

## Regulations for MRCP(UK) examination candidates

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# MRCP(UK) Regulations for examination candidates

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## **1. Introduction**

These regulations apply to the MRCP(UK) Diploma from 1 January 2018, and cover the three parts of the Diploma: MRCP Part 1, MRCP Part 2 Written and MRCP Part 2 Clinical Examinations.

The MRCP(UK) Diploma will continue to change to reflect developments in medicine, and candidates should refer to the MRCP(UK) website (<https://www.mrcpuk.org/>) for the most up-to-date information, and examination regulations. By submitting an application for an MRCP(UK) examination candidates are confirming that they have read and understood, and will abide by, these regulations, and the guidance on the MRCP(UK) website.

The three Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK share a common diploma, and have devolved responsibility for the organisation of the examinations to MRCP(UK).

## 2. Format

The MRCP(UK) Diploma consists of three examinations: Part 1 written examination, Part 2 written examination, and Part 2 clinical examination (PACES). The MRCP(UK) Diploma is awarded on completion of all three parts of the examination.

Part 1 and Part 2 written examinations are multiple choice ('best-of-five' format) papers. The Part 2 clinical examination is the Practical Assessment of Clinical Examination Skills (PACES).

### ***Marking system for the Part 1 and Part 2 written examinations***

Candidates' overall results are calculated using a process called equating. This is a statistical process based on Item Response Theory, and it is used to ensure that candidates receive comparable results for comparable performance in different diets of the examination. Please refer to the MRCP(UK) website for details of the process and specific pass marks: <https://www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/results/exam-pass-marks>

The marking system is as follows:

- One mark (+1) 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;
- No mark is awarded if more than one answer is recorded or the answer is not sufficiently clear

### ***Marking system for Part 2 Clinical examination***

In PACES, candidates are assessed on their ability to carry out essential clinical skills. There are five clinical stations where there are either patients with a given condition, or trained stand-ins (surrogate patients). At each station, there are two independent examiners. To pass, candidates must attain a minimum standard in each of the seven skills and also a minimum total score across the whole assessment. Please refer to the MRCP(UK) website for details of the process and specific pass marks: <https://www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/results/exam-pass-marks> :

## 3. Entry requirements for MRCP(UK) Examinations

Every candidate for the MRCP(UK) Diploma 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](http://www.gmc-uk.org). 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 an authenticated copy of their primary medical qualification.

### **3.1 MRCP(UK) Part 1 Examination**

Candidates for the MRCP(UK) Part 1 Examination must have had at least 12 months' experience in medical employment by the date of the examination, i.e. must have completed Foundation Year 1 or equivalent. Candidates will therefore not be admitted to the MRCP(UK) Part 1 Examination until 12

months after the date of graduation given on their diploma of medical qualification. Where the date of graduation is significantly later than the date of completion of training, the date on which candidates received notice of passing their final examination may be considered. In such cases, candidates must submit documentary proof.

All candidates must pass Part 1 before they are eligible to apply for the Part 2 Written and Part 2 Clinical examinations (PACES).

### **3.2 MRCP(UK) Part 2 Written Examination and Part 2 Clinical Examination (PACES)**

Candidates for the MRCP(UK) Part 2 Written Examination and Part 2 Clinical Examination (PACES) must have passed the MRCP(UK) Part 1 Examination within the preceding seven years. Applications for these examinations can only be made once confirmation of passing the Part 1 examination has been received.

### **3.3 Experience requirement for PACES**

Candidates with less than two years' experience after graduation are unlikely to be able to apply their clinical knowledge or demonstrate their clinical skills across the broad range of cases required in the PACES examination. It is therefore recommended that candidates should have completed their two-year foundation programme and entered Core Medical Training (or an equivalent period of training) before attempting MRCP(UK) PACES. Within these two years, not less than four months should have been spent in posts involving the continuing care of emergency medical patients.

