

MRCS/DO-HNS Additional Attempts Information

Introduction

All medical royal colleges and faculties are required by the General Medical Council (GMC) to introduce a limit on the number of attempts at their examinations. The maximum number of attempts allowed at each part of the MRCS/DO-HNS examinations is:

MRCS Part A (MCQ) – 6 attempts
MRCS Part B (OSCE) – 4 attempts.
MRCS Part B (OCC) – 6 attempts – (end date 31 January 2016)
DO-HNS Part 1 (MCQ) – 6 attempts
DO-HNS Part 2 (OSCE) – 4 attempts

Candidates are also reminded that they should complete the examination process within a seven year time period as recommended by the GMC.

When does the policy come into effect?

The policy will come into force as of 1 June 2015.

GMC notice

The original statement from the GMC can be viewed on the GMC website:

- <http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/postgraduate/9813.asp>

What will happen to candidates who have reached the maximum number of attempts?

Candidates who have had the maximum number of attempts will not be eligible to attempt the examination again unless evidence of additional educational experience is provided. To be considered for **a maximum of one additional attempt**, the candidate's Educational Supervisor will be required to confirm that the candidate has demonstrated an improvement in knowledge and skill so that a pass result is highly likely at the next attempt before any further attempt is allowed.

How to apply for the additional attempt required

The procedure is:

- Discuss your training with your Educational Supervisor (or equivalent) to locate areas of weakness and discuss an educational plan designed to target these weak areas.
- Once additional educational experience has been undertaken, discuss with your educational supervisor (or equivalent) when you should attempt the examination again.
- Please note that there is a **one-year time limit** to use the additional attempt from the date you are notified that the additional attempt is granted.

- Download and complete the additional attempt form at:
[http://www.intercollegiatemrcsexams.org.uk/pdf/Additional%20Attempts_App%20Form_April2015\(Clean\)Final.pdf](http://www.intercollegiatemrcsexams.org.uk/pdf/Additional%20Attempts_App%20Form_April2015(Clean)Final.pdf)
- The Additional Attempt application form should be completed in conjunction with the relevant set of Examination Regulations.
- Your educational supervisor and training programme director (or equivalents) must sign the form and provide an official stamp for the hospital/institution of their workplace confirming that you have demonstrated an improvement in knowledge and skill so that a pass result is highly likely at the additional attempt. Your Educational Supervisor/Training Programme Director must then scan in a copy of the form and email it to the College to which you wish to apply. Please note the form must be emailed from your educational supervisor's email address. For more information on this refer to the Guidance notes for Educational Supervisor/Training Programme Director in Appendix 1 of the application form.

Once the form has been received it will be verified by the College to which you have applied and restrictions will be removed from your examination record (if granted); this will normally take one calendar month. You will be notified if and when your application has been granted. Only at this time will you be able to apply online or by paper for the additional attempt. Candidates can only apply for one additional attempt. It is the candidate's responsibility to have cleared the necessary additional attempt paperwork before the examination application deadline. Candidates cannot apply for an exam until their additional attempt application has been approved.

- As per the Regulations, if you have previously been successful at a component of MRCS Part B (OCC) you will need to submit your additional attempt application to the College to which you have previously sat successful attempts as all OCC components must be taken with the same College.
- If your additional attempt relates to MRCS Part B (OCC) please note that this exam will no longer be available after 31 January 2016.