



Regulations for European Specialty Examination Candidates

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1. Introduction

These regulations apply to the European Specialty Examinations (ESE):

- European Geriatric Medicine Specialty Examination (EGeMSE – pilot)

Responsibility for the organisation of the ESEs has been devolved by the examination partners listed below to the Membership of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom (MRCP(UK):

EGeMSE

- European Union of Medical Specialties (UEMS) Geriatric Medicine section
- British Geriatrics Society

The regulations are designed to ensure that:

- All candidates have equal and fair access to, and experience of, the examinations.
- The standard and integrity of the examination is not compromised.

These principles should be kept in mind when interpreting these regulations.

The examinations will continue to change to reflect developments in medicine, regulatory requirements and Equality and Diversity legislation – candidates should refer to the relevant section of the MRCP(UK) websites for the most up-to-date information, and examination regulations.

Any dispute concerning the interpretation of these or any other MRCP(UK) Regulations will be referred to the Medical Director, whose decision will be final.

By submitting an application for the examination, candidates are confirming that they have read and understood, and will abide by, these regulations, and the guidance on the examination website.

2. The European Specialty Examinations

The European Specialty Examinations run by MRCP(UK) are:

- European Specialty Examination in Nephrology
- European Specialty Examination in Gastroenterology and Hepatology
- European Geriatric Medicine Specialty Examination (pilot)

Throughout this document these examinations will be collectively known as European Specialty Examinations (ESEs).

The ESE is a summative test designed to assess a trainee's scientific and clinical knowledge of their specialty. In some cases, it is a prerequisite for successful completion of training. It also provides a professional standard against which physicians can measure their level of knowledge attainment. Additional detail regarding the purpose of the examination is available on the individual examination websites. Questions for each ESE are set from the areas outlined in the examination blueprints, which are available on the MRCP(UK) and EGeMSE websites.

2.1 Format

The ESE is a two-paper test delivered using an online platform known as Remote Online Proctoring (ROP); further information about how the system works and the technical requirements can be found on the MRCP(UK) website. Each of the two papers is three hours and consists of 100 'best-of-five' questions.

2.2 Marking system

The ESE is criterion referenced. Further details can be found on the MRCP(UK) website.

The marking system for the ESE is as follows:

- One mark is awarded for each correct answer
- No mark is deducted for an incorrect answer (i.e. there is no negative marking)
- No mark is awarded or deducted if a question is left unanswered.

A candidate not achieving the pass mark in the ESE will be deemed to have failed.

3. Applying for the ESE

3.1 Entry requirements for ESEs

Every candidate for a European Specialty Examination must hold a medical qualification awarded by an institution that awards primary medical degrees and is recognised by the UK General Medical Council (GMC): www.gmc-uk.org or the [World Directory of Medical Schools](#). Candidates who are or have been registered with the GMC (or equivalent body), must include their GMC number (or equivalent registration number).

Candidates who are not registered with the GMC will be required to provide a copy of their primary medical qualification. Candidates will only be required to provide an authenticated copy if requested by MRCP(UK). Candidates who have already submitted a PMQ when applying for the MRCP(UK) Part 1 examination do not need to provide this again when they apply for a Specialty Certificate Examination.

Candidates are not required to have completed the MRCP(UK) Diploma to sit a European Specialty Examination.

3.2 Application process

Applications can only be made online through the MRCP(UK) or EGeMSE website. Candidates are not permitted to apply for any examination using a third-party organisation. Late entries cannot be accepted.

Under no circumstances should a candidate create more than one online account or register for the same examination more than once using a duplicate online account. Creating a duplicate account may result in a delay to your application for the examination and you may incur additional fees for each account created.

If candidates have difficulty creating an online account or are concerned about their application, they should contact MRCP(UK).

It is the candidate's responsibility to provide full and accurate contact details (e-mail address and telephone) at the time of registration, and to ensure that any change is notified to MRCP(UK) as soon as possible.

Provision of false information on the application form for any part of the examination will be regarded as an act of suspected misconduct and be investigated accordingly.

3.3 Payment

Details of the current fees are published on the MRCP(UK) and EGeMSE websites.

