

Circular Letter No. 58 /2021

My No. PGIM/EX/2/SE/MD/Med (21/2)
Postgraduate Institute of Medicine,
160, Professor Nandadasa Kodagoda Mawatha
Colombo 7.
8th July, 2021

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

**SELECTION EXAMINATION IN MD GENERAL MEDICINE AND MD GERIATRIC
MEDICINE – OCTOBER , 2021**

1. The above examination is scheduled to commence on **6th October, 2021**.
2. Applications are invited from medical officers in the state sector, non-state sectors, universities and armed forces possessing the following requirements to sit the Selection Examination in MD Medicine and MD Geriatric Medicine.
 - (a) Hold a medical degree registered with the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC).
 - (b) Complete an internship recognized by the SLMC.
 - (c) Complete one year work experience in Sri Lanka, after internship
 - (d) Have six months of experience as an intern house officer in general medicine, OR six months experience as an intern house officer in paediatrics with six months experience as a full time medical officer after internship (consecutively or in total) with both in - ward and out -patient care of **adult patients**, with first on call commitments under the supervision of a full time specialist, in general medicine, cardiology, clinical oncology, dermatology, gastroenterology, neurology, nephrology, respiratory medicine, rheumatology, endocrinology, intensive care medicine, critical care medicine or accident & emergency. **(a letter certified by the relevant consultant should be sent along with the application).**
 - (e) Have completed the **ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT COURSE - One Day course conducted by the COLLEGE OF ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS & INTENSIVISTS OF SRI LANKA** at the time of application.
 - (f) Produce a medical certificate from a specialist physician to confirm general mental and physical fitness.
 - (g) Comply with any other PGIM regulations.

Notes:

- (i) The criteria prescribed in paragraph (c) has to be satisfied by the applicants by the date of closure of applications. 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.
- (ii) Foreign nationals who seek registration in respect of selection examinations should possess a medical degree registrable with the Sri Lanka Medical Council.

- (iii) A candidate with a certificate of completion of specialist training from a foreign country may be exempted from the Medicine Selection examination, provided this is in accordance with the prevailing general regulations of the PGIM. However, such candidate should comply with requirements a, b, d and e above to be eligible to enter the programme. Furthermore, such candidate should complete Stage 1 (complete the pre-MD training appointments recommended by the Board of Study), Stage 2 (be successful at the MD Examination), Stage 3 (complete the post-MD training appointments recommended by the Board of Study), and Stage 4 (be successful at the PBCA) in order to be eligible for board certification.

Compulsory: Candidates who are interested to enroll in Geriatric Medicine training programme should submit the “Indication of preference to the Geriatric Medicine programme” given in the annexure and return same along with the application.

3. The examination consists of a written component and a practical component. The written component will be held first. Candidates who are successful at the written component will be eligible to sit the practical component. Only candidates who have passed both components at the same sitting will be considered for entry into the training programme. The current format of the selection examination is described in the Prospectus.

3.1. The written component

The written component consists of the following written question papers:

Paper 1: Biomedical Sciences Paper

The Biomedical Sciences Paper consists of True/False-type Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs). It contains 60 stems, each with 5 items, constituting a total of 300 responses. The total duration of the paper is 3 hours.

Paper 2: General Medicine Paper

The General Medicine Paper is a 3 hour paper, and consists of two subcomponents :-

- a) A 2-hour True/False-type MCQ paper in medicine, containing 40 stems with each question having 5 responses (a total of 200 questions/responses).
- b) A 1-hour, Single Best Answer-type MCQ paper with 30 questions, each question giving 5 possible answers to select the best one from.

To be successful in the written component, a candidate must obtain a minimum aggregate of 50%, with a minimum of 40% in Paper 1 and a minimum of 50% in Paper 2.

Only the candidates who have passed the written component will be eligible to sit the practical component.

3.2. The practical component

The practical component consists of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)- type practical examination. It has 12 stations, each lasting 5 minutes.

To be successful at the practical component, a candidate must:

Obtain a minimum mark of 40% of available marks in each domain (A-G) and

Obtain a minimum overall mark of 50%.

Candidates who have passed both written and practical components in the same sitting will be deemed to have qualified to be selected for the MD programme.

5. The MCQ Papers will be held on **6th and 7th October, 2021**. The OSCE component will be held on a subsequent date as decided by the Board of Examiners. All candidates will be informed in writing, their performance at the MCQ paper.

6. **Only a maximum of 59 candidates (57+ 2 additional slots for Geriatric Medicine)** from the **Ministry of Health (MOH)** who pass the selection examination will be enrolled in the training programme. The **59th MOH candidate's marks will be taken as a cut-off line** (If none of the MOH candidates have preferred the Geriatric Medicine within 57 slots, then the cut-off will be the 57th candidate's marks.) 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". *Candidate will not be allowed to change their disciplines once they enroll in to a particular programme.*

7. The candidates in sections 10, 11,12 and 13 will have to obtain a mark similar to this or above to be offered a place in the training programme. This condition will not apply for Geriatric Medicine candidates. All Non-State Sector candidates will be placed below the order of merit.

