

Exam fees frozen for 2014

Fees for all Federation examinations will be frozen at their current level throughout 2014, the MRCP(UK) management board has agreed. This decision applies to all three parts of the MRCP(UK) Diploma examination and all 12 of the Specialty Certificate Examinations (SCEs).

Last year, fees for the MRCP(UK) Diploma examinations increased in line with the UK inflation rate, at 2.6%. The fees for the SCEs were frozen in 2013 so for these examinations, 2014 will represent the second year without an increase.

The decision to freeze exam fees acknowledges that the current financial environment is difficult for the NHS and trainees, who received a basic pay increase of just 1% in 2013. In addition, many trainees are now carrying increasing levels of student debt. Colleagues in other countries are also facing financial strains, and the Federation wants to keep the examination affordable for all candidates.

MRCP(UK) is in a fortunate financial position because past fee increases have kept up with inflation, operations are efficient, and growing international demand has provided some additional income. It is only right to share these benefits with candidates, especially when they face pressing financial times.

Responsible stewardship also requires MRCP(UK) to maintain a certain level of budget surplus, to ensure an ability to meet unexpected changes in demand, or other circumstances that might arise. Equally we have a duty to balance examination fees against expenditure, and the Federation has pledged to increase transparency for stakeholders so that they can be confident that their income is being spent responsibly.

We know that candidates are concerned about rising costs and we want to reassure them that MRCP(UK) is making significant investments to provide a cost-effective service, while maintaining the academic quality that our stakeholders tell us is so essential to the professional value of their exams.