

MFDS Examinations – Frequently-asked Questions (Updated January 2014)

Answers to frequently-asked questions regarding this examination are given below. We hope this information will provide the details you require. The Regulations for the examination are available on our website at www.rcpsg.ac.uk. However, if you wish to make any further enquiries, please e-mail us at mfds@rcpsg.ac.uk

Who is offering the MFDS (2007)?

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh collaborate on this examination and have produced a single set of regulations for the two Colleges. Candidates may enter through only one College for any particular diet.

The MFDS (2007) examination is a different examination to those offered by the Royal College of Surgeons of England or the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

What is the format of the examination?

There are two parts to the MFDS examination – Part 1 and Part 2.

Part 1 consists of a single written paper containing 200 multiple choice questions (single best answer and case cluster type). The Part 1 examination stands alone, candidates being awarded either a pass or a fail.

Part 2 consists of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) totalling two hours' duration. Candidates will be awarded either a pass or a fail. There is no requirement to submit a portfolio.

Candidate guidance is available on our website.

When does the examination take place?

Each part of the examination is held at least twice a year. In the UK Part 1 is normally held in April and October and Part 2 is normally held in May and November. Full details of examination dates and centres can be found on our website.

Is the examination held overseas as well as in the UK?

Yes, subject to demand. The Part 1 examination is held in our centres in Chennai, Dharwad, Dubai, Muscat and Tripoli. The Part 2 examination will be held subject to sufficient numbers to ensure viability. Full details of examination dates and centres can be found on our website and will be updated as further information becomes available.

What is the examination fee?

The current UK Part 1 fee is £555 and the UK Part 2 fee is £675. Fees are correct at the time of publication: the College reserves the right to amend these fees in advance of the closing date. Details of fees relating to specific examination diets can be found on our website.

What are the eligibility requirements for the examination?

For Part 1 you must be in possession of a primary dental qualification acceptable to the Councils of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

For Part 2 you must have written confirmation of a pass at Part 1 or must qualify for an exemption from Part 1. Candidates must also provide evidence of completion of 12 months' experience in clinical dentistry before the closing date for entry to the Part 2 examination they wish to sit.

Are there any exemptions available?

Yes. A list of available exemptions can be downloaded from our website.

Is there a requirement to gain experience in clinical dentistry within approved posts?

No. Clinical dentistry experience does not have to be obtained within approved posts in order to enter the examination.

Can the experience I gained during my overseas internship be counted as part of the required 12 months' postgraduate experience?

Yes, but only if your internship took place after graduation and only if you have completed the required 12 months' postgraduate experience by the closing date for applications.

How do I qualify for the award of the Diploma?

You will be eligible for the award of the Diploma on successful completion of the Part 2 examination. No further training is required.

Can I apply to sit Part 1 and Part 2 at the same time?

No. You must receive written confirmation of a pass at Part 1 before applying to sit Part 2. For example, if you sit and pass Part 1 in an October diet, then the earliest you can sit Part 2 would be in the next diet in May of the following year.

What is contained in the syllabus for the MFDS examination?

Details of the syllabus are available as part of the Regulations document on our website.

Are there preparatory courses and study guides available for the examinations?

A reading list is available on our website. Details on study guides will be posted on our website, as they become available. Preparatory courses are run within the College at various times subject to demand. Details and application forms are available via the College website at www.rcpsg.ac.uk/dentistry/education-events-and-cpd

The College also offers a comprehensive MFDS Trainee Package which allows you to pay for both examinations and preparatory courses over 12, 18 or 24 monthly instalments and entitles you to free introductory membership. Full details of this package are also available on our website at www.rcpsg.ac.uk/dentistry/mfds-trainee-package

Is the MFDS (2007) examination required for entry to the Dental Specialty Membership Examinations?

No. However, MFDS or equivalent is usually required for entry into approved specialty training programmes in the UK.