

FOUNDATIONS · ARTICLE 01 · COMPANION CHECKLIST

Portfolio Pathway starter checklist

Your first 30 days. Eligibility self-check and action plan.

Eligibility self-check

Work through these four questions before opening a Portfolio Pathway application.

01 Have you completed a GMC-approved UK training programme leading to CCT?

- No** — continue with the Portfolio Pathway
- Yes** — consider the CCT route, not this one

02 Do you hold either an overseas specialist qualification, or 6+ months continuous specialist training outside the UK?

- Yes** — eligibility criterion met
- No** — gain that experience first; not yet eligible

03 Are you currently working at Consultant-shaped responsibility (substantive or non-substantive)?

- Yes** — strong starting position
- No** — consider a UK SAS / Trust grade post first

04 Has your work been in a specialty listed by the GMC for Portfolio Pathway?

- Yes** — continue with your specialty SSG
- No** — check the non-CCT specialty route

A NOTE ON FRAMING

The Portfolio Pathway is not a fallback. The clinical bar is the same as the CCT route. It is a deliberate, valid path to UK Consultant practice. Senior doctors who arrive at it with strong evidence are documenting the equivalent of training, not going around it.

YOUR FIRST 30 DAYS

A 30-day action plan

Five sequential phases. Most can be done alongside a full clinical week.

DAY 1-3 Read your specialty's GMC SSG

- Find your Specialty Specific Guidance at gmc-uk.org
- Read it cover to cover. Twice if necessary
- Note key evidence types and any "indicative" numbers

DAY 4-7 Map your existing experience

- List your last five years of clinical work
- Tag each role against the curriculum capabilities
- Identify obvious strengths and the gaps that will need filling

DAY 8-14 Identify your structured-report referees

- Three minimum. One must be your current Clinical Director or HoS
- Have a preliminary conversation with each referee
- Share the SSG with them so they understand what is required

DAY 15-21 Audit your evidence against the past five years

- Workplace-based assessments, MSF, audit cycles, QI projects
- Teaching, leadership, CPD, patient feedback
- Rate each as solid, partial, or missing

DAY 22-30 Draft your 18-month evidence plan

- Specific actions per month, tied to SSG requirements
- Account for known gaps. Budget time for audit cycles to close
- Set realistic milestones. Adjust quarterly

THEN WHAT?

Once you have a 30-day plan and a referee shortlist, the next step is reading the foundational guides on consultants.bdireshourcing.com: timelines, evidence categories, and your specialism overview.