

My No. PGIM/EX/3/SE/S (25/2)  
Postgraduate Institute of Medicine,  
160, Prof Nandadasa Kodagoda Mw,  
Colombo 7.  
7<sup>th</sup> August 2025

To : Deputy Director General/NHSL,  
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/ Rajarata/  
Sri Jayewardenepura/EUSL/KDU/Rajarata/Sabaragamuwa/Wayamba.

**COMMON SELECTION EXAMINATION (CSE) FOR SURGICAL  
SPECIALTIES – SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025**

1. The above examination is scheduled to commence on **10<sup>th</sup> September 2025**.
2. Applications are invited from medical officers in the state and non-state sectors who satisfy the following requirements to sit the Common Selection Examination (CSE) for Surgical Specialties for selection to the training program leading to the MD in Surgery, MD in Ophthalmology, MD in Orthopaedic Surgery & MD in Otorhinolaryngology
  - (a) Have a medical degree registered with the Sri Lanka Medical Council
  - (b) Have satisfactory completion of internship acceptable to the Sri Lanka Medical Council
  - (c) Have satisfactory completion of one year of post internship in Medical / Clinical practice (see item 6 in General Regulations and Guidelines 2025) in a university / public sector institution / private sector institution in Sri Lanka acceptable to the PGIM as at the date of closure of applications i.e., **25<sup>th</sup> August 2025**
  - (d) Have six (6) months of surgical experience (General Surgery or Obstetrics & Gynaecology) at pre-registration House Officer or Senior House Officer Level
  - (e) Produce a medical certificate from a consultant physician, indicating general mental and physical fitness.

Note: If a trainee develops a health condition that will compromise his/her ability to train or function as a surgeon, it is his/her responsibility to notify this immediately in writing to the PGIM.
  - (f) Have any other requirements stipulated by the Board of Study relevant to the particular field of study which have been approved by the Board of Management.

**Note :-**

The criteria prescribed in paragraph (c) should be satisfied by the applicants on or before the date of closure of applications. Where a shortfall has occurred due to reasons including sickness, maternity or other leave, the medical officer concerned should have completed such shortfall on or before the date of closure of applications to be eligible to apply for the CSE.

3. For applicants to be eligible for enrolment to the training program, they should pass the CSE. The current format of the CSE is available in the PGIM website.
4. The examination consists of two components, i.e. MCQ (Part I and Part II) and OSCE with 12 stations.
5. Candidates should obtain a minimum 50% or more in each MCQ component i.e., in part 1 and in part 2 to proceed for the OSCE examination which will commence on **9<sup>th</sup> October 2025**. All candidates will be informed in writing of their performance at the MCQ papers.
6. To pass the OSCE component a candidate must achieve the following criteria.
  - i. Obtain a minimum cumulative, non-rounded off average of 3 from 12 stations  
AND
  - ii. Obtain a minimum close mark of 3 in **4** out of 6 in the **Basic Sciences** stations  
AND
  - iii. Obtain a minimum close mark of 3 in **4** out of 6 in the **Clinical Skills** stations  
AND
  - iv. Obtain a minimum close mark of 3 in at least **one** station in a **pair**

**Notes:**

1. The cumulative average is obtained by adding the close marks awarded by the individual examiners from all 12 stations and dividing the total by 24
2. The station mark for candidate is the average of individual marks awarded by each examiner
3. The three (3) Basic Sciences station pairs are:
  - Surgical anatomy x 2 stations
  - Clinical physiology & critical care x 2 stations
  - Surgical pathology x 2 stations
4. The three (3) Clinical Skills stations pairs are:
  - Communication skills x 2 stations
  - Data interpretation x 2 stations
  - Medical duties & procedures x 2 stations
7. To pass the examination, the candidate must pass the MCQ Papers and the OSCE component.
8. The final number of training placements is determined based on the number of available training vacancies in each specialty given below in 9.

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|----|----------------------------|---------------|
| 9. | <b>Surgery</b>             | <b>- 30</b>   |
|    | <b>Orthopaedic Surgery</b> | <b>- 12</b>   |
|    | <b>Otorhinolaryngology</b> | <b>- 6</b>    |
|    | <b>Ophthalmology</b>       | <b>- none</b> |

Vacancies for training are available in the numbers specified above for candidates from the **Ministry of Health (MOH)** who pass the CSE. Placements will be made purely in the order of merit. The details are available on the PGIM website under “General Regulation and Guidelines 2025”. Candidates in **sections 10, 11, 12, 13** will have to obtain a mark equal to or higher than the last qualified **MOH** candidate’s mark to be offered a place in the training program, if the number of candidates who pass the CSE exceeds the MOH enrolment cut-off given above.

