



Royal College of  
General Practitioners

**MRCGP [INTERNATIONAL] DUBAI**

**EXAMINATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**2023 REGULATIONS FOR MRCGP [INTERNATIONAL]  
EXAMINATIONS IN DUBAI**

## INTRODUCTION

The examination for International Membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners (MRCGP[INT]) complies with the principles of Good Medical Practice (General Medical Council of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and The Code of Medical Ethics (Ministry of Health of the United Arab Emirates).

The examination was re-accredited after a visit in November 2022 by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP).

The examination for Membership is a credit accumulation examination. The main features of this are:

- A pass in all three modules is required to pass the examination overall.
- The modules may be taken at the same session or at different sessions, and in any order.
- All modules must be passed within three years of the date of passing the first module. Credit for a module expires three years from the date of taking it unless all three modules have been passed.

The examination is composed of three modules:

- a written paper
- an applied knowledge test (AKT)
- a consulting and clinical skills assessment (CCSA)

Each is available twice a year. Exams are held each Spring and Autumn.

## INFORMATION

For assistance you may contact the office of the General Coordinator of the MRCGP International Examination Board in Dubai by telephone:

**Ms. Rhodora Cecilia Diaz Manlucu**

Tel: + 971 4 219 1092

Monday to Thursday - 9am Till 3pm

Friday – 9am till 11am

By email to: [RDManlucu@dha.gov.ae](mailto:RDManlucu@dha.gov.ae)

## DETAILED REGULATIONS

### Eligibility

Candidates must either

- Have completed, or expect to have completed within 3 months of the written examination, not less than 3 years' duration full-time (or the equivalent part time) in a vocational training course for family medicine, that is officially approved in his/her country of origin.

Or

- Have practiced for a minimum of 3 years full-time, (or the equivalent part time), as an independent (i.e. unsupervised) primary care (Family Medicine Practitioner) in a primary care setting.

Candidates must be active primary care (Family Medicine) practitioners at the time of their application.

Candidates who fulfil the above criteria are eligible for the examination regardless of their gender, ethnic origin, nationality or religion.

**The final decision as to a candidate's eligibility rests with the MRCGP International Examination Board of Dubai.**

### The Written Paper

The exam is available twice a year. The total time for the exam is three and a half hours. It consists of twelve questions that can be attempted in any order. The Glossary (Pages 2-3) explains the terms used in the questions with examples. Candidates are advised to go through the Glossary before they start answering the questions. Candidates can leave at any time except in the last 10 minutes of the exam. The completed papers are the property of the examination board.

Candidates receive exam instructions once their application has been accepted and no later than one month prior to the exam.

### Applied Knowledge Test (AKT)

The exam is available twice a year.

The total time of the exam is three hours. It consists of 200 questions and candidates are expected to answer all of the questions. There is no negative marking. Candidates will be given an examination booklet and an OPSCAN answer sheet. Answers should be made on the OPSCAN sheet by filling one box only for each question using the pencil provided. The answers are marked by computer.

## **Consulting and Clinical Skills Assessment (CCSA)**

Consulting and clinical skills are assessed in the CCSA module, in which candidates consult with a number of standardized patients who are portrayed by role players.

This contains 14 cases of 10 minutes' duration. All cases are designed to test consulting skills in combination with clinical examination skills as appropriate to the problem presented and patient needs.

## **Exam Venue**

The written and multiple choice papers and the CCSA are held in a center approved by the Dubai Health Authority (DHA) nominated by the examination board. Candidates are informed of the venue(s) once their applications have been accepted.

## **CPR certificate**

Candidates must provide evidence of proficiency in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) including the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). The certificate of proficiency must be submitted before you complete the examination.

## **Examination fees**

The fees for the examination are set annually by the examination board. Fees must be paid at the time of application.

## **Results**

The pass list (including those gaining merit or distinction) will be published in the examination center no later than 14:30hrs ten working days after the last module of a particular session.

Candidates will be individually notified by post of their result. The notification will be posted within 20 working days of the results being published.

Results will not be given over the telephone, but candidates may be notified through the email address given on their application form.

## **Complaints**

Complaints are taken extremely seriously.

Any complaint concerning the conduct of the examination must be notified in writing to the general co-ordinator of the examination board no later than 24 hours after completion of the module.

Anonymous complaints will be accepted, considered and taken seriously and, although of course no individual feedback can be given, they will contribute to the quality improvement of the examination.

### **Appeals**

Any appeals against a result must be in writing and received by the examination general co-ordinator no later than 2 weeks after the date that the individual results were notified to the candidate.

Appeals must be made by the candidate; appeals by third parties will not be considered. Appeals must be accompanied by a fee equivalent to the application fee for module appealed. In the event of the appeal being successful, this fee will be returned to the candidate.

Appeals will be decided by a committee comprising the Chairman or vice Chairman of the Examination Board, the International Development Adviser of the RCGP, the General Co-ordinator of the Examination Board and the Coordinator(s) of the module(s) appealed, who are empowered to ask for evidence from the examiners concerned.

## **APPLICATIONS**

Applications must be made on the form supplied by the MRCGP International Examination Board of Dubai each year.

