



# The Royal College of Emergency Medicine

**Regulations and Information Pack**

**MRCEM OSCE**

**Applicable from 1 August 2021**

**July 2021**

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## **Introduction to the MRCEM and FRCEM Examination Structure – applicable from August 2021**

In August 2021 the College will introduce the 2021 curriculum and the associated examinations which are mapped to the curriculum.

From August 2021, the Membership examination consists of the following components:

- MRCEM Primary examination
- MRCEM Intermediate SBA examination
- MRCEM OSCE

From August 2021, the Fellowship examination consists of the following components:

- FRCEM SBA examination
- FRCEM OSCE

For further information regarding the MRCEM Primary, MRCEM Intermediate SBA or the FRCEM Final examinations, please refer to the relevant Information and Application Pack, available on the [Exams Section](#) of our website.

## Examination Regulations

1. Applications for each component of the MRCEM and FRCEM examination should be submitted via the online application system, available via the [Examinations Section](#) of the College Website.
2. Applications may only be submitted during a specified time period ('the application window'). The date on which the application window opens (opening date) and closes for receipt of applications (the closing date) is published on the Examinations Section of the College Website.
3. Candidates must be on the General Medical Council's Register with a license to practice, or registered with the statutory regulator in the country in which they practice, without limitation on their practice. Candidates must declare if they have had at any time (or have pending) any investigations, suspensions, limitations or removal of medical registration in any country.
4. Completed applications must be submitted by 17:00 (GMT) on the published closing date after which time the system automatically closes. Partially completed or late applications will not be accepted.
5. It is a candidate's responsibility to ensure they have all the information required to complete the entire application form prior to the application window closing on the advertised date at 17:00 (GMT).
6. Upon submission of a completed application, candidates will receive an automated email confirming receipt of the application. Once the application has been approved candidates will receive an automated email to confirm this. Candidates will be sent a further email confirming details of their examination registration and timetable.
7. Candidates wishing to withdraw or transfer their examination entry must notify the Examinations Department in writing by 17:00 (GMT) on the closing date. Fees cannot be transferred or refunded after this time.
8. Candidates must apply for any required entry visas in good time prior to the date of the examination. In exceptional circumstances, subject to receipt of written documentation confirming the refusal of a visa, the Head of Examinations will consider requests for candidates to transfer their examination entry.
9. Candidates who do not attend an examination will forfeit their examination fee. In exceptional circumstances, for matters beyond the candidate's control, the Head of Examinations will consider requests to refund a candidate's examination fee, subject to receipt of written documentation (e.g. a detailed medical certificate, a death certificate for a direct family member) within 20 working days from the date of the examination. Please note that insufficient preparation is not considered a sufficient reason to refund an examination entry.
10. Candidates will be informed of the date on which examination results will be published at the time their examination entry is confirmed. In very exceptional circumstances this may be amended by the College and due notice will be published on the College website.
11. Results will be published to candidates' College website accounts and result letters can be downloaded on demand. Examination results will not be issued or confirmed by telephone or email.

## **Introduction to Membership by Examination (for the award of MRCEM)**

Membership by Examination is awarded to candidates who pass three required examination components.

- MRCEM Primary (or have passed FRCEM Primary between 1 August 2016 and 1 August 2021 or MRCEM Part A between 1 August 2012 and 1 August 2016 (or granted exemption))
- MRCEM Intermediate SBA (or have passed FRCEM Intermediate SAQ between 1 August 2016 and 1 August 2021 or MRCEM Part B between 1 August 2012 and 1 August 2016)
- MRCEM OSCE (previously called MRCEM Part C, passed after 1 August 2012)

As part of the 2021 curriculum and assessment programme, RCEM has secured GMC approval for the retrospective recognition of MRCEM achieved between 1 August 2018 and 1 August 2021. This recognition is applicable from 1 August 2021.

## **Required Examinations for the Award of Membership by Examination (MRCEM)**

### **MRCEM Primary**

The MRCEM Primary examination is a direct replacement for the FRCEM Primary examination and the MRCEM Part A examination and continues to assess the RCEM Basic Sciences Curriculum. The examination will consist of a three hour, multiple choice question (MCQ) paper of 180, single best answer questions (SBAQ). For further details on the MRCEM Primary examination, including format and blueprint, please see the MRCEM Primary Information Pack available on [our website](#).

