

MASTER OF MEDICINE (OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY) EXAMINATION

INSTRUCTIONS, RULES AND REGULATIONS

Introduction

The Master of Medicine (Otorhinolaryngology) Examination (MMed (ORL) Exam) is an examination to test the understanding of the basic sciences of conditions pertaining to Otolaryngology Head & Neck and its application. This includes but is not limited to anatomy, physiology, pathology, pharmacology, microbiology, molecular biology and surgical principles relating to the emergencies and common surgical procedures in the Head & Neck sciences.

Eligibility

1. All candidates must have an MBBS or equivalent.
2. All candidates must have an MRCS (Surgery)
From 2019 onwards, only MRCS (Surgery) will be recognized as the basic surgical component in MMed (ORL).
3. All candidates must have at least 12 months of clinical rotation in Otolaryngology in a locally approved training programme recognised by the Division of Graduate Medical Studies (DGMS).
4. Candidates who have failed the MMed (ORL) Exam three **(3) times** will not be eligible to take the exam anymore.
5. The DGMS will have the final decision on all eligibility issues.

Application for the examination

1. There will be an announcement for the examination between November - Early January every year.
2. The candidates must submit all required documents and application fees by the stipulated deadline.
3. Once the candidate has submitted the application online via-Graduate Admission System (GDA2), it is deemed that the candidate has accepted the rules and regulations of the MMed (ORL) Exam.
4. All late applications will NOT be entertained.
5. The candidate will be informed of the acceptance of application within 2 - 3 weeks of the closing date for application.
6. If candidate decides to withdraw after placement is confirmed, he/she must write in to DGMS. If written notice of withdrawal is received before the acceptance of placement deadline, a refund, less the application fee will be made. If written notice of withdrawal is received after the acceptance of placement deadline, or the candidate fails to attend the examination for any reason, no refund will be administered.

7. Any irregularities in the submitted online application including the required submitted documents would null the application even if it were submitted on time.
8. Any documents submitted subsequently found to be false or incorrect in information **will null the application process or the examination**. This will apply even if the candidate had gone on to participate in the examinations and achieved a satisfactory standard, prior to the discovery of the falsehood of submitted documents
9. The DGMS will have the final decision on all application issues

MMED (ORL) EXAM FORMAT

A. Objective:

The objective of the examination is to assess the candidate's understanding of the basic sciences of the conditions pertaining to the field of Otolaryngology Head and Neck. This will include but not be limited to the understanding of anatomy, physiology, pathology, microbiology, pharmacology, molecular biology and surgical principles of common Otolaryngology conditions, including emergencies.

B. Examination Format:

There are 2 sections to the MMed (ORL) Exam: oral exams and objective structured clinical examination (OSCE).

1. Oral Examination

Each candidate will go through 2 teams of examiners: team A and team B. Each team will consist of 2 examiners. Each team will pose questions for at least 40 minutes. The oral examination will assess your knowledge of basic sciences and its application, as related to the field of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery as well as surgical principles and surgical emergencies.

The aim of the oral examination is to assess the candidates

- 1. Knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathology, and other related basic sciences of the Head & Neck***
- 2. Basic concepts of common ENT conditions with regards to aetiology, clinical presentation, investigations and treatment.***
- 3. Basic concepts of common ENT emergencies with regards to recognition of clinical presentation, and intervention.***

2. **Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)**

The aim of the OSCE is to assess the candidates on the understanding of practical knowledge of clinical findings, investigations and treatment of common conditions in Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery. There will be at least 30 questions. Candidates are expected to demonstrate good understanding and knowledge of common clinical conditions, its investigations, and the detailed management. The location of the OSCE and the time allocated will be made known to the candidate closer to the examination date.

C. Passing the MMed (ORL) Exam:

1. To pass the MMed (ORL) Exam, a candidate must satisfy the criteria required in ALL sections or components of the MMed (ORL) Exam. The candidate must therefore satisfy the criteria in oral examinations and OSCE.
2. The Board of Examiners will meet, verify and finalise the scores.
3. The DGMS will have the final decision on all issues relating to meeting standards of the MMed (ORL) Exam.

To be successful in the MMed (ORL) Exam, the candidate must obtain a pass in all 2 sections as listed above.

D. Attendance at the oral examination and OSCE

1. All candidates must report on time.
2. ***Any candidate who is late will be deemed to be absent from the examination and will be deemed to have failed the examination.*** A candidate is deemed to be late once the examination written component has started. A candidate is also considered late once he/she reports later than the stipulated time for reporting at the oral examinations location. The candidate will NOT be allowed to participate in the examination if he/she is late.
3. At no time will candidates be allowed to refer to ANY information during the examination process. Information includes books, journals, personal notes including the computers, Internet, personal handheld devices, etc.
4. Any attempt to refer or any actual reference to any of the stated information sources will be deemed as cheating. In such instances, the candidate will be deemed to have failed the MMed (ORL) Exam and will be barred from ALL future MMed (ORL) Exams permanently.
5. The DGMS will have the final decision on all examination process issues.

E. Results of Examination

1. The Board of Examiners will decide on the final result of each candidate.
2. The candidate will be informed of the result by letter.
3. The Board of Examiners may at their discretion choose to award a “distinction” to an outstanding candidate based on the scores of the examination.
4. Candidates who have not met the standard of the MMed (ORL) Exam will be deemed to have failed the MMed (ORL) Exam.
5. Candidates are allowed only three (3) attempts at the MMed (ORL) Exam.
6. An attempt is defined as having applied for a MMed (ORL) Exam, and participated in the applied MMed (ORL) Exam in any form such as written or oral components.
7. ***There will be no re-examination.***
8. The DGMS will have the final decision on all examination results issues.

F. Failures in MMed (ORL)

1. Candidates are allowed to take the MMed (ORL) Exam three (3) times.
2. A candidate who has failed the MMed (ORL) Exam 3 times will not be allowed to sit for further MMed (ORL) Exam, regardless of the length of time between the 3 failed attempts or whether the format of the MMed (ORL) Exam was dissimilar.
3. Candidates who have not completed all the sections of the MMed (ORL) Exam will be deemed to have failed.
4. If the candidate has a valid and documented medical excuse for being unable to complete the MMed (ORL) Exam, he or she may appeal.
5. However, the candidate must write to the Director of DGMS not more than 7 days from the date of notification of the results of the MMed (ORL) Exam.
6. Notification beyond this date will not be valid. Notification of appeal must be accompanied by documented proof where applicable of the reasons for appeal.
7. The Director will relay the notice of appeal to the Chief Examiner. The Chief Examiner will then convene a meeting with the Board of Examiners. The Board of Examiners will deliberate the appeal and come to a decision. The Board will decide on whether the candidate’s attempt is counted.
8. Candidates who have failed may appeal on extraneous grounds.
9. The Board of Examiners will be notified if an appeal is filed, and a meeting convened to listen to the grounds of appeal and to make a final decision to the Director DGMS.
10. Only extraneous circumstances such as immediate family bereavement, documented relevant medical condition will be considered as grounds for appeal.