### **3.4 Limited number of attempts**

Candidates are permitted a maximum of six attempts at each part of the MRCP(UK) diploma (as required by the GMC). After six attempts, a candidate will be required to undertake additional educational experience for each re-sit and submit evidence of this: using the form at <https://www.mrcpuk.org/sites/default/files/documents/Additional-attempt-form.pdf>. Evidence will need to be supported by a candidate's Educational Supervisor, and the Training Programme Director or equivalent. In determining whether a candidate has sufficiently satisfied the requirements to enable them to undertake a further attempt, the decision of MRCP(UK) will be final.

### **3.5 MRCP(UK) Part 2 Written Examination and PACES Examination eligibility period**

Candidates who do not pass the Part 2 Written *and* PACES examinations within seven years of passing the Part 1 Examination will be required to take and pass the Part 1 Examination again. Candidates who re-enter the MRCP(UK) Part 1 Examination and pass will then have a further seven years in which to pass the Part 2 Written and PACES examinations.

The limit of six attempts for each part of the examination remains before having to provide evidence of additional educational experience (see <https://www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/regulations/limit-attempts>).

It is the candidate's responsibility, before applying for either the MRCP(UK) Part 2 Written or the PACES Examination, to ensure that they have enough time to pass both examinations within the seven-year eligibility period. Candidates will not be eligible for any refund of examination fees on the grounds that they have passed one of these examinations but no longer have time left to complete the other.

### **3.6 Candidates with constraints on their practice**

Candidates who have been erased from the GMC register (or that of an equivalent international body) for reasons related to fitness to practise are not permitted entry to any MRCP(UK) examination.

Candidates who are suspended from practice by the GMC (or equivalent international body) and/or their employer are not permitted entry to any MRCP(UK) examination until the suspension has been lifted.

Candidates who are subject to any warnings, interim orders, undertakings or conditions on their practice from the GMC (or equivalent international body) and/or their employer must declare this information to MRCP(UK) upon applying to any MRCP(UK) examination, using the MRCP(UK) and Specialty Certificate Candidate Declaration Form (<https://www.mrcpuk.org/declaration-form>). Candidates are also required to disclose information as to why the condition or undertaking has been imposed.

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, or
- when applying for election to membership,

will result in penalties being applied as defined in the MRCP(UK) Code of Conduct and Misconduct Regulations (<https://www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/regulations>).

### **3.7 Application process**

Details of how to apply are given on the MRCP(UK) website <https://www.mrcpuk.org/>.

All applications must be received by 23.55 h (GMT) on the advertised closing date. Late applications will not be accepted. Hong Kong candidates sending a paper application form are strongly advised to use a courier or recorded delivery service and to retain proof of postage. (Other candidates who do not have access to the internet may request a paper application form by emailing the Administration Office under which they wish to sit the examination.)

Candidates are not permitted to apply for any examination using a third party organisation, such as a travel agent.

### **3.8 Examination fee payments**

Details of the current examination fees, methods of payment, examination dates and opening and closing dates for applications are published on the MRCP(UK) website <https://www.mrcpuk.org/>

The preferred payment method is credit or debit card, and candidates who opt to make payment online using a credit or debit card can complete the application process entirely online.

Cash or cheque/banker's draft payment methods may increase the application processing time.

Cheques and banker's drafts should be made payable to 'The Royal College of Physicians'.

Candidates arranging payments from outside the UK should bear in mind that they may incur bank charges. The Royal Colleges of Physicians must receive the full examination fee in pounds sterling, so candidates must themselves pay any bank charges.

Enquiries relating to examination fee payments for applications to international PACES centres should be submitted directly to the centre concerned.

Candidates applying online who select to pay by either cash or cheque/banker's draft, and those who do not successfully complete the credit or debit card payment, will have their application marked as incomplete. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that the payment is made and their application is completed by the deadline.

In the case of cash payments, candidates are advised not to send cash by post. Credit/debit card details cannot be accepted by e-mail. Any card details received in emails or as attachments will be immediately deleted and payments will not be actioned.