### **MRCEM Intermediate SBA**

The MRCEM Intermediate SBA is a replacement for FRCEM Intermediate SAQ and MRCEM Part B examination and is mapped to the Specialty Learning Outcomes (SLO) of the Emergency Medicine 2021 Curriculum which is available on the curriculum website. The SBA examination comprises of 180 single best answer questions delivered as two two-hour papers each comprising of 90 questions. For further details on the MRCEM Intermediate SBA examination, including format and blueprint, please see the MRCEM Intermediate SBA Information Pack available on [our website](#).

### **MRCEM OSCE**

The MRCEM Objective Structure Clinical Examination (OSCE) is mapped to the Specialty Learning Outcomes (SLO) of the Emergency Medicine 2021 Curriculum which is available on the curriculum website. All applicants for the MRCEM are strongly advised to familiarise themselves with the Year 1-3 competences in preparation for sitting this examination. Success in the MRCEM OSCE alone does not confer Membership (MRCEM). It is a requirement to pass the three required components listed above. Further information on the MRCEM OSCE is available below.

## Eligibility Criteria for the MRCEM OSCE

A candidate will be eligible to enter the MRCEM OSCE provided he/she:

- a) Holds a medical qualification approved by the General Medical Council (GMC) for the purposes of registration **and**
- b) Has completed the UK Foundation Programme or equivalent (electronic evidence required at point of application) **and**
- c) Has passed the MRCEM Part A examination after 1 August 2012 and prior to 31 July 2016 **or**
- d) Has passed the FRCEM Primary examination after 1 August 2016 and prior to 31 July 2021 **or**
- e) Has passed the MRCEM Primary examination after 1 August 2021 **and**
- f) Has passed the MRCEM Intermediate SBA after 1 August 2021 **or**
- g) Has passed the FRCEM Intermediate SAQ after 1 August 2016 and prior to 31 July 2021 **or**
- h) Has passed the MRCEM Part B examination after 1 August 2012 and prior to 31 July 2016 **and**
- i) Has 24 months experience including 6 months experience in Emergency Medicine at a level above Foundation Year 1 (post full registration)

Candidates who are registered with the GMC should include their registration number in the appropriate place on the application form.

Candidates registered with the Irish Medical Council (IMC) or an international medical council are required to upload a copy of their current medical registration document at the time of application.

### Exemptions and equivalent examinations

#### **MRCEM Part A / FRCEM Primary**

MRCEM Part A passes obtained prior to August 2012 are deemed time expired and such candidates are required to pass the MRCEM Primary examination in order to sit further MRCEM or FRCEM examinations. Candidates who passed the MRCEM Part A examination after 1 August 2012, OR the FRCEM Primary examination after 1 August 2016 are deemed to have passed an equivalent examination to the MRCEM Primary examination.

#### **MRCEM Part B / FRCEM Intermediate SAQ**

MRCEM Part B passes obtained prior to August 2012 are deemed time expired and such candidates are required to pass the MRCEM Intermediate SBA examination. Candidates who passed the MRCEM Part B examination after 1 August 2012 OR the

FRCEM Intermediate SAQ after 1 August 2016 are deemed to have passed an equivalent examination to the MRCEM Intermediate SBA examination.

### **Oversubscription Criteria**

There is a limit to the number of available OSCE spaces per examination diet.

In the event that an examination diet is oversubscribed the following criteria will be applied:

- Candidates in a GMC approved UK ST3 training post
- Candidates in year 3 of approved Irish training programme
- Candidates holding an employment contract with the NHS (which covers the examination date)
- Candidates who were not allocated a place at the most recent sitting (on a first come, first served basis, if required)
- All other candidates on a first come, first served basis

### **Number of attempts and currency**

Candidates will be permitted a maximum of six attempts for the MRCEM OSCE from August 2016. Attempts prior to August 2021 are counted towards the number of available attempts. Attempts at the MRCEM Part C examination prior to August 2016 will not count towards the number of available attempts. In exceptional circumstances candidates may apply for approval for an additional examination attempt. Such cases will be dealt with on a case by case basis at the discretion of the Dean, whose decision is final.

Candidates with a late diagnosis of a neurodiverse condition (such as dyslexia, ADD, ASD) and who have previously sat an examination component without agreed reasonable adjustments may apply to the Dean to expunge such attempts. Such cases will be dealt with on a case by case basis at the discretion of the Dean, whose decision is final.

