

The 'clinical genetics' qualification in Hungary

Currently in Hungary a professional qualification in clinical genetics can be obtained after two years of study in addition to all basic specialised qualifications, i.e. by completing additional specialised training.

The Ministry of Health Decree 66/1999 (XII. 25.) on acquiring the qualifications of specialised doctor, specialised dental practitioner, specialised pharmacist and specialised clinical psychologist ('MoH Decree 66/1999') governs the 'clinical genetics' qualification, which can be obtained as a specialist qualification by doctors who have completed a general medical degree and specialised medical training, i.e. it is additional specialised training which, pursuant to Annex 3 of MoH Decree 66/1999, comprises the following:

24 months

- 6 months of paediatrics;
- 6 months of obstetrics and gynaecology (including intrauterine diagnostics);
- 3 months in a molecular genetics laboratory;
- 3 months in a cytogenetics laboratory;
- 6 weeks of internal genetics/genetic counselling
- 6 weeks of dermatological genetics/genetic counselling
- 6 weeks of ophthalmological genetics/genetic counselling
- 6 weeks of neurological genetics/genetic counselling

The entry criteria for the specialised 'clinical genetics' qualification are a general medical degree and any basic specialised qualification.

Pursuant to item I of Annex 1 to MoH Decree 66/1999, holders of a general medical degree may obtain the specialised 'clinical genetics' qualification after obtaining an initial specialised qualification in any of the following areas:

1. anaesthesiology and intensive therapy;
2. dental, oral and maxillo-facial surgery;
3. internal medicine;
4. dermatology;
5. infant and child medicine;
6. physical medicine and rehabilitation;
7. occupational medicine;
8. otolaryngology;
9. gastroenterology;
10. gerontology;
11. paediatric and juvenile psychiatry;
12. peidetic surgery;
13. family medicine;
14. family medicine for persons receiving individual tuition pursuant to other legislation;
15. conflict and catastrophe medicine;

16. neurosurgery;
17. forensic medicine;
18. infectology;
19. cardiology;
20. preventive medicine and public health;
21. neurology;
22. nuclear medicine;
23. orthopaedics and traumatology;
24. medical laboratory diagnostics;
25. medical microbiology;
26. oxyology and emergency medicine;
27. pathology;
28. psychiatry;
29. radiology;
30. flight medicine;
31. rheumatology;
32. surgery;
33. radiotherapy;
34. ophthalmology;
35. cardiac surgery;
36. obstetrics and gynaecology;
37. transfusion medicine;
38. respiratory medicine;
39. urology.

The training period can be divided into two parts: the first part, 26 months, is the so-called core training period, followed by a specialist training period which varies in length depending on the particular specialised qualification.

Since a doctor has received general medical training as part of his or her basic qualification, there is no need for general medical training to be provided as part of the additional specialised **clinical genetics** training. The education and training curriculum of the qualification takes the relevant basic qualification into consideration. For example, an applicant with a basic qualification in paediatrics is exempted from the 6 months of practice in paediatrics out of the 24 months of the specialised clinical genetics qualification. At the end of the additional specialised training period, the prospective clinical genetics specialists must sit a practical and theoretical examination.

An expert review of the existing clinical genetics qualification is in progress. The review must pay due attention to the intensive development of genetics and the ever-growing demand for specialists, which is also influenced by the fact that a newly-qualified Hungarian doctor can become a genetics specialist in on average seven to eight years.