### **3.9 Concessionary fees for MRCP(UK) Part 1 only**

MRCP(UK) offers a financial concession to doctors in the UK with refugee status who wish to pursue the MRCP(UK) diploma. The concession is offered in respect of the MRCP(UK) Part 1 Examination only and permits a reduced fee of £50 for entry to the examination for those eligible.

The concession applies only to examinations sat in the UK, and to doctors with the following status:

- Those who have been given refugee status and who are recognised as a refugee under the 1951 UN Convention;
- Those who have been given indefinite leave to remain in the UK with refugee status;
- Those who have been given exceptional leave to remain in the UK;
- Those with exceptional leave to remain (granted prior to 1 April 2003);
- Those with humanitarian protection (granted on or after 1 April 2003).

In order for a concession to be granted, at each application doctors must provide an original letter from the Home Office, or a refugee residence permit, confirming that they fall into one of the groups listed. No alternative documentation will be accepted. Requests should be made to the Administration Office of entry for the examination.

### **3.10 Names**

Candidates will not be allowed into any MRCP(UK) examination without appropriate identification (ID). 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 name(s) followed by surname.

#### ***Name discrepancies***

If the name under which candidates are 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.

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.

Names can have significant spelling variations, including those that are phonetically translated into English from other languages. For example the name 'MacDonald' may appear as 'McDonald' or 'Macdonald'; the name 'Mohammed' may appear as 'Mohamed', 'Mahammed', 'Mahamed', or 'Muhammed'. Such discrepancies will not be accepted for the purposes of entry to MRCP(UK) examinations, as they do not allow invigilators to accurately identify candidates.

It is the candidate's responsibility to resolve any discrepancies with MRCP(UK) before the examination. Please contact the relevant Administration Office (<https://www.mrcpuk.org/contact-us>) with any queries regarding name discrepancies.

### ***Name changes***

Candidates who change their names 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 names.

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

### ***Name format***

MRCP(UK) records, and the MRCP(UK) diploma, show forenames followed by the family name, for example, Alan John Smith. Correspondence will be addressed using the candidate's medical title followed by initials in place of each forename, then the family name as it appears on the candidate's diploma of medical qualification, for example, Dr A J Smith.

## **4. Candidate responsibilities**

Candidates should:

### ***(1) Ensure that their application is fully complete.***

Candidates must submit the application within the application period.

An application is considered complete only upon receiving full payment of fees and correctly attested Primary Medical Qualification (PMQ) or verified GMC registration. MRCP(UK) will contact candidates to advise them of any outstanding information and will provide a deadline for receipt.

Candidates will not be permitted to take any part of the examination unless a correctly attested PMQ has been submitted or their GMC registration verified.

Candidates will not be permitted to take any part of the examination unless all outstanding fees have been paid in full. Outstanding fees include where previous applications were submitted but not completed.

If payment of fees and submission of PMQ is not completed by the provided deadline, the candidate's application will be rejected. Rejection of an application for either of these reasons still leaves the candidate liable to pay the full examination fee. Once rejected, an application cannot be reinstated.

Candidates who withdraw or who are absent from the examination must ensure their application is complete as described as above in order to sit any future MRCP(UK) examinations.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that any correspondence is sent securely and received within given deadlines.

***(2) Provide full contact details***

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

***(3) Read and act on any correspondence from MRCP(UK)***

Candidates must ensure that they read all correspondence issued by MRCP(UK) up to and including the day of the examination.

On rare occasions changes to the examination arrangements may have to be made at short notice. MRCP(UK) will use the email address provided to inform candidates of these changes. Candidates who are absent or late for an examination because they did not read such an email will not be entitled to a refund.

***(4) Not give false information***

Giving 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.

***(5) Be feeling well enough to undertake the examination***

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that they are physically and mentally fit to sit the examination. Should a candidate feel unwell prior to the start of the examination, they should inform an invigilator and consider withdrawing from the examination. Candidates are reminded to be aware of their responsibilities as doctors to take into account any risks that their own health may pose to others, such as candidates and patients.

