Circular Letter No. 101/2020

My No. PGIM/EX/10/SE/MD/H.Info (20)
Postgraduate Institute of Medicine
160, Professor Nandadasa Kodagoda Mw
Colombo 7
30th September 2020

To: Director/NHSL, Colombo
    Directors/MSS of Teaching/General Hospitals,
    Regional Directors of Health Services,
  Deans of Faculties of Medicine/Medical Sciences/Dental
      Universities of Peradeniya/Colombo/Jaffna/Ruhuna/Kelaniya,
        Sri Jayawardenepura/Rajarata/Eastern

SELECTION EXAMINATION IN MD HEALH INFORMATICS – DECEMBER 2020

1. The above examination is scheduled to commence on **17th December 2020.**

2. Applications are invited by me from medical/dental officers in the state and non-state sectors possessing the following requirements to sit the Selection Examination for enrolment to the above in-service training programme.

    a) MSc in Biomedical Informatics from the PGIM

    OR

    b) Any other Master's Degree deemed to be equivalent to the MSc in Biomedical Informatics of the PGIM by the Board of Study.

    AND

    c) A minimum of one year's experience as a Medical officer/ Dental Surgeon in Health Informatics in the state health sector or in case of non-state sector or foreign applicants, similar experience. The applicants should submit written evidence of such experience for evaluation along with the application.

    AND

    d) Comply with any other general regulations of the PGIM relevant to selection of trainees.

    Notes:- The criteria prescribed in paragraph (c) must have been satisfied by the applicants as at the date of closure of applications, provided that where a short-fall has occurred due to any reasons including sick, maternity or other leave, the doctor concerned should complete such shortfall in order to become eligible to apply for the Selection Examination.

3. The applicants to be eligible for enrollment to the training programme should pass the selection examination. The current format of the selection examination for the perusal of applicants is described in the Prospectus 2015 and examination documents which are available on PGIM website.

4. The selection examination shall consist of a written examination & oral examination.
    a) Written Examination

    The written examination will consist of two structured essay papers,

    - Paper 1 will be from the information and communication technology domain. It will be a two (2) hour structured essay question paper containing four (4) questions.

- Paper 2 will be from the Health Domain. It will be a two (2) hour structured essay question paper containing four (4) questions.

b) The Oral Examination will consist of a structured *viva voce* of 15 minutes

5. To qualify for selection, the candidate should obtain an overall mark of fifty percent (50%) i.e. 500 out of 1000 marks or more and 40% or more in each of Paper 1, Paper 2 and viva voce.

6. Past Essay Question papers can be downloaded from PGIM website. (https://pgim.cmb.ac.lk/library/)

7. **Only a maximum of 20 candidates from the Ministry of Health (MOH)** who pass the Selection Examination will be enrolled in the training programme. Placements will be made purely in the order of merit. The details are available at the Examination Branch office of the PGIM and on the PGIM website under "General Regulations and Guidelines 2020". The **20th MOH candidate's marks will be taken as a cut-off line and the candidates in sections 9, 10, 11 and 12 will have to obtain a mark similar to this or above to be offered a place in the training programme.**

8. The final number of available training placements will be determined based on the total number of candidates above the cut-off line.

9. All candidates attached to **Other Government Ministries** who pass the Selection Examination and **"who are above the cut- off line"** will be enrolled in the training programme in order of the merit.

10. All candidates from the **Non-State Sector** who pass the Selection Examination and **"who are above the cut- off line"** will be enrolled in the training programme. They will be placed below the order of merit for candidates from the MOH, Other Government Ministries, State Universities and Armed Forces (including Police) based on the merit within the non-state sector category.

11. All candidates from **State Universities** who pass the Selection Examination and **"who are above the cut- off line"** will be enrolled in the training programme in the order of merit.

12. All candidates from the **Armed Forces (including Police**) who pass the Selection Examination and **"who are above the cut- off line"** will be enrolled in the training programme in the order of merit.

13. Following the examination and release of results the above numbers shall not be changed nor shall requests for such changes be entertained.

14. Each year only the scheduled Selection Examination in the approved examination calendar shall be held. No repeat or additional examination will be held.

15. The allocation of training units will be done as described in *"General Regulation & Guidelines – 2020"* and according to the approved procedure by the PGIM based on merit. The allocated training unit/s shall not be changed for personal reasons.

