



Specialist Language Courses

**RefuAid**  
Hope.Resilience.Unity

CASE STUDY:

**REFUGEE DOCTORS  
ACHIEVE GMC  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
REQUIREMENTS WITH  
SLC AND REFUAID**



## Background

In 2019, SLC were introduced to RefuAid by a mutual contact at Cambridge Boxhill Language Assessment (CBLA) who own the OET English for Healthcare test. RefuAid were working with a number of skilled and experienced refugee doctors, all of whom needed to achieve the OET scores required by the GMC to work in the UK – something they all desperately wanted to do. CBLA felt SLC could help.

The doctors concerned all had a high level of English. Many had taken OET before, or IELTS, the academic English test also accepted by the GMC, and had passed 1 or more of the 4 papers. However, they needed input and support on test-specific language, techniques and strategies.

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*“The doctors were highly motivated to pass the OET exam and really supported each other throughout the course. I was impressed by their dedication and hard work, and it was an extremely rewarding course to teach. I saw them not only build confidence for the exam, but also develop useful communication skills which they will go on to use in their future careers.”*

Jo Langford, course teacher

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## Programme setup

We tested those who had no official scores and then created two groups according to starting level. The students were in different parts of the UK but joined together in the SLC online classroom, simply clicking on a link to meet their teacher and fellow students from wherever they were.

The groups both took 40 hours of tuition with an OET specialist. They were supported by SLC's online Reach OET B Medicine preparation course and a raft of lesson materials developed specially for OET Medicine. Two full mock tests were integrated at mid and end-points, with one-to-one tutorial follow ups to recommend specific learning strategies. Course attendance and homework completion were reported weekly to RefuAid, who were then able to quickly address any potential issues.

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*“I want to thank Ms. Jo Langford our SLC teacher for the online course she conducted. The online course was convenient for me in terms of timing, personal requirement, and content. Ms. Langford worked hard to meet our individual exam needs which eventually led to me passing the exam with high scores. SLC online practice materials covered everything we needed in the exam.”*

Basil, student, passed OET Medicine 1st time

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## Participant engagement

The students engaged well and worked hard to improve their English. The teachers of both groups were impressed with how much ground they covered in a short time. The mock tests demonstrated good improvement.

## The results

So, what of the results? Did the doctors achieve the scores required by the GMC?

Well, of the 16 who took OET, 11 passed! The others were all very close and are receiving further support to get them over the line. This is hugely encouraging as OET is a tough test and the GMC requirements are high.

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*“RefuAid have found SLC one of the best language providers to support some of the refugee healthcare professionals on our programmes with their preparation for the OET exam. The classes are designed after an initial assessment with the students to ensure the right support is provided throughout the course. These online courses are ideal for our students who are based across the country to come together under one platform not only to benefit from the course but form a sense of community to support each other while reestablishing their lives here in the UK. The OET trained tutors and Academic Manager Bethan consistently provide in-depth feedback to students and their RefuAid caseworker. Additionally, students have the opportunity of accessing additional resources to support their studies. To date, 11 of the refugee doctors who have attended classes have now passed their OET and moved onto their requalification exams, and many more will be taking their OET exam in the next few months.*

Mohib Ullah, Language Lead, RefuAid

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## About SLC

Based at the University of Sussex, SLC is the UK's leading provider of English language services to the global healthcare sector. SLC trains thousands of professionals and students in online classrooms and through the online Medical English and Test Preparation language courses it publishes.

[www.specialistlanguagecourses.com](http://www.specialistlanguagecourses.com)

## About RefuAid

Founded in 2015, RefuAid works with hundreds of refugees to provide practical long-term solutions to language, employment and housing in refugee-hosting communities.

[www.refuaid.org](http://www.refuaid.org)



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