Applications must be received after the opening dates and no later than the closing dates of any particular session.

Acknowledgement of receipt will be sent by post or email if preferred.

Completed application forms must be accompanied by:

- a photocopy of the candidate's valid passport
- a photocopy of the candidate's current certificate of full registration with the relevant licensing or regulatory body
- a photocopy of the candidate's qualification(s)
- **evidence of the candidate's eligibility to practice as independent family practitioner, with evidence of a minimum of three years of recent independent primary care (family medicine) practice or of completion of 3 years of a recognized vocational training course for family practice (see above)**
- **evidence that the candidate is an active primary care (Family Medicine) practitioner at the time of application**

- **Recent passport-sized photographs endorsed by a senior professional colleague with the words "I certify that this is a true likeness of [candidate's name]"**
- The correct examination fee
- A stamped and self-addressed postcard with which the examination board can acknowledge receipt of the application. No acknowledgement will be possible without this postcard.

## **WITHDRAWALS / POSTPONING**

Candidates may withdraw their application for examination, but their examination entry fees will be abated as shown below:

- 25% will be deducted from your full payment if you withdraw your application more than 4 weeks before the date of the exam.
- 50% will be deducted from your full payment if you withdraw your application between 2 to 4 weeks before the date of the exam.
- 75% will be deducted from your full payment, if you withdraw your application between 1 to 2 weeks before the date of the exam.
- Your full payment (100%) will be forfeited (deducted) if you withdraw your application less than 1 week prior the date of the exam.

## **DISABILITY AND SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES**

Where necessary and if it is possible the board will adapt the examination procedures to the needs of individuals afflicted by permanent or temporary disability. Candidates requesting such consideration must complete the appropriate section of the examination application form and notify the general coordinator of the examination board of their specific difficulties and requirements not later than 6 weeks before the start of the written papers of a particular session.

## **PUNCTUALITY**

Candidates must arrive before the examination briefings start.

Candidates arriving after the start of the briefing for the Written paper, Multiple Choice Exam and CCSA will be deemed to have failed to attend. They will not be allowed to take the module that day.

Failure to arrive on time will result in your full payment (100%) being forfeited. Please remember traffic in Dubai can be heavy, and flight can sometimes be delayed. Please allow enough time for your journey!

In order to be permitted to take the exam, **you must arrive before the briefings start.**

## **SECURITY**

No books, other written materials or electronic equipment (including mobile phones, calculators and smart watches) may be brought into the examination hall. Candidates using such devices will be disqualified and fail the module.

No material may be removed from, or copied with the intention of removing from, the examination hall. **Anyone detected in attempting to do so will be disqualified and fail the module**

## **CHEATING**

Any candidate shown to have cheated in any part of the examination will be deemed to have failed all modules of that particular session and will only be able to re-take the examination at the discretion of the examination board.

Any false declaration related to candidate's identity will lead to failure of candidate.

All instances of cheating or false declaration will be reported to the regulatory/licensing body of the doctor concerned.

***Note: Submission of an application will be taken as confirmation that you accept the conditions and regulations set out in this document.***

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **The Written Paper**

In the written paper the Pass/Fail standard is limen referenced. Every examiner who marks an individual question also submits a recommendation for the pass mark on that question. These are coalesced into an overall pass score for the paper. Each candidate's raw scores are scaled to compensate for minor variations in marker performance and to ensure that all questions make equal contributions to the outcome.

### **The Applied Knowledge Test**

The standard for the applied knowledge test is set using a modification of the generally accepted Angoff's procedure, where a group of judges estimates the performance of a notional 'just good enough to pass' candidate. The standard takes account of the 'guessing factor' always present in multiple choice tests.

Candidates, whose corrected scores fall below the notional pass score by not more than the agreed standard error of measurement are given the benefit of the doubt and are deemed to have passed.

Passes with merit for each module are awarded to approximately the top 25% of candidates. However, this is a criterion-referenced, not a peer referenced examination, and the board therefore retains the right to determine the exact proportion of candidates deserving of merit after taking into account the overall standard achieved in any particular diet

In order to ensure that standards are set at appropriate and realistic levels, in addition to the external examiners, representatives of outside bodies with a stake in the outcome of the examination are periodically invited to participate in the standard-setting process for both papers. These include relevant representatives of DHA, Dubai Medical College, other academic institutes and recently qualified family practitioners nominees.



## **APPENDIX 2**

### **CCSA module:**

This comprises **14 cases**

**The consultation and clinical skills are assessed in each of the 14 cases.**

Candidates are presented with standardized challenges, which they are expected to deal with using their consultation and clinical examination skills as appropriate to the problem presented and patient needs.

### Conduct of the **CCSA** module:

There are 14 consecutive CCSA cases, divided into 2 sessions.

Each case lasts 10 minutes with 2-minute in-between.

There is a 10 minutes break after the first 7 cases, during which candidates remain in their consultation room. Talking to other candidates is not allowed during the breaks or throughout the examination

Candidates are asked to bring the examination tools for examining a patient that are usually present in each consultation room in a family clinic or a health center, includes (stethoscope, ophthalmoscope, otoscope, tuning forks, hammer, torch, etc...)