



Specialist Language Courses



CASE STUDY:

**SUPPORTING  
REFUGEE  
DOCTORS TO  
PASS OET**

Refugee doctors bring years of training and professional experience with them, often in very difficult circumstances. They are consultants, surgeons, and GPs. However, they cannot work in the UK and many work in care support roles or not at all. Refugee doctors need to pass either the OET or IELTS English language test as part of the process to register with the GMC to work again as doctors in the UK. Most choose OET, a medical English test, over IELTS, an academic English test.

The scores doctors need to achieve in OET are, understandably, very high to ensure communication with patients and colleagues is at the right level to provide safe and effective care. Refugee doctors don't tend to arrive with the necessary English skills. They need expert tuition, plenty of practice, and access to materials and mock tests to reach the level required.

SLC has provided OET preparation to hundreds of refugee doctors since the test was recognised by the GMC in 2018, working with refugee support organisations, local authorities, and the NHS.

### Working with the Lincolnshire Refugee Doctor Project (LRDP)

This case study highlights the ongoing work we do with the refugee doctors on the programmes run by the Lincolnshire Refugee Doctor Project (LRDP).

In 2020, LRDP commissioned SLC to provide support to the doctors on their programme who wanted to pass OET Medicine.

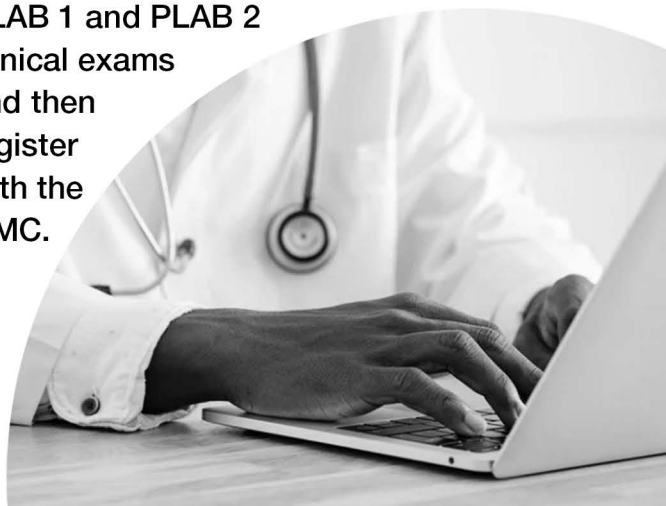
After a successful initial pilot, we designed a rolling 4-module programme that would provide regular start dates and enable doctors to attend an appropriate number of lessons according to their level and needs.

- ✓ Pre-course assessment to ensure suitability
- ✓ 40 hours of tuition plus assignments per module
- ✓ 2 x 3-hour lessons a week over 7 weeks, followed by a 1-week break
- ✓ Small classes (up to 10 learners) with an expert OET tutor
- ✓ Online self-study support from Reach OET B Medicine
- ✓ Training covering all 4 OET papers plus related vocabulary and grammar
- ✓ Mock test at the end of each module
- ✓ OET readiness report

Attendance, lesson notes, mock test results and teacher comments are on an integrated course management system that can be accessed at any time by SLC and LRDP.

LRDP provide wraparound support, including guidance for learners not at the level to enter the course, follow up tuition for those completing the 4 modules but still not quite ready to take the test, and ongoing logistical and technical support for learners.

LRDP also then provide follow on training for doctors to enable them to pass the PLAB 1 and PLAB 2 clinical exams and then register with the GMC.



## Results

Registering as a doctor with the GMC is not an overnight process. It takes time to pass the exams and go through the registration process. Many refugee doctors manage very challenging lives outside lessons, working in various jobs – often low-level shift work – while they study and look after their families.

Accommodation, visa status and employment may all be uncertain and make it difficult for many to stay on the programme for the time needed. Given these challenges, the programme has been a remarkable success. Most students are incredibly motivated, hard-working and resilient, making steady progress over the months we teach them.

We see from the other work we do with refugee learners just how difficult it is to stick to a long-term education programme.