16. **The permitted number of attempts of an eligible candidate at a particular MD Selection Examination is limited to six (06). However, candidates who have already exhausted four (04) or more attempts would be allowed up to a maximum total six (06) attempts. This regulation comes in to effect from 27.05.2020.**

17. When a candidate is selected, he/she should register in the same year. If this is not done another eligible candidate will be selected. And the candidate, who refused, will not be permitted to register in the programme in a subsequent year with the same results unless a valid medical certificate from a consultant acceptable to the PGIM is submitted.

18. For all fulltime training programmes fulltime release from Ministry of Health is a prerequisite for enrollment. When relevant it may be necessary to sign a bond before such enrollment if such a requirement has been decided by the Ministry of Health, Other government Ministries, Universities or Armed Forces.

19. The relevant information of the training programme, MD Examination, requirements for Board Certification are described in the Prospectus and other relevant documents which are on the PGIM website.

20. The candidates who shall commence the Post MD (Senior Registrar) training after August 2011 should pass the Pre-Board Certification Assessment to be eligible for Board Certification.

21. Post-MD trainees should commence Post-MD overseas training within two (02) years after the expected date of completing local Post-MD training. Any delay will be added to the date of effective Board Certification. Post-MD trainees who delay commencing overseas Post-MD training by more than four (04) years after the expected date of completing local Post-MD training will have their trainee status terminated.

22. There should be no delay in submitting the dissertation or research report within the stipulated period as prescribed in the prospectus. If there is delay, the Board Certificate will be delayed accordingly.

23. Following the completion of prescribed requirements for Board Certification including overseas training the prospective trainee applies for Board Certification with the relevant documents within one month following the completion of such requirements. If this is not followed, the date of Board Certification will be delayed.

24. The prescribed fees for the examination for candidates in the state sector are as follows:

      (a) Application fee   -   Rs. 3,000.00 (non refundable)
      (b) Registration fee   -   Rs. 6,000.00 (non refundable)
      (c) Examination fees -   Rs. 37,000.00

(Only online payments through the PGIM online portal will be acceptable)

(Candidates from non-state sector will be charged 50% more of the above listed fees)

25. The application form can be downloaded from the website http://pgim.cmb.ac.lk.

26. Applications with **every cage duly filled** should be forwarded through the Head of the Department. The applications should reach the Senior Assistant Registrar/ Examinations, PGIM. No. 160, Professor Nandadasa Kodagoda Mw, Colombo 7 on or before **07th December 2020.** The envelope should be marked **"Application for Selection Examination in MD Health Informatics"** at the top left hand corner. **Incomplete applications and late applications will not be considered under any circumstances.**

27. The selected candidates should report to the training unit allocated to him/ her within one month on receipt of the letter of selection to the training programme and allocation to the training unit.

28. Please refer the new regulations laid down by Ministry of Health regarding release of Medical Officers of Department of Health in PGIM website – www.health.gov.lk

29. The results will be valid and official after confirmation by the Senate of the University.

30. The candidates will be issued an **"Examination Feedback Form"** with the admission documents. Feedback in Part II should be limited to concerns, if any, regarding the conduct of the examination (eg. perceived biases, discriminatory behaviour, harassment, intimidation) and NOT regarding the format or content of the examination. The form should be sent back to Director/PGIM under confidential cover **within 48 hours after conclusion of the examination. No concerns regarding the examination will be entertained after 48 hours of conclusion of the examination or following the release of results** nor will these be investigated by the PGIM.

31. A trainee following a PG Certificate or PG Diploma or MSc or MD programme shall not be permitted to sit another selection examination for a PG Certificate or PG Diploma or MSc or MD. If the trainee leaves the course before completion of a programme/course of study, he/she shall not be permitted to sit for another selection examination for a minimum period of two years from the date of leaving the programme/course of study. This rule shall not apply for online and part time courses.

32. The candidates who pass the Selection Examination and are selected for the MD programme should undergo the Professionalism & Ethics in Medical Practice Strand organized by the PGIM. Please note that this is compulsory for all MD trainees and should be completed within the first two years of Pre MD training. A certificate will be issued to trainees who complete this Strand successfully.

33. Candidates are requested to visit the PGIM website for further updates.

34. Please bring the contents of the Circular Letter to the notice of all medical/ Dental officers concerned in your department/division/faculty.

FOR Professor Senaka Rajapakse
Director, PGIM

Copies .1. Secretary, Ministry of Health & Nutrition.
2. Director General of Health Services.
3. DDGHS/Medical Services.
4. Commanders of Armed Forces
5. Registrar, Sri Lanka Medical Council.
6. Hony. Secretary, GMOA.