

Circular Letter No. 59/2024

My No. PGIM/EX/2/SE/MD/Med (24/2)
Postgraduate Institute of Medicine,
160, Professor Nandadasa Kodagoda Mawatha
Colombo 7.
11th July, 2024

To: Deputy Director General / 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/Eastern/
Rajarata/Sabaragamuwa/Wayamba/KDU

**SELECTION EXAMINATION IN MD MEDICINE AND MD GERIATRIC MEDICINE –
OCTOBER 2024 (2016 PROSPECTUS)**

1. The above examination is scheduled to commence on **28th October 2024**.
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 applicants should pass the selection examination to be eligible for enrolment to the training programme. The current format of the Selection Examination is described in the General Medicine Prospectus, 2016.
4. 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. The applicants should pass both components at the same sitting to be eligible for enrolment to the training programme. The current format of the selection examination is described in the Prospectus.

4.1. 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.

4.2. 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%.

5. The applicants should pass **both written and practical components in the same sitting** of the Selection Examination to be eligible for enrolment to the training
6. The MCQ Papers will be held on **28th and 29th October, 2024**. The OSCE component will be held on **26th and 27th November, 2024**. All candidates will be informed in writing, their performance at the MCQ paper.
7. **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 2024". *Candidate will not be allowed to change their disciplines once they enroll in to a particular programme.*
8. The candidates in sections 11, 12, 13, 14 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.
9. For Geriatric Medicine training programme, only two MOH candidates will be selected in order of merit. Among the candidates under sections 11, 12, 13, 14 **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.
10. The final number of available training placements will be determined based on the total number of candidates above the cut-off line.
11. All candidates attached to **Other Government Ministries** who pass the selection examination and are above the cut-off line will be enrolled in the training programme in the order of merit.
12. All candidates attached to the **State Universities** who pass the selection examination and are above the cut-off line will be enrolled in the training programme in the order of merit.
13. All candidates from the **Armed Forces (including police)** who pass the selection examination and are above the cut-off line will be enrolled in the training programme in order of the merit.
14. All **Non-State Sector** candidates who pass the selection examination and 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.
15. The above numbers shall not be changed, nor shall requests for such changes be entertained following the examination and after the release of results.
16. Each year only the scheduled Selection Examination in the approved examination calendar will be held. **No repeat or additional examinations will be held.**
17. The allocation of training units will be done as described in "General Regulation and Guidelines 2024" which is available on the PGIM web site: <https://pgim.cmb.ac.lk/> The allocated training unit/s shall not be changed for personal reasons. The number of available 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 allocation.

18. As per PGIM regulation of 27.05.2020, the permitted number of attempts limited to six (06). Candidates who have exhausted four (04) or more attempts at 27.05.2020 will be allowed only two (02) more attempts.

19. When a candidate is selected, he/she should register in the same year. If a candidate fails to do so, another eligible candidate will be selected. Any candidate who refuses to register in the current year, 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.

20. A fulltime release from the candidate's current employer—i.e. Ministry of Health/ Other Government Ministries, Universities or by the Armed Forces- is a prerequisite for enrollment in all fulltime training programmes. It may be necessary to sign a bond before such enrollment if it is required by the candidate's employer.

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 effective date of Board Certification. The trainee status of trainees will be terminated in those who delay commencing overseas post-MD training by more than four (04) years after the expected date of completing local post-MD training.

22. 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.

23. There should be no delay in submitting the research report within the stipulated period as prescribed in the prospectus. Any delay will be added to the effective date of Board certification.

24. The trainees must, within one (1) calendar month of satisfactory completion of the prescribed requirements, apply for Board Certification. All relevant documents must be submitted with the application. Failure to do so will result in a delay of effective date of Board Certification.

25. The candidates should pass the Pre-Board Certification Assessment to be eligible for Board Certification. The details are available on the PGIM website.

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

(a) Application fee	- Rs. 7,500.00 (non refundable)
(b) Registration fee	- Rs. 14,000.00 (non refundable)
(b) Examination fees	- Rs. 79,500.00

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

Note that the only payments made through the PGIM online portal will be accepted.

- Candidates are required to pay **Rs. 14,000/=** as registration fee **Rs 7,500/=** as application fee and **Rs. 34,500/= 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. 45,500/=** in order to proceed for the rest of the examination.

27. The application form can be downloaded from our website <https://pgim.cmb.ac.lk/>

28. The relevant information regarding the training programme and requirements for Board Certification are detailed in the Prospectus 2016 and in other relevant documents published in the PGIM website.

29. All examination applications and other documents will be collected through a Google form <https://forms.gle/LEsj4oMcccvtYuUm9> on or before **13th September, 2024**. All applicants should have a Gmail account to access the Google form. The exam application with all relevant documents must be attached as a single pdf document since this portal does not allow uploading of multiple documents. **Please note that incomplete, handwritten, late submission and application sent via email will not be accepted.**
30. The selected candidates should report to the training unit allocated to him/her within one month of receipt of the letter of selection to the training programme and allocation to the training unit.
31. 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.
32. The results will be valid and official after confirmation of the Senate of the University.
33. The Candidate who pass the selection Examination and are selected for the MD programme Should undergo the Professionalism and ethics 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.
34. Please refer to the new regulations laid down by the Ministry of Health regarding release of Medical Officers of Department of Health – www.health.gov.lk.
35. The orientation programme on ‘PGIM library resources and services’ is mandatory for all postgraduate trainees who enter PGIM training programmes. Please refer <https://librar.pgim.cmb.ac.lk> for more information.
36. A trainee following a PG Certificate or PD 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.
37. Candidates are requested to visit the PGIM website www.pgim.cmb.ac.lk for further updates.
38. Please bring the contents of this Circular Letter to the notice of all medical officers concerned in your department/division/faculty.

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