

PACES 2020/3 Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I am sitting the exam in an international centre. Will I be examined on the modified format of the exam?

A. The modified exam format is running in the UK only. International centres will continue to run the previous 5 station PACES carousel.

Q. What happens if my exam is cancelled at short notice?

A. We will make every effort to deliver PACES as planned. If however, events out with our control cause late cancellations we will aim to advise you as far in advance as possible and will ensure you are prioritised for a place at the next sitting of the exam.

Q. What PPE will I be wearing?

A. You will be provided with a fluid resistant surgical mask, a plastic apron and gloves.

Q. Will I have to wear PPE at all stations?

A. PPE will not be required at stations 2 and 4.

Q. What if I cannot wear a mask?

A. You should submit a reasonable adjustment request well in advance of the exam day. Please visit: <https://www.mrcpuk.org/document/reasonable-adjustments-policy>

Q. Will I have time to don and doff PPE?

A. We have built in sufficient time to allow for PPE changes between patient encounters. Encounters will not commence until candidates have donned the appropriate PPE. The ability to don and doff PPE will not be assessed as part of the examination.

Q. Will I have to bring my own PPE?

A. PPE will be provided for all candidates at each exam centre.

Q. Can I wear surgical scrubs?

A. You can wear your own clothes or surgical scrubs. Please note that we cannot guarantee separate changing facilities at our host centres.

Q. What happens if travel restrictions are in place and I cannot travel to the exam?

A. Travel restrictions do not apply for purposes of work, training and examinations. These activities are considered essential and are therefore currently exempt from existing travel restrictions.

Q. Will I be asked to perform fundoscopy?

A. Identification of fundal abnormalities remains one of the capabilities we assess from the Internal Medicine curriculum, so it is possible that a candidate will be asked to use an ophthalmoscope. Our host centres will however consider the well-being of patients and candidates prior to including fundoscopy in the exam.

Q. COVID has affected PACES teaching. How will you make sure candidates are not negatively impacted by this?

A. MRCP UK is required by the GMC to maintain the current validity, reliability and standard of the exam. We will be closely reviewing results to ensure candidates are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged during this modified PACES examination format.

Q. Will the marking scheme be adjusted for this modified exam?

A. The encounters and marking scheme are unchanged. The only difference is the delivery method.

Q. Will I need to set up the computer, camera or microphone at stations 2 and 4?

A. The IT equipment will be set up in advance. Candidates will not be required to perform any set up.

Q. If I have technical difficulties at the online station 2 and 4 what will happen?

A. You should notify the administrator and /or examiners, who will be very nearby, immediately if you experience IT malfunctions. If there is an unresolvable technical failure, candidates will be offered the opportunity to make up the affected station(s) on a later date. Candidates may need to attend a different examination centre on a different day for this.

Q. When will I be offered the opportunity to retake station 2 and /or 4 if I experience an unresolvable technical failure?

A. We will try to accommodate this as soon as possible after the original exam date but we will liaise with affected candidates to try to ensure that they are offered a date/time that is suitable for them.

Q. Can I appeal if there are IT issues during my encounters?

A. You should notify the administrator and /or examiners immediately if you experience IT malfunctions. The regulations and appeals process are available on the MRCP website: <https://www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/regulations>

Q. If the rest station is my last station can I leave the examination early?

A. Candidates will not be allowed to leave early and must stay till the end of the exam. Please see the regulations: <https://www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/regulations>

Q. When will I receive my exam results?

A. For infection and quality assurance reasons we will be unable to provide results in the usual 10 working days in the UK. We hope to release exam results no earlier than 20 working days