English Language requirements
Structured Reference Form

Background

One of the requirements for registration with the General Dental Council (GDC) is that all dental professionals have, and can demonstrate, the necessary knowledge of English to practise safely.

To meet this requirement, applicants must provide evidence of their English language skills. Evidence must meet the following criteria to satisfy us that you have the necessary knowledge of English:

a. **Skills**: your evidence must demonstrate ability to listen, read, speak and write in English.
b. **Recent**: your evidence must be no more than two years old at the time the application is submitted.
c. **Verifiable**: your evidence must be from a source that the GDC can readily verify.
d. **Robust**: your evidence must demonstrate a level of English sufficient for safe practise in a clinical setting, equivalent to Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) C1.

We accept recent clinical practice in a country where the first language is English as evidence that an applicant has the necessary knowledge of English. To ensure recent clinical practise has been in English, we require it to have been achieved in a country that is included in the UK government list of English-speaking countries. This reference form can be used to provide evidence of recent clinical practise in a country where the first language is English.

The C1 criteria from the CEFR self-assessment grid has been used to guide the requirements of evidence in this structured reference form.

Data Protection

Under the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection law, the GDC processes personal data, like the information in this document, because the processing is necessary for the exercise of the GDC's statutory functions; and the processing is also in the substantial public interest.

Information about how the GDC will use and share the information you give us, the various rights you have in connection with any personal data about you that is held by the GDC, and how long we will keep your information for can be found in the privacy notice on our website.

Consultation only

Referee details

By completing this form, you are confirming that the applicant has the knowledge of English necessary to practise in the UK and can provide evidence that you have witnessed the applicant using all four skills (listening, reading, speaking, and writing) in a clinical setting.

You must provide examples to illustrate how each of the four skills of speaking, listening, writing and reading have been demonstrated or this form will not be accepted.

As a referee, you must:

- be registered with a professional body or regulator we can verify.
- have known the applicant for over 12 months.
- not be a member of the applicant's family.

Name:		
Occupation:		
Place, and address of employment:		
Telephone number:		
Email address:	*NOTE: This should be a professional/work email address **not** a personal email address.*	
Do you hold registration with the GDC?	☐Yes	☐No
	If 'Yes' please provide your GDC registration number:	
Are you registered with a UK or an overseas professional body or regulator?	☐Yes	☐No
	If 'Yes' please provide the name of the body and your registration number:	
Relationship to applicant:		
Dates supervising applicant:	From:	To:

Referee Declaration

The information I have provided in this document is correct and true.

I agree to the GDC carrying out checks, including checks to verify the information I have given.

Name:	
Signature:	
Date:	

NOTE: We will accept either a handwritten signature or a scanned signature. Typed signatures will not be accepted.

Consultation only

Applicant's English language skills

Speaking skills		
Have you witnessed the applicant demonstrating their English-speaking skills in a clinical setting?	☐Yes	☐No
Please explain how the applicant has demonstrated their knowledge of English in this area:	*NOTE: To meet CEFR C1 level of English, the applicant must be able to express themselves fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions; use language flexibly and effectively for social and professional purposes; formulate ideas and opinions with precision and relate skilfully to those of other speakers; and present clear, detailed descriptions of complex subjects. In a dental setting this might include confident conversation with patients and carers in a way they understand about relevant treatment options, speaking with dental colleagues and other healthcare professionals, and case presentation.*	

Consultation only

Listening skills		
Have you witnessed the applicant demonstrating their English listening skills in a clinical setting?	☐Yes	☐No
Please explain how the applicant has demonstrated their knowledge of English in this area	*NOTE: To meet CEFR C1 level of English, the applicant must be able to understand extended speech even when it is not clearly structured and when relationships are only implied and not signalled explicitly; and understand spoken language without too much effort. In a dental setting this might include effective taking of patient histories, discussions with patients and carers, discussions with colleagues and other healthcare professionals, and attendance at lectures/presentations.*	

Consultation only

Writing skills		
Have you witnessed the applicant demonstrating their English writing skills in a clinical setting?	☐Yes	☐No
Please explain how the applicant has demonstrated their knowledge of English in this area	*NOTE: To meet CEFR C1 level of English, the applicant must be able to express themselves in clear, well-structured text, expressing points of view at some length; write about complex subjects in a letter, essay or report, underlining salient issues; and can select style appropriate to the reader in mind. In a dental setting this might include written advice to patients and carers, written advice/information for dental colleagues or other healthcare professionals, contributing to journal articles, and writing critical incident reports or audits.*	

Consultation only

Reading skills		
Have you witnessed the applicant demonstrating their English writing skills in a clinical setting?	☐Yes	☐No
Please explain how the applicant has demonstrated their knowledge of English in this area	*NOTE: To meet CEFR C1 level of English, the applicant must be able to understand long and complex factual and literary texts; and understand specialised articles and longer technical instructions. In a dental setting this might include understanding written advice/information from dental colleagues or other healthcare professionals, understanding journal articles and clinical research, and understanding critical incident reports or audits*.	

sultation only

Summary		
Does the applicant have the knowledge of English necessary to practise safely in the UK?	☐Yes	☐No
Please provide details to explain your answer:		

Consultation only