A pass in the MRCEM OSCE (after 1 August 2012) will remain current. If at some future date it becomes necessary to replace it, holders of the MRCEM OSCE (who have not passed the MRCEM Intermediate SBA/FRCEM Intermediate SAQ/ MRCEM Part B) will be given a minimum of 24 months' notice of the date from which it will be deemed time expired.

### **Data sharing**

If you are registered or anticipate being registered with the GMC then your personal data, including your examination results, will be passed to the GMC for quality assurance and research purposes and to facilitate the awarding of certificates for completion of training (CCTs).

If you are a trainee in UK Emergency Medicine training programme, your personal data, including your examination results will be shared with your local Health Education England (HEE) office and/or your Head of School or Programme director.

## Structure and Content of the MRCEM OSCE

The MRCEM OSCE consists of an Objective Structure Clinical Examination of 18, seven minute stations. An additional one minute of reading time is provided for candidates between each OSCE station.

The MRCEM OSCE objectively samples the clinical and communication skills of trainees and ensures that they are those of someone ready for entry to higher training. The MRCEM OSCE assesses the common competences and clinical competences required for the evaluation and immediate management of common clinical conditions seen in the Emergency Department in adults and children. Competence in children's emergencies is expected at a level delivered in a general Emergency Department and focuses mainly on the seriously ill and injured child, or the management of common childhood emergencies.

The MRCEM OSCE is conducted in English and candidates are advised that IELTS Level 7 is the expected standard for completion of the MRCEM and FRCCEM examinations.

The MRCEM OSCE is blueprinted against the [Emergency Medicine 2021 curriculum](#):

Station		Specialty Learning Outcome
1	Complex stable patient	SLO1
2	Complex stable patient	SLO1
3	Complex stable patient	SLO1
4	Complex stable patient	SLO1
5	Answer questions	SLO2
6	Answer questions	SLO2
7	Resus	SLO3
8	Resus	SLO3
9	Injured patient	SLO4
10	Injured patient	SLO4
11	PEM	SLO5
12	Procedural skills	SLO6
13	Procedural skills	SLO6
14	Procedural skills	SLO6
15	Complex challenging situations	SLO7
16	Complex challenging situations	SLO7
17	Supervise & teach	SLO9
18	Supervise & teach	SLO9

## Standard Setting and Examination Results

The MRCEM OSCE will be standard set in a conjunctive manner using the Borderline Regression Method and the requirement to pass at least one resuscitation station. One standard error of measurement will be added to the cut score identified using the Borderline Regression Method to calculate the final pass mark. In addition to achieving the pass mark, candidates will be required to pass at least one of the resuscitation stations in order to achieve a pass overall.

The results for the MRCEM OSCE will be published by 17:00 on a pre-advised day, approximately five weeks after the date of the examination. Results will be released to candidates' College website accounts where results letters can be downloaded on demand. Examination results will not be issued or confirmed by telephone or email.

### Required Examinations Entry/Progression into ST4 from 1 August 2021

Trainees in a GMC approved, UK training programme are advised of the requirement to complete the following examinations in order to progress or enter ST4:

- **MRCEM by examination**
  - MRCEM Part A (after 1 August 2012) **or**  
FRCEM Primary (after 1 August 2016) **or**  
MRCEM Primary (after 1 August 2021) **or**
  - Granted exemption (MRCS or MRCSI after 1 January 2012) **and**
  - MRCEM Part B (after 1 August 2012) **or**  
FRCEM Intermediate SAQ (after 1 August 2016) **or**  
MRCEM SBA (after 1 August 2021) **and**
  - MRCEM Part C/OSCE (after 1 August 2012)
  
- **FRCEM Primary and FRCEM Intermediate Certificate**
  - MRCEM Part A (after 1 August 2012) **or**  
FRCEM Primary (after 1 August 2016) **or**  
Granted exemption (MRCS or MRCSI after 1 January 2012) **and**
  - MRCEM Part B (after 1 August 2012) **or**
  - FRCEM Intermediate SAQ (after 1 August 2016) **or**  
MRCEM SBA (after 1 August 2021) **and**
  - FRCEM Intermediate SJP (after 1 August 2017)

Candidates are reminded that the GMC normally considers an examination pass to be current so long as the candidate enters or re-enters an approved training programme within seven years of passing the examination and satisfies any other College currency requirements.

## **Guidance for Candidates with Additional Requirements**

The College is committed to supporting candidates by providing fair opportunities when undertaking examinations. Candidates may submit a request for reasonable adjustments and should note that the responsibility for requesting adjustments lies with them.

Please refer to more detailed guidance [here](#).