Candidates will not be permitted to take any part of the examination unless a copy of their PMQ has been submitted or their GMC registration verified, and all outstanding fees have been paid in full. If payment of fees and submission of PMQ are not completed by the provided deadline, the candidate's application will be rejected. Once rejected, an application cannot be reinstated.

Candidates who do not complete their application will be liable for an administration charge of 10% of the relevant examination fee and will not be able to apply again until this is paid.

Candidates transferring fees from outside the UK should remember that banks deduct their charges from the sum being transferred. The Royal College of Physicians must receive the full ESE fee in pounds sterling, so candidates must themselves pay the bank charges.

3.4 Language requirements

The ESEs are conducted in English.

Candidates are advised that in order to be sufficiently prepared to sit the ESE, their English language ability should be equivalent to International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Level 7.5. However, candidates do not need to have taken IELTS, or any other language examination, to sit the ESE.

The ESE cannot be used to demonstrate competence in the English language.

3.5 Limited number of attempts

Candidates are permitted a maximum of six attempts at an ESE (as required by the GMC). After six attempts, a candidate will be able to apply for an exceptional additional attempt using the process outlined on the MRCP(UK) website. Requests must be based on undertaking additional education or training that will assist with passing and supporting evidence must be submitted. Requests for an additional attempt cannot be based on exceptional circumstances, as candidates have the right to withdraw from an examination prior to sitting. Requests will be considered by the MRCP(UK) Regulatory Sub-Group, whose decision on whether it should be granted will be final.

3.6 Candidates with constraints on their practice

Candidates who have been erased from their local medical register as maintained by the regulator (for example, the General Medical Council in the UK) for reasons related to fitness to practise are not permitted entry to the ESE.

Candidates who are suspended from practice by their regulator and/or their employer are not permitted entry to the ESE until the suspension has been lifted.

Candidates who are subject to any warnings, interim orders, undertakings or conditions on their practice from the regulator and/or their employer must declare this information to MRCP(UK) upon application, using the MRCP(UK) and Specialty Certificate Candidate Declaration Form. Candidates are also required to disclose information as to why the condition or undertaking has been imposed. Any information provided will be checked with the regulator or the candidate's employer where necessary. This will be reviewed by MRCP(UK) prior to the examination and will be taken into account in deciding whether a candidate is permitted to sit the examination. This decision on whether a candidate is permitted to take the examination will be communicated within two weeks from the date the information was received. MRCP(UK)'s decision on these matters is final.

Candidates should note that failure to declare conditions, warnings or suspension as required:

- at the time of application
- prior to the examination date for which they have entered,

will result in penalties being applied as defined in the MRCP(UK) Code of Conduct and Misconduct Regulations.

3.7 Name discrepancies and name changes

Candidates will not be allowed into any MRCP(UK) examination without appropriate identification (ID). All ID documents must be in date, and the name on the candidate's ID must **EXACTLY** match that on the admission document issued by MRCP(UK). This will be the name registered on MyMRCP(UK), usually your first/given name(s) followed by father's name or family name.

If the name under which a candidate is applying for the examination is different from the name that appears on their primary medical qualification or the GMC register, they will need to submit a certificate from the issuing university or an affidavit stating that the candidate (in his or her full name) is the same person as that named on the primary medical qualification or GMC register. A candidate who changes their name by marriage or deed poll must submit the original or authenticated documentary proof of this if they wish to be admitted to the examination in their new name.

Candidates must also notify MRCP(UK) if the name as it appears on the photographic identification that will be used to gain entry to the examination is different from the name that appears on their primary medical qualification.

It is the candidate's responsibility to resolve any discrepancies with MRCP(UK) before the examination. Please contact MRCP(UK) with any queries regarding name discrepancies.

Candidates are advised to provide authenticated copies of any original documentation or provide documentation by email ahead of the examination date. MRCP(UK) cannot accept responsibility for any items lost in transit.

MRCP(UK) records, and the MRCP(UK) diploma, show given names followed by the family name, for example, Alan John Smith.

