

MASTER OF MEDICINE (OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY) EXAMINATION

INSTRUCTIONS, RULES AND REGULATIONS

Introduction

The Master of Medicine (Otorhinolaryngology) Examination [MMed (ORL)] evaluates a candidate's understanding of the basic sciences relevant to Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery and their clinical application. This includes, but is not limited to, anatomy, physiology, pathology, pharmacology, microbiology, molecular biology, and surgical principles relating to common conditions and emergencies in Head & Neck Surgery.

Eligibility

1. Applicants must hold an MBBS or equivalent qualification.
2. Applicants must possess an MRCS (Surgery).
 - From 2019 onwards, only MRCS (Surgery) is recognised as the basic surgical requirement for MMed (ORL).
3. Applicants must have completed 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. Applicants who have failed the MMed (ORL) Exam three (3) times are no longer eligible to reattempt the exam.
5. DGMS reserves the right to make final decisions on all matters related to eligibility.

Application for the examination

1. Refer to the DGMS website: <https://medicine.nus.edu.sg/dgms/master-of-medicine/otorhinolaryngology/>
2. Applicants must submit all required documents and fees by the stipulated deadline.
3. Submission of the online application via the Graduate Admission System (GDA3) constitutes acceptance of all rules and regulations governing the MMed (ORL) Exam.
4. Late applications will **not** be accepted.
5. Applicants who withdraw after placement confirmation must write to DGMS. See the Withdrawal Policy on the DGMS website for details.
6. Any irregularities or incomplete documentation will render the application invalid, even if submitted on time.
7. Submission of false or incorrect information will nullify the application and/or examination result, even if discovered after the exam has been taken and passed.
8. DGMS holds final authority over all application-related matters.

MMED (ORL) EXAM INFORMATION

A. Objective:

The examination aims to assess a candidate's understanding of basic sciences relevant to Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, including anatomy, physiology, pathology, microbiology, pharmacology, molecular biology, and surgical principles for common conditions and emergencies.

B. Examination Format:

The MMed (ORL) Examination comprises two components:

1. Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

The OSCE assesses practical clinical knowledge, including recognition of clinical findings, relevant investigations, and management of common ENT conditions.

- a. The OSCE will consist of at least 40 questions.
- b. Candidates must demonstrate sound understanding of common ENT conditions and their management.
- c. The OSCE location and schedule will be announced nearer the examination date.

2. Viva Voce Examination (VIVA)

Each candidate will be examined by two teams (Team A and Team B), each consisting of two examiners.

- a. Each team will examine the candidate for at least 40 minutes.
- b. The Viva assesses knowledge of basic sciences, clinical application, surgical principles, and ENT emergencies.

3. Areas of assessment include:

- a. Anatomy, physiology, pathology, and other relevant basic sciences of the head and neck.
- b. Basic concepts of common ENT conditions: aetiology, clinical presentation, investigations, and treatment.
- c. Recognition and initial management of common ENT emergencies.

C. Passing Requirements:

1. Candidates must pass both the OSCE and Viva components to pass the overall MMed (ORL) Exam.
2. The Board of Examiners will review and finalise all scores.
3. DGMS holds final authority on all matters related to examination standards.

D. Attendance at the OSCE and Viva Exam:

1. Candidates must report punctually for both OSCE and Viva examinations.
2. Late candidates will be considered absent and will be deemed to have failed the examination.
 - For OSCE: arriving after the exam has started constitutes lateness.
 - For Viva: reporting later than the scheduled reporting time constitutes lateness.
3. Candidates may not refer to any information sources during the examination, including books, notes, electronic devices, or the internet.
4. Any attempt to access such materials will be considered cheating, resulting in immediate failure and a permanent ban from all future MMed (ORL) Exams.
5. DGMS will make the final decision on all examination process matters.

E. Results of the Examination:

1. The Board of Examiners will determine the final result for each candidate.
2. Results will be communicated to candidates by letter.
3. At its discretion, the Board may award a Distinction to outstanding candidates.
4. Candidates who do not meet the examination standard will be deemed to have failed.
5. Candidates may attempt the exam a maximum of three (3) times.
 - a. An attempt is defined as applying for the exam and participating in any component (OSCE or Viva).
6. No re-examination will be offered.
7. DGMS reserves the final decision on all matters related to examination results.

F. Failures in MMed (ORL) Exam:

1. Candidates who fail the MMed (ORL) Exam three times are no longer eligible for future attempts, regardless of time elapsed or format changes.
2. Candidates who fail to complete all exam components will be considered to have failed.
3. Candidates with valid, documented medical reasons for non-completion may appeal.
4. Appeals must be submitted in writing to Officer-in-charge within 7 days of result notification.
5. Appeals submitted after this deadline will not be considered.
6. Appeals must include all supporting documentation.
7. Appeals will be forwarded to the Chief Examiner, who will convene a Board of Examiners meeting to review the case and determine whether the attempt should be counted.
8. Candidates may appeal on extraneous grounds.
9. Only circumstances such as immediate family bereavement or documented medical conditions will be considered valid grounds for appeal.