10. All candidates attached to **other Government Ministries** who pass the CSE will be enrolled in the training program in the order of merit, subject to the conditions indicated in 9.

11. All candidates from **State Universities** who pass the CSE will be enrolled in the training program in the order of merit, subject to the conditions indicated in 9.

12. All candidates from the **Armed Forces (including Police)** who pass the selection examination will be enrolled in the training program in the order of merit, subject to the conditions indicated in 9.

13. All **Non-State Sector** candidates who pass the CSE will be enrolled in the training program, subject to the conditions indicated in 9. In addition, they will be placed below the order of merit for candidates from the MOH, Other Government Ministries, State Universities and Armed Forces (including Police), in the order of merit within the non-state sector category.

14. Candidates should declare their **desired specialty in order of preference (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>) one week prior to the date of the allocation** meeting. Further, the candidates are strongly advised to indicate all four specialties in the order of preferences, and they will be grouped based on their attempt and merit position. Candidates who fail to declare a preference for a particular specialty/s shall not be permitted to enter that program even if a vacancy exists.

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 CSE 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 & Guidelines 2025” which is available on the PGIM website [www.pgim.cmb.ac.lk](http://www.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 the PGIM regulation of 27.05.2022, **the maximum attempts permitted at the CSE is six (06).** This will be irrespective of the number of attempts at the selection exams of the individual specialties conducted in the past.

19. The attempt used to **rank candidates for the merit order** will be computed as follows: the number of attempts in past selection examinations in either Surgery or Ophthalmology, whichever is higher, plus the number of attempts at the CSE.

20. When a candidate is selected, he/she should register in the same year. If this is not done another candidate will be selected.

21. 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.

22. The relevant information of the training programs, MD Examinations, requirements for Board Certification are described in the MD (Surgery) Prospectus 2011, MD (Ophthalmology) Prospectus 2014, MD (Orthopaedic Surgery) Prospectus 2016, MD (Otorhinolaryngology) Prospectus 2016 and the subsequent amendments published in the PGIM website.

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

24. 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. 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.

25. 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 Certification will be delayed accordingly.

26. The trainees must, within one (01) 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

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

28. The prescribed fees for the examination for candidates in the state sector as follows :-

a) Registration fee	- Rs. 15 500/= (Non Refundable)
b) Examination fees	- Rs. 80,000/=
c) Application fee	- Rs. 8,500/= (Non Refundable)

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

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

29. At the first instance candidates are required to pay Rs. 15,500/= the registration fee, 8,500/= application fee and Rs.34,500/- the examination fee for the MCQ paper. Those who qualify from the MCQ Examination will be required to pay the balance examination fee of Rs.45,500/- in order to proceed to the rest of the examination.

30. The application form could be downloaded from our website [www.pgim.cmb.ac.lk](http://www.pgim.cmb.ac.lk)

31. All examination applications and other documents will be collected through a Google <https://forms.gle/ikyfW4g6kL7n9ciC9> on or before **25<sup>th</sup> August 2025**. 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.
32. The selected candidates should report to the training unit allocated to him/her within one month on receipt of the letter of selection.
33. Please refer the new regulations laid down by Ministry of Health regarding release of Medical Officers of Department of Health website – [www.health.gov.lk/](http://www.health.gov.lk/)
34. The results will be valid and official after confirmation by the Senate of the University.
35. 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 behavior, 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
36. Candidates who pass the CSE and are selected for the MD programme should undergo the Professionalism ethics Strand organized by the PGIM. Please note that this is compulsory for all MD trainees and should be completed within first two years of pre-MD training. A certificate will be issued to trainees who completed this strand successfully
37. The orientation programme on “PGIM library resources and services” is mandatory for all postgraduate trainees who enter PGIM training programmes. Please refer [library.pgim.cmb.ac.lk](http://library.pgim.cmb.ac.lk)
38. 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.
39. Candidates are requested to visit the PGIM website for further updates ([www.pgim.cmb.ac.lk](http://www.pgim.cmb.ac.lk))
40. 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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