Introduction
The examination for International Membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners complies with the principles espoused in the documents: Good Medical Practice (General Medical Council of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and The Code of Medical Ethics (Ministry of Health of the United Arab Emirates).

The examination was re-accredited in October 2013 by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) and certain recommendations were made. These have now been implemented.

The examination for Membership is a credit accumulation examination. The main features of this are:
- a pass in all three modules is required to pass the examination overall
- the modules may be taken at the same session or at different sessions, in any order
- all modules must be passed within three years of the date of passing the first module. Thus credit for a module expires three years from the date of taking it unless all three modules have been passed.

The examination is composed of three modules:
- a written paper
- a multiple choice paper &
- a consulting and clinical skills assessment (CCSA)

Each is available twice a year, in spring and autumn.

Evidence of proficiency in basic cardio-pulmonary resuscitation is required prior to the award of membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

Information:
Applications and details of the examination can be obtained by visiting the website: http://www.dohms.gov.ae/EN/Media/Events/Pages/MRCGPInternationalExaminationinDubai.aspx

For assistance you may contact the office of the General Coordinator of the MRCGP International Examination Board in Dubai by telephone:
Mrs. Waheeda Abdulaziz Tel: + 971 4 5022865 or + 971 4 5021801
Mrs. Maryam Khalifa Al Mazrooei Tel: + 971 4 5022877,
Or email to waAlsarrah@dha.gov.ae or MKAlmazrooei@dha.gov.ae
Detailed Regulations

Eligibility

Candidates must either

- Have completed, or expect to have completed within 3 months of the written examination, not less than 3 years duration full-time (or the equivalent part-time) in a vocational training course for family medicine, that is officially approved in his/her country of origin.

Or

- Have practised for a minimum of 3 years full-time, (or the equivalent part-time), as an independent (i.e. unsupervised) primary care (family) practitioner. *Candidates’ experience in primary care (family) medicine must be recent and they should be active primary care (family) practitioners at the time of application*

Candidates who fulfil the above criteria are eligible for the examination regardless of their gender, ethnic origin, nationality or religion.

The final decision as to a candidate’s eligibility rests with the MRCGP International Examination Board of Dubai.

The written and multiple choice papers

The two examination papers are each available twice a year. They are held on successive days for the convenience of those who want to take both papers at the same session, but can be taken or re-taken singly.

The written paper is of 3½ hours duration and the multiple choice paper is of 3 hours duration.

Completed papers are the property of the examination board.

The written and multiple choice papers and the CCSA are held in a centre approved by the Dubai Health Authority (DHA) nominated by the examination board. Candidates are informed of the venue(s) once their applications have been accepted.

Consulting and Clinical Skills Assessment (CCSA)

Consulting and clinical skills are assessed in the CCSA module, in which candidates consult with a number of standardised patients who are portrayed by role players.

This contains 14 cases of 10 minutes duration. All cases are designed to test consulting skills in combination with clinical examination skills as appropriate to the problem presented and patient needs.
CPR certificate

Candidates must provide evidence of proficiency in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) including the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). The certificate of proficiency must be submitted before you complete the examination.

Examination fees

The fees for the examination are set annually by the examination board. The fee applicable must be paid at the time of application.

Results

The pass list, including those gaining merit or distinction will be published in the examination centre latest by 14:30 hrs ten working days after the last module of a particular session. Candidates will be individually notified by post of their result. The notification will be posted within 20 working days of the results being published. Results will not be given over the telephone but candidates may be notified by email only through an email address that is mentioned on their application form.

Complaints

Complaints are taken extremely seriously and any complaint concerning the conduct of the examination must be notified in writing to the general co-ordinator of the examination board immediately on completion of the module in question and no later than 24 hours after completion of the module. Anonymous complaints will be accepted, considered and taken seriously and, although of course no individual feedback can be given, they will contribute to the quality improvement of the examination.

Appeals

Any appeals against a result must be in writing and received by the examination general co-ordinator no later than 2 weeks after the date that the individual results were notified to the candidate. Appeals must be made by the candidate; appeals by third parties will not be considered. Appeals must be accompanied by a fee equivalent to the application fee for module appealed. In the event of the appeal being successful, this fee will be returned to the candidate.

Appeals will be decided by a committee comprising the Chairman or vice-Chairman of the Examination Board, the International Development Adviser of the RCGP, the General Co-ordinator of the Examination Board and the Co-ordinator(s) of the module(s) appealed, who are empowered to ask for evidence from the examiners concerned.
Applications

Applications must be made on the form supplied by the MRCGP International Examination Board of Dubai each year.

Applications must be received after the opening dates and no later than the closing dates of any particular session. Acknowledgement of receipt will be sent by post or email if preferred.