***(6) Consider the time required to obtain any necessary visas***

If a candidate requires a visa to sit an examination, it is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that they are eligible to receive a visa for entry to the specific country in which they are applying to sit.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that a visa application is made in sufficient time before the examination date for which it has been sought.

A refund will not be given if a candidate is unable to attend the examination as a result of visa-related problems. For more information, please visit the MRCP(UK) website:

<https://www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/international/visa-information>.

#### **4.1 Reasonable adjustments**

Any candidate who has a physical disability, specific learning difficulty or any other condition that they believe would disadvantage them compared with other candidates in an examination, may be entitled to reasonable adjustments.

It is the candidate's responsibility to notify MRCP(UK) of any reasonable adjustment request in writing at the time of application, and provide supporting evidence in line with the MRCP(UK) Reasonable Adjustment policy. Full details are provided in the Reasonable Adjustments Procedure available on the MRCP(UK) website: <https://www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/regulations>.

Candidates should not assume that previously agreed reasonable adjustments will be carried forward to a future examination. Candidates must notify MRCP(UK) or the Administration Office responsible for the centre of their choice of any request at each examination attempt.

If the requested adjustments cannot be implemented, the candidate may either withdraw from the examination or proceed without the adjustments.

Candidates who qualify for reasonable adjustments may not always be able to sit in the location of their choice.

Special arrangements purely for candidate convenience cannot be made; candidate convenience includes provision for night shifts, courses, seminars and any other clinical commitments.

#### **4.2 Candidate conduct**

The standards of behaviour expected of those applying to and sitting the examinations are outlined in the Candidate Code of Conduct (see <https://www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/regulations>).

Candidates are advised to be aware that any breach of MRCP(UK) Examination Rules and Regulations will result in a misconduct investigation and the possibility of severe penalties, including exclusion from further examinations and reporting to the UK General Medical Council (or equivalent).

MRCP(UK) uses various methods to identify candidates who attempt to copy, collude or perform some other act that may be regarded as academic misconduct in MRCP(UK) examinations. This includes an Anomaly Monitoring System (AMS) that seeks to detect instances of copying or collusion by looking for anomalous patterns of responses by candidates, the answers of one candidate being more similar to those of another candidate than would be expected by chance alone. If a pair (or group) of candidates is identified as having an unusually high proportion of similar answers then a further investigation is carried out looking at the centres where the candidates sat, the seating plan, and any other information that may have been provided by the invigilators and staff administering the examination. Should it be determined that there is sufficient evidence of possible misconduct, then the candidate(s) concerned will be contacted and the formal MRCP(UK) Misconduct Regulations may be invoked (see [MRCP\(UK\) Regulations](#)).

MRCP(UK) is fully aware that candidates could be implicated in an act of academic misconduct through the conduct of others. In order to avoid such allegations being levied where there is no evidence confirming which of the candidates is the guilty party, both candidates will be informed

that they have been identified by the AMS and will be required to sit separately from other candidates in future. There will be no assumption of guilt in making this request; it is simply a pre-emptive measure.

## **5. Withdrawal, absence and cancellation of examinations**

### **5.1 Withdrawal from the examination and refund of examination fees**

Notice of withdrawal from any part of the examination must be given in writing (by email) to the appropriate Administration Office, (or MRCP(UK) if the examination is to be taken outside the UK).

Candidates should give their RCP Code Number, full name and date of birth in their request to withdraw to allow College staff to identify candidates easily.

Examination applications and/or fees cannot be transferred from one examination to another.

Candidates whose withdrawal request is received on or before the application closing date will be refunded 90% of the examination fee paid (10% of the fee is retained as an administrative charge).

Refunds will not be made where candidates submit their withdrawal request after the closing date unless there are circumstances deemed exceptional that can be substantiated. (This does not apply to PACES candidates who are allocated places after the closing date.)