3.8 Submission of documentary evidence

Candidates, particularly those based outside the UK, are advised to provide copies of any original documentation or provide scanned copies of documentation by email. MRCP(UK) reserves the right to request to see original documents if there is any doubt about documentation provided.

3.9 Re-entry candidates

Candidates who wish to re-sit an ESE should re-apply online, using their original RCP code.

3.10 Reasonable adjustments

Candidates sitting any MRCP(UK) examination who have a disability as defined by the [Equality Act 2010](#) are entitled to request reasonable adjustments to the examination. Further information, including how to apply for an adjustment, can be found in the MRCP(UK) Reasonable Adjustments Policy. To ensure that requests can be accommodated, Pearson Vue may need to rearrange test centre bookings. Candidates will be informed if this is necessary.

3.11 Withdrawal from the ESE and refund of fees

Candidates have the right to withdraw from the examination after submitting an application. Any candidate wishing to withdraw should contact MRCP(UK) by email, providing their RCP Code Number, full name, and date of birth to assist with identification. A withdrawal will not be counted as an attempt.

Requests to withdraw can be submitted at any stage up to 48 hours of the examination start time without supporting evidence. Candidates whose withdrawal request is received by this stage will be refunded 60% of the examination fee paid (40% of the fee is retained as an administrative charge).

Refunds will not be provided where candidates request to withdraw after this time and up to start of the examination unless evidence of exceptional circumstances is submitted. In these situations, candidates should contact MRCP(UK) within four weeks after the date of their examination. Requests will be reviewed by MRCP(UK) management, whose decision on whether any refund is made, and the percentage retained where appropriate to cover costs, will be final.

4. Examination Day

4.1 General standards of behaviour

Candidates presenting themselves for the ESE must have complied fully with all admission requirements, including the payment of fees.

The standards of behaviour expected of those applying to, and sitting the examinations, are outlined in the MRCP(UK) Candidate Code of Conduct. Any breach of the examination rules

<p>and regulations will result in a misconduct investigation and the possibility of severe penalties, including exclusion from future examinations and reporting to the relevant local medical regulator.</p>
<p>4.2 Absence</p> <p>Candidates who do not attend the examination, without notifying MRCP(UK), or who do not complete both papers on the same day, will be recorded as absent.</p> <p>Absence will count as an attempt at the examination.</p> <p>Except as provided in section 3.11 of these regulations, examination fees are non-refundable.</p>
<p>4.3 Cancellation</p> <p>On very rare occasions, it may be necessary for an ESE to be cancelled. In these circumstances, MRCP(UK) will refund the examination fee of any affected candidate. A cancelled examination will not count as one of the candidate's six attempts allowed for an examination (see Limit on Attempts).</p> <p>MRCP(UK) will not be responsible for any expenses (such as travel or accommodation) incurred by a candidate in the event of such a cancellation.</p>
<p>4.4 Attending the ESE</p> <p>Any infringement of the following rules and regulations may be reported to MRCP(UK) for consideration in accordance with the MRCP(UK) Code of Conduct and Misconduct Regulations.</p> <p>Candidates should start the registration process for their examination at the time indicated on their admission emails. Candidates will not be permitted to sit the examination if they start the registration process more than 30 minutes later than the indicated time unless they have been affected by technical difficulties.</p>
<p>4.5 No ID, No Entry</p> <p>Candidates should have the MRCP(UK) issued admission document along with their ID – information on how the process is carried out is provided on the MRCP(UK) website. Candidates who do not present their ID will be reported by their proctor to MRCP(UK) and will not be permitted to proceed with the examination until the ID has been verified.</p> <p>In accordance with paragraph 3.8, Candidates will not be permitted to sit the examination unless they produce suitable valid identification, which must be in date. This will normally be a passport. Where candidates do not possess a passport, some other form of identification may be acceptable, provided that it includes both the photograph and signature of the candidate (see list of Primary ID documents below). Electronic state identity cards or proof of residency documents issued by the government of the country in which the candidate is resident will also be accepted (photographs or scans of identity documents such as passports are not permitted).</p>

Acceptable Primary ID Documents:

- Current valid passport (containing photograph and signature)
- Full or provisional photocard driving licence
- EEA Member State identity photocard
- National identity photocard for non-EEA foreign nationals
- Identity card issued by the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland
- Electronic state ID card or residence document issued by the relevant authority
- Alternatively, two forms of identification, one with a photograph and the other with a signature, will be accepted (see list of Secondary ID documents).