To date, 79 doctors have been taught or are currently on the SLC courses. Of these:

- ✓ 19 have passed OET and are now registered or are registering with the GMC. Many of these are working in NHS Trusts in Lincolnshire.
- ✓ A further 19 have passed OET, of whom 15 are undergoing PLAB training and 4 have left the project.
- ✓ 15 are currently preparing for OET.
- ✓ 26 left the programme before it finished.

79

doctors have been taught or are currently enrolled on SLC OET courses through the LRDP

19

passed OET and are registered or registering with the GMC

19

passed OET, with 15 now undergoing PLAB training

15

currently preparing for OET

26

have left the programme

Registration not only transforms the life of an individual doctor, but also those of their families and many of the patients they care for.

Just one doctor can make an immediate and ongoing impact on the lives of hundreds of patients and their families and communities. To have 19 refugee doctors registered and 30 others progressing towards registration will amplify this into the many thousands.

*"LRDP do an incredible job on their programme for refugee doctors. We're so pleased to have developed a long-term partnership with LRDP, to have worked with so many amazing doctors and to see the excellent results many achieve and what that means for their lives and future here in the UK We are delighted to share the results in this case study."*

**Chris Moore, Managing Director, SLC**

*LRDP members are well-qualified and discerning medical doctors, and they set the bar high when it comes to quality tuition and resources. We have chosen to entrust SLC - OET-accredited Premium Preparation Providers - with the delivery of OET sessions and mock tests for our members since 2020, and now we are swiftly heading towards our 40th OET pass with SLC. This is an incredible achievement given the many difficulties that displaced doctors face - and the necessarily challenging nature of the OET exam itself.*

*In addition to this, SLC provide an excellent standard of customer service to the core LRDP team and are always a pleasure to work with. We have received countless testimonies from members who speak highly of SLC's course, and we are very proud to be able to offer such quality to our members.*

**Emma Riley, Education Programme Manager, LRDP**

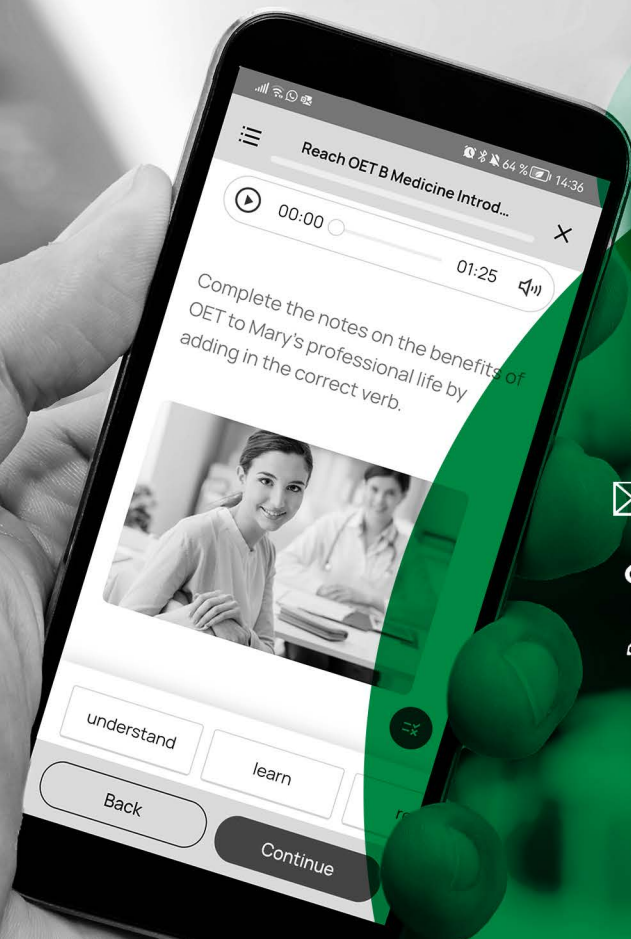
## About LRDP

LRDP is driven by the belief that every qualified doctor deserves the chance to contribute and belong in the UK's medical community. Since its foundation in 2019, LRDP has supported nearly 100 refugee and asylum-seeking doctors in the UK, helping them restart their careers and contribute to the NHS.



## About SLC

SLC provides expert OET tuition and digital study resources to healthcare professionals around the world, working with refugee support organisations, healthcare employers and individuals to ensure they achieve the scores they need to register and work in the UK and elsewhere.



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