Withdrawal will not count as an attempt at the examination.

### **5.2 Absence**

Candidates who do not attend the examination, without notifying MRCP(UK) or Administration Office will be recorded as absent.

Refunds will not be made where candidates are absent unless there are circumstances deemed exceptional that can be substantiated.

Absence will count as an attempt at the examination.

### **5.3 Cancellation of examinations**

On very rare occasions, it may be necessary for MRCP(UK) to cancel an examination. In these circumstances, MRCP(UK) will refund the examination fee of any candidate allocated to the affected examination centre(s), and change the status of each affected candidate to 'withdrawn'.

Unfortunately, MRCP(UK) cannot be responsible for any expenses (such as travel or accommodation) incurred by a candidate in the event of such a cancellation.

A cancelled examination will not count as one of the candidate's six attempts allowed for an examination (see [Limit on attempts](#)).

## 6. Attending the Part 1 and Part 2 written examinations

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 (<https://www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/regulations>).

Candidates are advised to allow for any transport delays when planning their time of arrival at the examination hall as, for security reasons, we cannot guarantee that they will be permitted to enter the examination hall after the start of the examination.

It should also be noted that, in conditions of heightened security, the examination start time could be delayed. Candidates are therefore advised not to make homeward travel plans that could be jeopardised if the examination starts late or is interrupted for any reason.

Candidates should report outside the examination hall at least 30 minutes before the start of the examination and should not enter until instructed by the invigilator(s).

Candidates will not be admitted to any paper if they arrive more than 30 minutes after the examination has started, unless in exceptional circumstances with the express permission of the invigilator(s).

If a candidate is not permitted to enter the test room because they arrive late, the candidate will be considered [absent](#).

### 6.1 No ID, No Entry policy:

Candidates should bring the MRCP(UK) issued admission document to the examination along with their ID.

Candidates will not be permitted to sit the examination if identification provided is not in date.

Candidates will not be permitted to sit the examination unless they produce suitable identification.

This will normally be a passport. Where candidates do not possess a passport, some other form of identification may be acceptable, providing that it includes both the photograph and signature of the candidate (see list of Primary ID below).

#### ***Acceptable Primary ID:***

- \* 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

Alternatively, two forms of identification, one with a photograph and the other with a signature, will be accepted (see list of Secondary ID).

### **Acceptable Secondary ID**

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:

- \* 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 will be considered provided candidates contact their Administration Office or 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 the Administration Office or MRCP(UK) well in advance of the examination for advice.

Admission to the examination will be at the discretion of the invigilator(s), and invigilators have the right to question a candidate further if they are not satisfied with identification that has been provided (including if the candidate does not look sufficiently similar to their photograph).

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.

### **6.2 In the examination hall**

**(1)** All the required stationery will be provided by MRCP(UK) and candidates must use only the stationery provided.

**(2)** Pens, including highlighters, are not permitted unless they have been given prior approval as a [reasonable adjustment](#). Any rough work must be completed on the MRCP(UK) question booklet and not on admission documents.

**(3)** Candidates must not bring to their desk any papers, bags, textbooks or documents, or items of any kind other than those specifically allowed for that particular examination and previously notified to them.

**(4)** The possession of calculators, mobile phones, pagers, personal stereos, 'smart' wrist watches or any other such devices that are audible, make calculations, store information or can be used for communication are strictly forbidden on or around candidates' desks. These items must be switched off and stored with candidates' belongings in the designated area at the examination venue. Where

examination halls do not have secure areas to store personal items, any coats, bags or other item(s) brought into the examination hall should be deposited as directed by the invigilator(s).

**(5)** Any unauthorised items or material will be confiscated and a report detailing the incident and identifying the candidate will be submitted to MRCP(UK).

**(6)** With prior approval (via submission of a request for reasonable adjustments), candidates may bring into the examination hall aids that will enable them to remedy a disability e.g. of sight and/or hearing, or a medical condition (e.g. a glucometer for diabetes).