Acceptable Secondary ID Documents:

Two forms of secondary ID will need to be shown together e.g., NHS/Hospital Identity card with a debit card; at least one of these **MUST CONTAIN** a photograph and a signature (this does not necessarily need to be in the same piece of ID):

- Valid credit or debit card
- Valid student card with photograph
- NHS/Hospital Identity card
- Paper driving licence
- Certified copy of passport or driving licence. *

*These documents must be accompanied by an official stamp or letter from the issuing organisation in order to qualify as an acceptable form of ID. Self-made photocopies will not be accepted without such official corroboration.

Additional forms of ID may be considered provided candidates contact MRCP(UK) well in advance of the examination.

Candidates should ensure that the name on their ID exactly matches the name on their admission document. Where names do not match, candidates must contact MRCP(UK) well in advance of the examination for advice.

Admission to the examination will be at the discretion of the proctor, and proctors have the right to question a candidate further if they are not satisfied with the identification that has been provided.

The Royal Colleges of Physicians observe sensitivity in the visual identification of candidates, but advance notice should be given by candidates of any anticipated difficulties.

4.6 During Examination**(i) General Rules**

Candidates sitting an online examination will be monitored by a remote proctor (invigilator) for the duration of both papers and must comply with any instructions given. Proctors may speak to candidates during the examination.

Examination content must not be copied or recorded in any way. If a proctor suspects that a candidate is attempting to copy examination content they will speak to the candidate, ask them to stop any activity, and make a report of the incident to MRCP(UK).

Candidates are permitted to use blank paper for making notes (a maximum of six loose pages, i.e., not bound in a notebook).

Candidates must not switch off their webcam or screenshare feed during the examination (see paragraph 4.6 (a) (iv) below). Technical difficulties should be reported to the proctor or using the help facility as soon as possible during the examination so support can be provided in resolving these. Candidates should report any issues encountered to MRCP(UK) after the examination so these can be taken into account during results processing.

Candidates must:

- Ensure that they are in an appropriate environment for sitting the examination with no other people present and demonstrate this to the proctor prior to starting. If more than one candidate is sitting from the same address, candidates should inform MRCP(UK) ahead of the examination and ensure that they are sitting in different rooms.
- Accept the non-disclosure agreement prior to starting the examination.
- Complete both examination papers in the correct order on the same day or their results will not be counted.

Candidates are permitted to:

- Submit their answers and exit from the examination system if they finish before the advertised end time. They are not required to stay online for the full duration of the paper if they have completed it.
- Use devices connected to their computer to ensure uninterrupted internet connectivity during the examination. These devices should not be capable of storing information, accessing the internet, or communications and MUST be shown to the proctor during the set-up process.
- Have drinks or snack on their desks.

(ii) Breaks in online examinations

Candidates are permitted to take one break of a maximum of five minutes during each paper. They should indicate to the proctor that they are taking a break, but do not need to wait for permission to leave their desk. No additional time will be added to the examination to compensate for breaks. The proctor will record the time that the candidate leaves their desk and when they return. If a candidate takes more than one break, or a break longer than five minutes, their performance will be subject to an enhanced review of the proctoring record and analysis of their keystroke/clickstream data obtained after the examination.

Candidates who require to take longer or more frequent breaks for medical reasons should request this through the Reasonable Adjustments process. Supporting evidence will be required for such requests.

(iii) Violations

A room scan will be conducted at the start and end of the examination to ensure that the candidate's environment is appropriate. A proctor may ask a candidate to conduct a room scan during the examination if they believe that the regulations have been breached.