8. For Geriatric Medicine training programme, only two MOH candidates will be selected in order of merit. Among the candidates under sections 10, 11,12 and 13 **only 1 candidate** (50% of available slots for Geriatric Medicine) will be selected. If total number of candidates selected are less than 57 and none of the candidates submitted their preferences to Geriatric Medicine, additionally created two slots for Geriatric Medicine programme will remain vacant.

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

10. 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.

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 General Medicine as per 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 General Medicine as per the order of merit.

13. All **Non-State Sector** candidates who pass the selection examination and who are above the cut-off line will be enrolled in the training programme in General Medicine. 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 merit within the non-state sector category.

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

15. **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 only two (02) more attempts. Those who have sat less four (04) attempts would be allowed up to a maximum total six (06) attempts. This regulation comes in to effect from 27.05.2020.**

16. The allocation of training units will be done as described in “General Regulations and Guidelines 2021” which is available on PGIM website www.pgim.cmb.ac.lk according to the approved procedure by the PGIM based on merit. The allocated training unit/s shall not be changed for personal reason.

17. At the point of post MD allocation, the base specialty and any available subspecialties which are approved at the time of the post MD allocation will be offered to candidates, according to merit. The number of available base specialty and subspecialty training vacancies offered for Post MD training if any will be determined based on the vacancy list provided by the MOH prior to the post MD allocation.

18. 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. If a trainee does not attend the allocation meeting to accept the training appointment on successful completion of a selection examination, he/she can be allowed to sit another selection examination without waiting for two years.

19. 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.

20. 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 or University or Other Government Ministries or Armed Forces.

21. The relevant information of the training programme, MD Examination, requirements for Board Certification are described in the Prospectus 2016 and other relevant documents. However, if amendments have been made following printing of the Prospectus, the circulars with such amendments can be downloaded from the PGIM website.

22. The candidates who shall commence the pre MD (Registrar) or Post MD (Senior Registrar) training after 1st August 2011 should pass the Pre-Board Certification Assessment to be eligible for Board Certification. The details are available at the PGIM for perusal.

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

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. The minimum duration of post MD training required to be eligible for Board Certification should be one year local & one year overseas. However, the duration may be more than two years in certain specialties and the information is available in the prospectus.

27. The prescribed fees for the examination shall be as follows for state candidates.

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|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| (a) Application fee | - Rs. 4,000.00 (non refundable) |
| (b) Registration fee | - Rs. 8,000.00 (non refundable) |
| (b) Examination fees | - Rs. 46,500.00 |

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

Only online payments through the PGIM online portal will be accepted.

- Candidates are required to pay Rs. **8,000/=** as registration fee **4,000/=** as application fee and **Rs. 29,000/=** as the entry fee for the MCQ component in the first instance. Those who qualify the MCQ component will have to pay the balance entry fee **Rs. 17,500/=** in order to proceed for the rest of the examination.

28. The application form can be downloaded from our website **www.pgim.cmb.ac.lk**.

29. All examination applications and other documents are collected through a Google Form. <https://forms.gle/jFYn58K5rkNCH9Hu5> on or before **27th August 2021**. All applicants should have a **Gmail Account** to log into the google form. PGIM trainees have to use the email account created by the PGIM. You should attach your exam application with all the relevant documents as a **single PDF** document since this portal does not allow you to attach multiple documents. **Please note that incomplete, handwritten, late submissions and applications sent via email will not be accepted.**

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

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

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

33. 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.

34. The candidates who pass the Selection Examination and are selected for the MD programme should undergo the Professionalism Strand organized by the PGIM. Please note that this is compulsory for all MD trainees and should be completed within the first 2 years of pre MD training. A certificate will be issued to trainees who complete this strand successfully.

35. Candidates are requested to visit the PGIM website (<http://pgim.cmb.ac.lk>) for further updates.

 **Professor Senaka Rajapakse**
MBS, MB, FRCP, FRCPE, FOSP, FACP, FNAS(SL)
Director
Postgraduate Institute of Medicine
University of Colombo

Professor Senaka Rajapakse
Director

To be filled by candidates who prefer to enter Geriatric Medicine training programme.

**INDICATION OF PREFERANCE TO THE GERIATRIC
MEDICINE PROGRAMME**

I Dr. prefer to enroll in the Geriatric Medicine training programme. I understand that there are only limited training slots available and allocation depends on the merit order. In the event, I have qualified but not selected to the Geriatric Medicine programme, I will enroll in the General Medicine training programme. Once the Selection process is over, I will not be allowed to change the discipline of my training programme.

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Date

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Signature of Applicant