**(7)** If a candidate has unwittingly brought any unauthorised item into the examination hall, this should be handed to the invigilator(s) before the examination starts or at the earliest possible opportunity thereafter.

**(8)** Answer sheets are individually numbered (with Examination Numbers) in the top right-hand corner. Candidates must sit at the desk where the answer sheet is marked with their Examination Number.

**(9)** Candidates must not start reading or answering the examination questions until the start of the examination is announced by the invigilator(s).

**(10)** Candidates must comply with all instructions given to them by invigilator(s). Such instructions may include the instruction to leave the examination hall and not to return during the period of the examination.

**(11)** It is the duty of a candidate to comply with an invigilator's instruction even if they judge the instruction to be unreasonable. There is the right of appeal if a candidate considers that the invigilator has not acted in accordance with these Regulations.

**(12)** While in the examination hall, a candidate must not attempt to read the work of any other candidate or communicate in any way with any other candidate or any other person without the express permission of the invigilator.

**(13)** Candidates have a responsibility to help safeguard the security of the examination and their own work. Candidates should make efforts to ensure their work cannot be seen by another candidate, including when leaving the examination hall temporarily to visit the toilet.

**(14)** Candidates have a duty to report to an invigilator or MRCP(UK) any concerns they have that another candidate was attempting to read their work, or any other instances of possible misconduct they notice.

**(15)** Candidates who wish to attract the attention of the invigilator(s) during the examination should do so by raising a hand.

**(16)** Candidates should bring to the attention of the invigilator any factor (e.g. distracting noise) that is adversely affecting them during the examination. Where necessary they should communicate the same in writing to MRCP(UK) immediately following the examination concerned.

- (17)** Candidates must stay for the full duration of each paper. Candidates may not leave the examination hall as a result of finishing the examination paper early.
- (18)** Any candidate who leaves the examination early will have their examination attempt annulled, and may be investigated under MRCP(UK) Misconduct Regulations.
- (19)** Candidates must not leave the examination hall temporarily, during the period of the examination, unless given express permission by the invigilator(s) to do so. If such permission is given, they must be accompanied by an invigilator and must not attempt to contact any other person or consult any material relating to the examination while outside the examination hall.
- (20)** Candidates may not temporarily leave the examination hall, even to visit the toilet, during the first 30 minutes of any paper or in the 10 minutes before the scheduled end of each paper.
- (21)** Candidates should immediately stop working and stop using pencils/erasers when instructed to do so by the invigilator and remain in their seats in silence while papers are collected.
- (22)** Any candidate who is observed to be continuing work on their paper after the end of the examination has been announced will be reported.
- (23)** Candidates must not remove from the examination hall any papers or examination materials. All MRCP(UK) examination questions are confidential and are under the copyright of the Royal Colleges of Physicians. The Colleges reserve the right to initiate civil action and/or criminal prosecution if theft of intellectual property is suspected.
- (24)** Question papers or any part of them, including individual questions, must not be copied or removed from the examination hall.
- (25)** Candidates must not communicate any question or part of a question to any other person or organisation. Candidates should inform MRCP(UK) if they are asked to divulge examination content by any individual or organisation.
- (26)** When authorised to do so by the invigilator(s), candidates should leave the examination hall in an orderly manner.
- (27)** Candidates should note that if any information comes to light at a later stage that indicates that Examination Regulations have been breached, MRCP(UK) reserves the right to invoke the misconduct procedures retrospectively.

### **6.3 Invigilation**

Where an invigilator suspects a candidate or candidates of infringing MRCP(UK) Examination Regulations or examination hall rules, he or she may speak to the candidate(s) involved, making clear what is causing concern, and reminding them of the relevant regulations and instructions.

Invigilators may confiscate any unauthorised material in the possession of the candidate(s).

Invigilators compile a written report of the examination for MRCP(UK), including any incidents of suspected misconduct.