To prevent academic misconduct during online examinations, and to ensure that they are not interrupted by proctors, candidates are NOT permitted to:

- Look at a mobile phone, tablet, or any other device capable of communication or storing information. All such devices must be removed from the examination environment prior to starting, and this must be confirmed with the proctor during initial checks. Candidates can use mobile phones if they need to contact MRCP(UK) in the event of encountering technical difficulties during the examination.
- Wear any of the following items (this will be checked during the registration process):
 - earplugs or headphones
 - any clothing that can be used to hide materials, i.e., hooded jumper. Items worn for religious purposes are permitted and discretion will be exercised in conducting ID checks.
 - Sunglasses (unless permitted for medical reasons) or smart glasses.
 - Watches (including smart watches).
- Switch off their webcam or screenshare feed.
- Access any web pages other than the ones required for sitting the examination. Any other web pages that candidates have open before starting the examination should be closed. Candidates can access email accounts if they need to contact MRCP(UK) in the event of encountering technical difficulties during the examination.
- Access other applications on their computer.
- Take screenshots of or copy examination content.
- Talk to anyone outside the room or attempt to communicate with anyone else sitting the examination using phones or email.
- Use multiple screens or connect the computer they are using to an external screen.
- Use a calculator.
- Have textbooks or notes in the examination environment (blank paper is permitted).
- Sit in a room that is too dark.
- Angle their laptop or camera upwards or have their face obscured.
- Vape or smoke.

If proctors identify any of the above behaviour, they will make a record of this, and it will be reported to MRCP(UK). Candidates will also be reported if they are seen to be looking away from their screens repeatedly or looking at their hands or wrists.

Candidates are reminded that in all MRCP(UK) examinations statistical methods are used to detect anomalous candidate behaviours which may be regarded as academic dishonesty. In the online version of examinations these will be supplemented by the detailed analysis of 'click streams' so that candidates' progress through the examination can be monitored and assessed and can be compared with video and other records of candidate behaviour. Further information can be found on the MRCP(UK) website.

5. After the examination

5.1 Candidate results

Examination results will be communicated to candidates in accordance with the timescales indicated on the relevant examination website.

Candidates are not allowed to claim that they hold the European Specialty Examination or use the post-nominal until they have passed the examination and fulfilled the other requirements.

5.2 Post-nominals

All candidates who pass the ESE are entitled to use the post-nominal 'ESE (Specialty)'. This replaces the previous regulation which linked use of the post-nominal to completion of the relevant UK training programme.

5.3 Circumstances affecting results

In the event of a procedural irregularity in the conduct of the examination, or exceptional circumstances that adversely affected a candidate's performance, candidates should inform the MRCP(UK) as soon as possible after the examination by submitting an appeal. Details of the process and grounds for appeal can be found on the appeals page of the MRCP(UK) website.

5.4 Anomalous results

MRCP(UK) treats its responsibility to protect patient safety and ensure that the public can have full confidence that its qualifications reflect the highest standards of UK medicine with the utmost seriousness. Candidates are advised that MRCP(UK) may withhold or annul results and require a candidate (or a group of candidates) to re-take any part of the MRCP(UK) Diploma. This action will be taken if MRCP(UK) is presented with:

- sufficient evidence that the security of any part of the examination has been compromised;
- statistical evidence, based on accepted psychometric procedures, which demonstrates that a candidate's results are highly unlikely to accurately reflect their performance.

MRCP(UK) reserves the right to enforce this in the absence of evidence of direct candidate involvement in any activities that may be investigated under the misconduct regulations. Where possible candidates will be informed of any such action being taken prior to the published date for the release of results for the relevant examination.

5.5 Missing or Incomplete Marks

In the event of a significant procedural error occurring during an examination the Examination staff should record whether this has adversely affected the performance of a candidate or group of candidates. This should be referred to the officers of the relevant examining board after the examination has finished, and they will decide whether to treat the marks for the affected section of the examination as missing or incomplete.

Such marks will be reviewed in accordance with accepted psychometric procedures to determine the probability of a candidate passing if the procedural error had not occurred. This will be used to inform the decision of an examining board about the pass/fail status of affected candidates, and if any additional remedy is appropriate. The decision of the examining board in these instances will be final.

Candidates should note that this procedure is not part of the standard appeals process and will only be used in exceptional circumstances.