



**The Royal College of
Emergency Medicine**

Regulations and Information Pack

Examinations for the Award of MRCEM

Applicable from 1 August 2016

Updated September 2018

Contents

1. [Introduction to the RCEM Examination Structure](#)
2. [Examination Regulations](#)
3. [Introduction to Membership by Examination \(for the award of MRCEM\)](#)
4. [Required Examinations for the Award of Membership by Examination \(MRCEM\)](#)
 - a. [FRCEM Primary](#)
 - b. [FRCEM Intermediate SAQ](#)
 - c. [MRCEM OSCE](#)
5. [Eligibility Criteria for the MRCEM OSCE](#)
6. [Exemption and Equivalent Examinations](#)
 - a. [MRCEM Part A](#)
 - b. [MRCEM Part B](#)
7. [Oversubscription Criteria](#)
8. [Number of attempts and currency](#)
9. [Required Examinations for the Completion of UK Training](#)
10. [Structure and Content of the MRCEM OSCE](#)
11. [Standard Setting and Examination Results](#)
12. [Guidance for Candidates with Additional Requirements](#)

Introduction to the RCEM Examination Structure – applicable from 1 August 2016

In August 2016 the College introduced the current suite of examinations, mapped to the Emergency Medicine 2015 Curriculum. Success in all components leads to the award of Fellowship by Examination (FRCEM).

The College continues, however, to offer **Membership by Examination** (MRCEM) for candidates who have passed all of the following examinations:

- FRCEM Primary (or MRCEM Part A between 1 August 2012 and 1 August 2016 or granted exemption)
- FRCEM Intermediate SAQ (or MRCEM Part B between 1 August 2012 and 1 August 2016)
- MRCEM OSCE (previously called Part C. Passed after 1 August 2012)

From August 2018, the full Fellowship examination consists of the following components:

- FRCEM Primary Examination
- FRCEM Intermediate Certificate:
 - Short Answer Question Paper
 - Situational Judgement Paper
- FRCEM Final Examination:
 - Critical Appraisal (Short Answer Question Paper)
 - Quality Improvement Project (QIP)
 - Clinical Short Answer Question Paper
 - Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

For further information regarding the FRCEM Primary, the FRCEM Intermediate Certificate or the FRCEM Final examinations please refer to the relevant Information and Application Pack, available on the [Exams Section](#) of our website. If you have any queries regarding the implementation of the new examination structure, please email exams@rcem.ac.uk.

Examination Regulations

1. Applications for each component of the FRC EM 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. 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.
4. Candidates in a GMC approved, UK training programme, must be registered or enrolled with the College and have paid the appropriate trainee administration fee/s.
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. Detailed written instructions confirming the exact date, timetable for, and location of the examination will be emailed individually to all candidates once the final allocation of examination spaces is confirmed, approximately four weeks prior to the examination.
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 Examinations Manager or Director of Education 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 Director of Education will consider requests to transfer a candidate's entry to the next diet, subject to receipt of written documentation (e.g a detailed medical certificate, a death certificate for a direct family member). Please note that insufficient preparation is not considered a sufficient reason to transfer 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 on the College website. Result letters and feedback will be posted to candidates within four weeks of the publication of results. 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. Until August 2016, the College's examination has been divided into two distinct examination structures: the MRCEM and the FRCEM. As explained above, after August 2016, the College's examination structure is being redefined to reflect that success in the entire suite of examinations leads to the award of Fellowship by Examination (FRCEM). However, the College continues to offer Membership by Examination (MRCEM) for candidates who have passed all of the following examinations:

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

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

FRCEM Primary

The FRCEM Primary examination is a direct replacement for 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 FRCEM Primary examination, including format and blueprint, please see the FRCEM Primary Information Pack available on [our website](#).

FRCEM Intermediate SAQ

The FRCEM Intermediate SAQ is a direct replacement for the MRCEM Part B examination and continues to be mapped to the competences of Year 1-3 of the Emergency Medicine 2015 Curriculum (ACCS Plus) which is available on the [2015 Curriculum page](#) of our website. The Short Answer Question Paper comprises of a 3 hour paper of 60, 3 mark questions. For further details on the FRCEM Intermediate SAQ paper, including format and blueprint, please see the FRCEM Intermediate Certificate Information Pack available on [our website](#).