Invigilators are empowered to refuse to allow a candidate to continue with the examination on grounds of misconduct. Ejection from the examination should normally take place only in the event of a candidate's conduct causing disruption to other candidates.

## **7. Attending the MRCP(UK) Part 2 Clinical Examination (PACES)**

**(1)** Candidates must not seek to gain prior knowledge of the clinical cases or scenarios used in the examination.

**(2)** When applying, candidates are asked to declare all workplaces, training posts and courses attended in the past 12 months. Failure to do so may be regarded as suspected misconduct and be investigated accordingly.

**(3)** Any attempt to visit the hospital or examination centre (including as part of a training course) at which they have been allocated a place to sit PACES, after being notified of that placement, will be regarded as an act of suspected misconduct and be investigated accordingly.

**(4)** Candidates may not carry electronic devices, including telephones, pagers, 'smart' watches or other forms of communication devices, while in the examination.

**(5)** Candidates wishing to use their own electronic stethoscope or magnifying ophthalmoscope must inform the centre of their intention as soon as they arrive to permit examiners to have the opportunity to assess patients using it should they wish to do so. Candidates who fail to declare their intention in this manner may be prevented from using the equipment.

**(6)** All candidates should note that the examination will be conducted in strict accordance with the host centre's hygiene and infection control procedures. Infection-control policies vary from centre to centre. At examination centres in the UK you are usually required to wear a short-sleeved shirt or blouse with no neck-tie, and have short and clean fingernails, with no false nails, wrist watch or wrist jewellery (a plain wedding ring is acceptable). Candidates attending centres in the UK must come prepared to meet these criteria – failure to comply will mean that the candidate cannot sit the examination, and in these circumstances they will not be eligible for a refund.

**(7)** Centres outside the UK have not imposed dress requirements at the present time but, if such policies are introduced, candidates must comply with them to sit the examination.

**(8)** If any candidate anticipates difficulties in complying with a centre's infection control procedures or dress requirements they must provide details to MRCP(UK) when submitting their application.

**(9)** It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that they demonstrate the required skills within the time allowed. Examiners may give the candidate time reminders during the encounter.

**(10)** On rare occasions, a candidate may find that they have examined a patient previously, for instance, during training or a PACES preparation course. Candidates are required to inform the examiners at the station if they have met the patient before. Such a declaration will not prevent the candidate from completing the examination.

**(11)** Failure to declare prior knowledge of a patient will be regarded as misconduct and be investigated accordingly.

**(12)** Clinical scenarios must not be copied or removed from the clinical examination centres.

**(13)** All MRCP(UK) examination questions and clinical scenarios are confidential and are under the copyright of the Royal Colleges of Physicians.

**(14)** Candidates must not communicate any information about the cases in the examination, including any written instructions such as scenarios, to any other person or organisation.

**(15)** A candidate will be prevented from proceeding with the MRCP(UK) Part 2 Clinical Examination (PACES) if it is the examiners' view that he/she is too unwell to continue, or his/her conduct is likely to endanger the safety of patients, cause distress or disrupt other candidates.

**(16)** Where an examiner considers that a candidate is acting in an unprofessional, improper or inappropriate manner during the MRCP(UK) Part 2 Clinical Examination (PACES) they shall ask the candidate to stop that particular part of the examination and endorse the candidate's marksheet with a note of the time when the alleged infringement was discovered. The examiner will also consider whether the candidate in question may continue with the MRCP(UK) Part 2 Clinical Examination (PACES).

In such cases, a written report will be prepared by the examiner and submitted to MRCP(UK).

The MRCP(UK) Part 2 Clinical Examination (PACES) may be failed in the following ways:

- a candidate does not achieve the pass mark on one or more skills.
- a candidate does not achieve the overall minimum total score.
- a candidate who passes overall but receives a mark of 28 on the skill 'maintaining patient welfare' will have his or her overall performance reviewed by those appointed by the Clinical Examining Board to act on their behalf, and may fail the examination irrespective of total test score. The candidate may receive a pass mark based on their overall performance, or they may fail and receive further guidance (see below).

