



Forthcoming changes to MFDS examinations

Information for candidates

The **Membership of the Faculty of Dental Surgery (MFDS)** qualification will be changing over 2026 and 2027. You should read the information issued about the new tri-collegiate examination offered by the three UK Surgical Royal Colleges. It will provide information on the new examination, its level and assessment strategy.

This document will be helpful to you if you have already begun to study or sit the existing MFDS examination offered by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

Should I sit the existing examination or wait for the new examination?

If you have not yet started studying for the current MFDS, we recommend preparing for the new examination, which will be available from 2026.

If you have already begun studying or have sat any parts of the existing MFDS examination, you should use this information to assist in your decision. Please read the information carefully and use the contacts at the end of the document if you require more information.

It is important to note that part-completion of the existing MFDS will not offer exemption from any part of the new MFDS. This is because the new examination is set at a higher level. For example, if you only complete Part 1 of the current MFDS and do not pass Part 2 before the examination ceases, you would be required to sit Part 1 of the new MFDS examination.

How does the change affect the upcoming examination schedule?

MFDS Part 1

The final sittings of MFDS Part 1 under the current syllabus will take place on 14 April 2026 and 6 October 2026.

Candidates who wish to complete the existing MFDS are advised to sit the April 2026 diet, as the October sitting will be the final opportunity to take Part 1. Those unsuccessful in April will have the option to resit in October. Any candidate may choose to sit the examination on 6 October 2026 but must be clear that this is the final examination under the existing syllabus.

Candidates should note that anyone who does not pass Part 1 by October 2026 will need to sit the new MFDS examination when it becomes available.

Please also review the information below on Part 2 to understand how these dates align with the completion of the full MFDS.

MFDS Part 2

The remaining sittings of MFDS Part 2 under the current syllabus will take place in the UK in April 2026, November 2026 and Spring 2027.

The UK examination in Spring 2027 will be the final opportunity to sit MFDS Part 2 under the current syllabus.

Information on final exams at international centres should be directed to the College running the centre using the contact details below.

Candidates who do not pass Part 2 in the final sitting in Spring 2027 will be required to undertake the new MFDS examination, sitting both Part 1 and Part 2. No exemption is available from the old syllabus to the new syllabus as this is set at a different level.

I have enrolled for an existing examination but based on this information would like to withdraw and wait for the new examination. Is this possible?

Yes, and a full refund will be available if the request to withdraw is made before the closing date of the examination. Please contact the College with which you enrolled to discuss this.

Where can I find more information?

You can find more information about the new examinations on the Dental Specialty Fellowship Examinations [website](#).

You can also visit the college websites, or contact us by email:

[Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh website](#), or email dental.exams@rcsed.ac.uk

[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow website](#), or email mfds@rcpsg.ac.uk

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