



الهيئة النقابية للأطباء السودانيين
بالمملكة المتحدة
SUDAN DOCTORS' UNION
U.K. BRANCH

The Rt. Hon. Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
The Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Email: public.enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk

**Visa Extension Request
For Sudanese Doctors to Attend PLAB2**

21/06/2020

Dear Ms Patel,

We represent a group of twenty-three Sudanese doctors, who are currently affiliate members of the Sudan Doctor's Union, UK Branch (SDU UK). They all entered the UK with visit visas for the purpose of sitting PLAB2 exams which unfortunately have been cancelled due the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown in the UK. Their names, dates of birth, passport numbers and visa expiry dates are detailed in the Appendix at the end of this letter. We appreciate that those whose visas expired, before the 31st July 2020, would be automatically extended by the Home Office until then.

The GMC has indicated in their website that the PLAB2 exams might be done in autumn later this year:

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/join-the-register/plab/coronavirus--information-for-plab-candidates/plab-2>

It is worth noting that PLAB2 exams can only be taken in the UK and not in any other country. Indeed, these exams are pivotal for doctors' GMC registration and future medical careers. We, therefore, kindly request visa extensions for this group to stay in the UK beyond their current expiry dates, for possibly few months, to enable them to sit PLAB2 exams. Our reasons for this request are the following:

1. The purpose of the current visas, that were issued for their entry to the UK, was not fulfilled because the PLAB2 tests were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

2. PLAB2 tests are only taken in the UK and no other country.
3. PLAB2 tests require preparations and hence these doctors need to stay in the UK to attend preparatory training courses prior to the planned exams in autumn.
4. There will be additional unexpected expenses incurred by these doctors to travel to Sudan and come back to the UK to attend PLAB2 exams.
5. Because of the current COVID19 pandemic phase in Sudan (different to UK) and lockdown measures including ports and borders closure, there is a potential risk that they could be denied the opportunity to attend future PLAB2 tests, later this year, should they travel back home in the current circumstances.

For all the above reasons, we therefore request that you consider extensions of their visas to December 2020.

Kind regards,

Dr Sara Abdelgalil

Consultant Paediatrician
SDU UK President
Email: president@sdu.org.uk

Dr Nabil Mahmoud

Consultant Psychiatrist
SDU UK General Secretary
Email: sdu@sdu.org.uk

Dr Ahmed Hashim

Gastroenterology Specialist Registrar
SDU UK Academic Secretary
Email: academic@sdu.org.uk

Dr Wail Ahmed

Consultant in Spinal Cord Injuries
SDU UK Membership Secretary
Email: membership@sdu.org.uk

<https://www.sdu.org.uk/>