the below form have been sent to The National Board of Health in 2 copies.

Each document must be marked with the number listed in the below form. (Documentation of name, date of birth, nationality, e.g., must be marked with the number 1).

The following documents must be submitted

1. Documentation of name, date of birth and nationality (e.g. in the form of certified true copies of the relevant passport pages)
2. Documentation of change of name (if any)
3. Translation of change of name
4. Curriculum Vitae, listing educational data and work experience chronologically
5. Diploma/certificate in the original language
6. Translation of diploma/certificate (into Danish or English)

Detailed transcript of the study programme from the educational institution. The transcript must contain information about:

- a. admission requirements
7. b. total length of the education
- c. theoretical education: subjects and lecture hours of each subject
- d. clinical education: subjects and duration indicated in hours
- e. clinical education: departments and number of weeks in each department (not relevant for doctors)
8. Translation of detailed transcript

- Certificate of Current Professional Status/certificate of good standing from the competent health authorities in the most recent country of work and residence. The certificate must confirm that you are legally entitled to work within your profession (e.g. medical doctor, nurse, etc.), i.e. that you have not been suspended, disqualified or prohibited from practicing. The certificate must be less than 3 months old and sent directly from the competent authority to the National Board of Health, Islands Brygge 67, 2300 Copenhagen, Denmark. The certificate must be issued in English.
- 9.

10. Supplementary documentation, if any, or any other information which in your opinion might be of importance to the assessment of your qualifications

Points 11 and 12 only apply to medical doctors and dentists

11. Documentation of specialist title, if any
12. Translation of documentation of specialist title

Point 13 only applies to dentists

13. A detailed description of your education, including all subjects and scope and content (must be detailed descriptions of the use of the treatment methods. Headlines alone will not be enough) of these from the University you attended. Furthermore your name or study period must appear in the description. If this description is not in Danish or English, it should be accompanied by a translation. Please be informed that the description does not have to be translated by an authorized translator. If you or a third person carries out the translation, it must be accompanied by a “tro og love erklæring” (“erklæring vedr. oversættelse for uddannelsesbeskrivelse for tandlæger”) which is available on www.sst.dk under netblanket and uddannelse.

Detailed information can be obtained through following link:

http://sst.dk/~media/English/Education%20and%20authorization/Foreign%20health%20personal/vejledning_eng120705pdf2009.ashx

Exams

Exams are managed by the three medical faculties, and the info about the exams is only in Danish. Normally, only qualified applicants evaluated by the National Board of Health will be referred to the relevant info upon one of the three medical faculties in Denmark. The designated exams cover a broad but the very basic medical knowledge and competences. Language and communications skills are heavily weighted. Following are the exams required for permanent authorization.

1. Exam in basic medical knowledge and competence:

The exam is organized twice a year, normally in Sept. and March.

For each applicant the exam takes 2 hours, 15-20 patient cases are presented, which covers the essential clinical knowledge and medical competence, including:

1. Neuro-diseases (neurology, neurosurgery, psychiatry),
2. General medicine (internal medicine, infections diseases, endocrinology and more),
3. General surgery (abdominal surgery, vascular surgery, orthopaedic surgery, urology and more),
4. Gynaecology/obstetric and paediatric,

Apart from these four major areas, knowledge from other minor specialties such as ophthalmology, dermatology and more will be tested. The exam is held as oral presentation in Danish, and is evaluated by external examiner as pass or not pass.

2. Exam in social medicine:

The exam is organized twice a year, normally in Sept. and March.

The exam is held in accordance to the objective of the course in clinical social medicine, faculty of medicine, Copenhagen University.

- the important social medical principles in Danish society,
- relevant socialmedical law,
- important knowledge about the Danish society, especially about the labour market, the working conditions and the function of the social– healthcare system.

The exam is based on concrete cases within the area of social medicine. The exam is held as oral presentation in Danish and is evaluated by internal examiner from the faculty as pass or not pass.

3. Exam in the medical law:

The exam is organized twice a year, normally in Sept. and March.

The exam covers the most important law, regulation, announcement, circular, and the important medical certificates.

The exam is based on concrete cases, and is held as oral presentation in Danish. The exam is evaluated by internal examiner from the faculty as pass or not passes.

4. Exam in prescription writing:

The exam is organized twice a year, normally in Sept. and March.

The exam covers the regulation and administration of medicine, regulations of medicine ordination to individual patient, hospital and more.

The exam is held as writing exam in Latin/Danish. The exam is evaluated by internal examiner from the faculty as pass or not passes.

The exams can be taken at a random order.

Enrolment to the exams

In August and February, exam office will send application form to relevant applicants who are entitled to the exam after evaluation of the National Board of Health.

Information:

Further information about exams can be obtained on following link www.sund.ku.dk

Learning Danish

As 3 out of 4 exams are oral test, language and communication skills are heavily weighted in the evaluation. There is no better way learning Danish by using it, however, for those who want to acquire the language competence within the shortest possible time frame, the Copenhagen Intensive Language Center <http://www.kiss.dk/> is a good choice.

中山医欧洲校友会马晓东供稿

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