Candidates may apply for the MRCP(UK) Part 2 Clinical Examination (PACES) in the next application period once they have received confirmation of their fail result via the MRCP(UK) website. If the next application period opens before results are released for their current attempt, candidates are permitted to submit a provisional application. If a candidate is unsuccessful in their current attempt their provisional application will continue as normal. If a candidate is successful in their current attempt then any future application will be automatically cancelled and any fee already processed will be fully refunded.

In the unlikely event of loss or damage to marksheets, the eCPS file (Electronic Candidate Performance Summary) completed at the examination centre on the day of the examination will be used to determine a candidate's results.

### **7.1 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 MRCP(UK) as soon as possible after the examination by submitting an appeal. Details of the process and grounds for appeal can be found at <https://www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/results/appeals>

## **8. Progress through the diploma**

### **8.1 On passing Part 1 Examination**

Once they have received confirmation that they have passed the Part 1 examination, candidates can apply for the MRCP(UK) Part 2 Written and/or the Part 2 Clinical (PACES) Examination (in accordance with the recommendations for necessary clinical experience detailed in [MRCP advice and guidance](#)). Candidates will be permitted seven years from the date of the Part 1 Examination at which they were successful to pass the remaining parts of the diploma.

Candidates who have passed Part 1 cannot re-sit the Part 1 Examination until the seven-year period has expired.

### **8.2 On passing Part 2 Written Examination**

Candidates who have not yet passed MRCP(UK) Part 2 Clinical Examination must pass PACES before they can complete the MRCP(UK) diploma and be elected to Membership of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom.

Candidates do not need to wait until their result for MRCP(UK) Part 2 Written is confirmed before applying for PACES.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that they have a valid pass in both parts of the examination (Part 2 Written and Clinical) within their seven-year period of eligibility.

### **8.3 On passing Part 2 Clinical Examination (PACES)**

Candidates who have not yet passed MRCP(UK) Part 2 Written Examination must pass Part 2 before they can complete the MRCP(UK) diploma and be elected to Membership of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom.

Candidates do not need to wait until their result for MRCP(UK) Part 2 Clinical is confirmed before applying for Part 2 Written.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that they have a valid pass in both parts of the examination (Part 2 Written and Clinical) within their seven-year period of eligibility.

## 9. Completion of the MRCP(UK) Diploma and election to Membership

Once a candidate has successfully completed their final part of the diploma they will have their success confirmed in a posted results letter. This letter will include information about election to membership, and information about admission ceremonies. The Form of Faith should be completed and submitted to the candidate's college of entry for election to membership (<https://www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/form-faith>).

Candidates are required to declare details on the Form of Faith of any suspension, condition or undertakings on their practice (including interim orders) from the General Medical Council (or equivalent body) at the time of their application for election to membership.

By completing and submitting the Form of Faith, candidates are agreeing to abide by the Laws, Bye-Laws, Statutes and Regulations of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom. Copies of the Laws, Bye-Laws, Individual Statutes and Regulations relating to Members can be inspected on application to the respective Colleges.

MRCP(UK) Diplomas will not be issued until the signed Form of Faith has been received, processed and deemed to be satisfactory.

## 10. Additional regulations and procedures

Details of other MRCP(UK) regulations for candidates are available on the MRCP(UK) website at <http://www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/regulations>. These are as follows:

- Examination Appeals Regulations
- Examination Complaint Procedure
- Reasonable Adjustments Procedure
- Code of Conduct
- Misconduct Regulations

### 10.1 Language requirements

All parts of the MRCP(UK) Diploma are conducted in English.

As all assessments are conducted in English, the Royal Colleges of Physicians advise that in order to be sufficiently prepared to sit the MRCP(UK) Diploma, candidates' 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 MRCP(UK) Diploma.

The MRCP(UK) Diploma cannot be used to demonstrate competence in the English language.