MRCEM OSCE

The MRCEM Objective Structure Clinical Examination (OSCE) is mapped to the competences of Year 1-3 of the Emergency Medicine 2015 Curriculum (ACCS Plus) which is available on the [2015 Curriculum page](#) of our 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 (Part C) examination 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 FRCEM Primary examination after 1 August 2016 **or**
- d) Has passed the MRCEM Part A examination after 1 August 2012 and prior to 31 July 2016 **and**
- e) Has passed the FRCEM Intermediate SAQ after 1 August 2016 **or**
- f) Has passed the MRCEM Part B examination after 1 August 2012 and prior to 31 July 2016 **and**
- g) Has 36 months experience including 6 months experience in Emergency Medicine at a level above Foundation Year 1 (post full registration)

Candidates should note that from 1 August 2018 it is a requirement that candidates have passed the FRCEM Primary (or MRCEM Part A after 1 August 2012) and the FRCEM Intermediate SAQ (or MRCEM Part B after 1 August 2012) in order to be eligible to sit the MRCEM OSCE.

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

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.

After submission of the online application, as part of the approvals process, the candidate's Educational Supervisor/Training Programme Director/Head of School or sponsoring consultant is asked to validate that the candidate has completed the required training experience, is familiar with the curriculum and understands the standard required and that the candidate's standard of English is equivalent to at least IELTS Level 7.

Exemptions

MRCEM Part A

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

MRCEM Part B

MRCEM Part B passes obtained prior to August 2012 are deemed time expired and such candidates are required to pass the FRCEM Intermediate SAQ examination. Candidates who passed the MRCEM Part B examination after 1 August 2012 are deemed to have passed an equivalent examination to the FRCEM Intermediate SAQ examination.

Oversubscription Criteria

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

For sittings at UK examination centres candidates will be allocated a place to sit the examination in the following order until 31 July 2018:

- Candidates in approved CT3/ST3 UK training post
- Candidates in Year 3 of approved Irish training programme
- 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 Part C/OSCE from August 2016. 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.

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 Part B/FRCEM Intermediate SAQ) will be given a minimum of 24 months' notice of the date from which it will be deemed time expired.

Candidates who have been awarded Membership by Examination (MRCEM) prior to August 2018 will remain eligible to sit the Final FRCEM examinations. Candidates who obtain MRCEM after August 2018 will be required to pass the FRCEM Intermediate SJP (in addition to the FRCEM Primary and FRCEM Intermediate SAQ or accepted equivalents), irrespective of when they passed the MRCEM Part C/OSCE, in order to be eligible to sit the FRCEM Final examinations.

Structure and Content of the MRCEM Final Examinations

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 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. The full breadth of the major and acute presentations listed in the ACCS curriculum will be tested. Additional presentations in the higher training curriculum will not be tested in the examination. 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 FRCEM examinations.

Standard Setting and Examination Results

The MRCEM OSCE will be standard set using the Borderline Regression method. One standard error of measurement will be added to the cut score identified using the Borderline Regression Method to calculate the final pass mark.

The results for the MRCEM OSCE will be published on a pre-advised day approximately four weeks after the date of the examination. Result letters and feedback will be posted to candidates within four weeks of the publication of results. Examination results will not be issued or confirmed by telephone or email.

Required Examinations Entry/Progression into ST4

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 obtained prior to 31 July 2018**
 - 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) **and**
 - MRCEM Part C/OSCE (after 1 August 2012 and before 31 July 2018)
- **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) **and**
 - FRCEM Intermediate SJP (introduced after 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 recognises that some candidates may require reasonable adjustments when undertaking examinations. The responsibility for requesting reasonable adjustments lies with the candidate. Any candidate who wishes to request reasonable adjustments **must** indicate the requirements at the time of application. Candidates **must** provide a report from a relevant professional outlining their specific needs and the adjustments required.

Each request will be assessed by the College on its own merit. Candidates will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application for reasonable adjustments and of the arrangements that will be made to meet their needs.