Completed application forms must be accompanied by:

- a photocopy of the candidate’s valid passport
- a photocopy of the candidate’s current certificate of full registration with the relevant licensing or regulatory body
- a photocopy of the candidate’s qualification(s)
- evidence of the candidate’s eligibility to practise as an independent family practitioner, with evidence of a minimum of three years of recent independent primary care (family medicine) practice or of completion of 3 years of a recognised vocational training course for family practice (see above)
- evidence that the candidate is an active primary care (family) practitioner at the time of application
- 2 recent passport-sized photographs endorsed by a senior professional colleague with the words "I certify that this is a true likeness of [candidate’s name]"
- the correct examination fee
- a stamped and self-addressed postcard with which the examination board can acknowledge receipt of the application. No acknowledgement will be possible without this postcard

Withdrawals

Candidates withdrawing from (postponing) the examination more than 4 weeks before the date of the commencement of the examination will be entitled to a credit of 75% of the fee paid towards the fee of the succeeding examination only. Those withdrawing (postponing) less than 4 weeks but more than 2 weeks before the date of the commencement of the examination will be entitled to a credit of 50% towards the fee of the succeeding examination only. Credit will not be given towards any further examination sessions. Those withdrawing (postponing) less than 2 weeks from the date of the commencement of the examination will forfeit the fee.

Disability and special difficulties

Where necessary and if it is possible the board will adapt the examination procedures to the needs of individuals afflicted by permanent or temporary disability. Candidates requesting such consideration must complete the appropriate section of the examination application form and notify the general co-ordinator of the examination board of their specific difficulties and requirements not later than 6 weeks before the start of the written papers of a particular session.
Punctuality

Subject to the discretion of the invigilator, no candidate will be admitted to the written or multiple choice papers later than 30 minutes after the start of the examination. Candidates arriving after the start of the briefing for the CCSA will be deemed to have failed to attend and will not be allowed to take that particular module on that occasion.

Security

No books, other written material or electronic equipment, including calculators, may be brought into the examination hall with the possible intention of referring to them during the examination, and no material may be removed from, or copied with the intention of removing from, the examination hall. Anyone detected in attempting to do so will be deemed to have failed the module concerned.

Mobile phones and/or electronic communication devices must not be brought into the examination. Candidates that use mobile phones and/or electronic communication devices will be disqualified.

Cheating

Any candidate shown to have cheated in any part of the examination will be deemed to have failed all modules of that particular session and will only be able to re-take the examination at the discretion of the examination board. Any false declaration related to candidate’s identity will lead to failure of candidate. Furthermore, all instances of cheating or false declaration will be reported to the regulatory/licensing body of the doctor concerned.

Note: Submission of an application will be taken as confirmation that you accept the conditions and regulations set out in this document.
APPENDIX 1

Written and Multiple Choice Papers

In the written paper the Pass/Fail standard is limen referenced. Every examiner who marks an individual question also submits a recommendation for the pass mark on that question. These are coalesced into an overall pass score for the paper. Each candidate's raw scores are scaled to compensate for minor variations in marker performance and to ensure that all questions make equal contributions to the outcome.

The standard for the multiple choice paper is set using a modification of the generally accepted Angoff's procedure, where a group of judges estimates the performance of a notional 'just good enough to pass' candidate. The standard takes account of the 'guessing factor' always present in multiple choice tests.

Candidates, whose corrected scores fall below the notional pass score by not more than the agreed standard error of measurement are given the benefit of the doubt and are deemed to have passed.

Passes with merit for each module are awarded to approximately the top 25% of candidates. However, this is a criterion-referenced, not a peer-referenced examination, and the board therefore retains the right to determine the exact proportion of candidates deserving of merit after taking into account the overall standard achieved in any particular diet.

In order to ensure that standards are set at appropriate and realistic levels, in addition to the external examiners, representatives of outside bodies with a stake in the outcome of the examination are periodically invited to participate in the standard-setting process for both papers. These include relevant representatives of DHA, Dubai Medical College, other academic institutes and recently qualified family practitioners nominees.
APPENDIX 2

CCSA module:

This comprises 14 cases

The consultation and clinical skills are assessed in each of the 14 cases. Candidates are presented with standardized challenges, which they are expected to deal with using their consultation and clinical examination skills as appropriate to the problem presented and patient needs.

Conduct of the CCSA module:

There are 14 consecutive CCSA cases, divided into 2 sessions. Each case lasts 10 minutes with 2-minute in-between

There is a 10 minutes break after the first 7 cases, during which candidates remain in their consultation room. Talking to other candidates is not allowed during the breaks or throughout the examination.