

12. EXIT EXAMINATIONS

A comprehensive assessment will be held at the end of the prescribed training programme to test knowledge, skills, competencies and attitudes of the trainees in most courses of study. Few courses utilize continuous assessments and module examinations. For all these assessments, the assessment of all candidates would be based on the most recent approved assessment format. Those who are already scheduled to sit an examination in an older format within 12 months of a change of examination format will be given one more attempt based on the older format at the next scheduled examination if they so request.

The exit examination will consist of components such as multiple-choice questions, structured essay/essay questions, oral and clinical and practical examinations in addition to the assessment of a case book, log book, portfolio or thesis/dissertation, as prescribed.

Communication, history taking, preparing patient management plans and writing referral letters etc., as well as trainees' attitudes will be assessed in addition to knowledge and skills/competencies to be acquired by trainees during the period of formal training.

Trainees who have reached the stipulated standard for a pass in the prescribed components will be conferred a Postgraduate Diploma, Master of Science or Doctor of Medicine by the University of Colombo in the specialty concerned.

12.1 Submission of Publications in lieu of a Thesis for MD by Thesis programmes

12.1.1. A minimum of two publications in reputed indexed journals recognized by the relevant Board of Study will be accepted in lieu of a thesis for award of a MD degree by thesis (the director informed the Board that the format of the presentation has already been notified to the relevant BOS (Introductory Chapter, Papers, Concluding Chapter, Annexures).

12.1.2. Even in instances where a thesis rather than publications is submitted for award of an MD degree because of delay in achieving a journal publication, the content chapters of the thesis should be written in the format of two publications acceptable to indexed journals recognized by the relevant Board of Study, together with evidence of submission to the journals, and included as an Annexure.

12.1.3. Two publications in indexed journals recognized by the relevant Board of Study or evidence of acceptance for publication by the journals **must** be presented at the Pre-Board Certification Assessment in order to be considered for Board Certification. If there is any delay in submission of publications or submission of evidence of acceptance for publication by the journals, the extra period will be added to the due date of Board certification and the effective date of Board Certification will be delayed.

Submission of Theses / Dissertations /Case Reports/ Research Reports to the PGIM Institutional Digital Repository

With the consent of researchers, the full text of theses/dissertations/Case Reports/Research Reports submitted by postgraduate trainees will be published in the PGIM Digital Repository, after a period of one year from the acceptance of the Thesis/Dissertation/Case Report/Research Report

Until the researcher grants consent, and one year has elapsed from the date of acceptance, only the title and abstract will be published in the PGIM Digital Repository

The consent form is given in Annexure IX

12.2 Number of Attempts at Barrier /Exit /Final Examinations

- 12.2.1 Trainees would be allowed upto a maximum of six attempts at any barrier examinations within the training programme/course of study.
- 12.2.2 The permitted number at all exit examinations (MD/MSc/ PG Diploma/Certificate) shall be six (6). All six attempts should be completed within a period of eight years from the date of the first attempt. In reckoning the number of attempts, all scheduled examinations from the first attempt will be considered whether or not the trainee attempted successive examinations. However, in the event the trainee has not attempted a scheduled examination due to an acceptable reason, such as an illness substantiated by a medical certificate to the Board of Study/Board of Management or due to any other valid reason acceptable to the BOM and University Senate, such an attempt will not be counted in the determination of the number of attempts. When all attempts are exhausted, re-entry to the same programme will not be permitted, nor will the trainee be permitted to sit for the selection examination of the same training programme.
- 12.2.3 Any candidate in a training programme who fails the exit examination in the fifth attempt is strongly recommended to satisfy the following conditions before the sixth attempt.
- To be appointed to a training unit for further fulltime training of twelve months with a satisfactory report.
 - To undergo RITA/Portfolio Assessment evaluation every three months with satisfactory reports.
 - To sit for a MD mock examination (organized prior to the MD examination) and obtain a pass mark.
- 12.2.4 Trainees who are unsuccessful after their sixth attempt will not be permitted to sit the exit examination again for any reason whatsoever. However, a 'Letter Certifying Completion of Training' will be issued by the PGIM indicating the different components of the training programme completed with their duration.

12.3 Counting the Number of Attempts and Withdrawal of the Examination Application at exit examinations

- 12.3.1 Prospective applicants may withdraw their examination applications or be absent from the examination due to unavoidable circumstances.
- 12.3.2 The following stipulations will apply in such situations.
- Application for an examination will not be counted as an attempt provided that:
- The candidate withdraws his/her application after the date of closure of applications but prior to commencement of the examination for reasons that are acceptable to the Board of Study.
 - The candidate absents himself/herself from the **whole or component/s of the** examination without a prior intimation but submits a medical certificate from a Specialist acceptable to the Board of Study, in support of his/her illness.

- c. **The candidate absents himself/herself from the whole or component/s of the examination** due to sudden unavoidable circumstances which are acceptable to the Board of Study and Board of Management.

12.4 Determination of Number of Attempts in Respect of Certificate/ Diploma/ MSc/ MD Examinations

- 12.4.1 Trainees, on completion of the prescribed training programme should sit the first scheduled examination which will be counted as the first attempt.
- 12.4.2 For trainees who are unable to sit the first scheduled examination due to a valid reason the next scheduled examination will be considered the first attempt. If successful, they will be placed in the merit list at the position appropriate to their final mark.
- 12.4.3 It is the trainees' responsibility to inform the PGIM with reasons if they do not plan to sit a scheduled examination, one month before the scheduled date of the examination.
- 12.4.4 Trainees who have delayed sitting examinations due to reasons which are not acceptable to the Board of Study and the Board of Management will be subject to the examination rules and regulations which are in place at the time they sit the examination.
- 12.4.5 In instances where reasons given by trainees for not sitting the first scheduled or subsequent examinations are not acceptable to the Board of Study, the number of examinations held in between will be counted when determining the number of attempts, and the order of merit determined accordingly. Fees paid will not be refunded.
- 12.4.6 When a trainee is unsuccessful at one of the prerequisites/module examinations/ assessments during Pre MD training, and therefore is not be eligible to sit for the next scheduled MD Examination, and the said MD Examination shall be counted as an attempt.