



REPORT ON THE RECOGNITION OF THE MALAYSIAN MEDICAL SPECIALIST TRAINING PROGRAMME AS MQF LEVEL 8

2026

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FOREWORD

The recognition of medical specialist training programmes at Level 8 within the Malaysian Qualifications Framework (MQF) represents an important step in strengthening the relationship between advanced professional training and the national higher education system. Medical specialist training programmes in Malaysia has evolved over several decades into a highly structured and rigorous programme that integrates advanced clinical practice, academic learning, competency-based assessment, and scholarly inquiry. These characteristics reflect many of the expectations associated with MQF Level 8 qualifications.

This report was prepared following a series of discussions, consultations, and engagements involving representatives from the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC), the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Department of Higher Education (*Jabatan Pendidikan Tinggi, JPT*), and higher education providers that conduct medical specialist training programmes. The task force carefully examined the descriptors of specialist training, benchmarked international practices, and reviewed the structure and outcomes of existing programmes to determine their alignment with MQF Level 8.

The findings presented in this report demonstrate that Malaysia's medical specialist training programmes already incorporate key elements expected of MQF Level 8 qualifications, including advanced knowledge, independent professional practice, and scholarly contribution. In addition to analysing the descriptors, the report also outlines the programme requirements, accreditation pathways for new programmes, and a structured conversion mechanism for existing programmes currently recognised at MQF Level 7.

The work undertaken by the task force reflects the commitment of multiple stakeholders to ensure that Malaysia's specialist training system continues to maintain high standards while remaining aligned with developments in higher education. The recognition of these programmes within MQF Level 8 acknowledges the academic depth and professional rigour embedded within specialist training and provides a clear framework for future programme development and quality assurance.

On behalf of the task force, we express our sincere appreciation to all members of the committee and the agencies involved for their valuable contributions, insights, and dedication throughout the preparation of this report. We also wish to extend our appreciation to the MQA for its leadership in establishing the task force and supporting this important initiative.

It is hoped that this report will serve as a useful reference for strengthening the recognition of medical specialist training programmes within Malaysia's higher education framework and supporting the continued development of specialist education in the country.

Prof. Dr. Jamalludin Ab Rahman

Chairman,

Taskforce for the Recognition of Medical Specialists Training Programme

Based on MQF Levels 7 and 8

7 LIST OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

The proposal for establishing *Jawatankuasa Penilaian Penarafan Program Kepakaran Perubatan Berdasarkan Kriteria Tahap 7 dan 8 MQF* ("the Committee), was approved at the *Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Tertinggi (MPT) MQA No. 01/2025* held on 7 January 2025.

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