

Clinical Examining Board Chair's letter – September 2021

MRCP(UK) Part 2 Clinical Examination (PACES)

The Federation continues to be extremely grateful to all who have participated in the PACES examination since it restarted in October 2020.

The Federation is gradually beginning to shift focus away from the pandemic crisis management, and beginning to consider how the examinations should run in the future. We will be seeking the views of examiners as we work on this over the next few months and encourage you to respond fully and openly to any requests for your views.

A set of FAQs about the Fair Assessment Equality & Diversity training for examiners has recently been published on the PACES Examiners page of the [MRCP\(UK\) website](#). If you have question about the training, please check to see if it is answered here.

2021/1 and 2021/2 diets

In the UK the 2021/1/ and 2021/2 diets ran in the modified format introduced in 2020/3.

The 2021/1 diet ran from mid-March to mid-May, and the CEB reviewed this diet at its meeting on 10 June 2021. A total of 987 candidates (686 in the UK, 317 internationally) attempted the examination, with an overall pass rate of 61.6% (63.8% in the UK, 57.8% internationally).

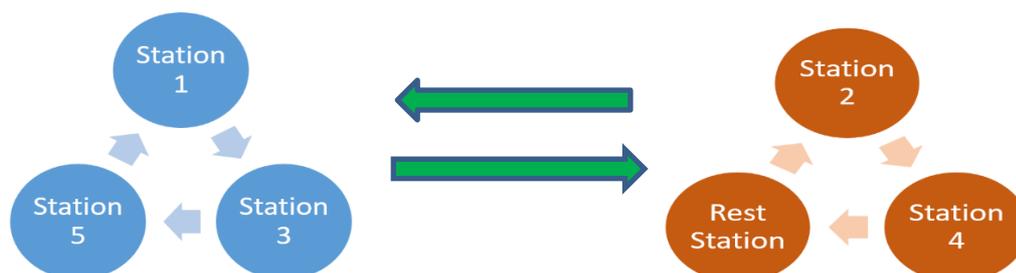
The 2021/2 diet ran from early June – mid August in the UK, offering just under 900 examination spaces. Full results from this diet are not yet available.

2021/3

For 2021/3, we have been able to increase the number of cycles and expect to offer in excess of 1000 places in the UK, running from late September through to late November. The three Colleges will again have waiting lists for places, and make strenuous efforts to fill any spaces that become available at short notice.

Candidates' training status will again be taken into account in allocating spaces, with IMY3/ST3/ACCS 3 trainees given the highest priority, followed by IMY2/ACCS 2 who have passed the Part 2 written examination.

The [amended format](#) will continue to run in the UK in 2021/3, with the communication mini cycle utilising remote examiners and surrogates. Any hosts who are unable to run this exact format should discuss this with their respective College and get any proposed modification formally approved well in advance of the examination in order to ensure that approval can be obtained and the candidates informed in advance.



We also hope to increase the number of places internationally in 2021/3. Where it is not possible to run the usual PACES format, centres may be able to run a model similar to that in the UK.

Wherever you are examining in 2021/3 please ensure you are familiar with the format and have viewed the COVID 19 PACES section of the [MRCPUK website](#).

Hot Topics – September 2021

- ❖ Examiners are reminded that it is **essential** that candidates demonstrate competence in skill A and B by physically examining patients in stations 1, 3 and 5, even if surrogates without physical signs are being used.
- ❖ Existing [Infection Control guidance](#) will remain in place for 2021/3, so please continue to ensure that you, and the candidates, continue to follow this.
- ❖ Please continue to **report any incident or issue, however minor**, to the Chair of Examiners on the day.
- ❖ If you are **examining remotely in the communication stations** in the UK, please ensure that you:
 - Turn off your camera/ video for the candidate:surrogate interaction
 - follow the instructions from the College for return of completed marksheets, and ensure the marksheets are returned securely and as soon as possible after the examination.
- ❖ Remember that trainees who have not yet passed PACES may assist in the examination provided that they are not a candidate at another centre in the current PACES diet. Trainees should not be used as patients or surrogates, however.



Dr Stuart Hood
Chair
MRCP(UK) Clinical Examining Board
stuart.hood@mrcpuk.org



Dr Tanzeem Raza
Medical Secretary
MRCP(UK) Clinical Examining Board
Tanzeem.Raza@mrcpuk.org