FSRH Membership Examination Regulations

This document describes the regulations for the membership examination (MFSRH) and for the admission of members.

The MFSRH examination has a series of measures in place to monitor and maintain reliability in all its components. Examiners are subject to a rigorous selection and training process, and their performance as examiners is regularly scrutinised by means of observation and statistical analysis. Equity and diversity training is compulsory for all new examiners. The marking of written papers is coordinated by the examination section convenors and calibrated using reference scripts to maximise inter-marker reliability. Various fail-safe procedures are also in place to double-check manual calculations and to prevent data-handling errors in the computer processing of marks.

**Document Contents**

- Introduction  
- Fees  
- Regulations for membership  
- The Part 1 Examination  
- Method of application  
- The Evidence Based Commentary  
- The Part 2 Examination  
- Method of application  
- Exclusion from Examination  
- Admission to Membership  
- Recertification
**Introduction**

Registered medical practitioners who intend to sit the Membership of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (MFSRH) examination are encouraged to apply through the FSRH website as soon as possible. Preparatory courses are neither endorsed nor provided by the FSRH.

However, a list of the preparatory courses that are available can be obtained from the website under Events, *External Conferences and Educational Meetings*.

The MFSRH examination comprises three parts:

- Part 1 examination,
- Evidence Based Commentary,
- Part 2 examination.

Candidates should note the content of the examination is based on UK practices.

Success in the MFSRH examination and subsequent admission to Membership does not imply the attainment of specialist or Consultant status.

The Council of the FSRH takes the view that a further period of advanced training is necessary before the minimum requirements for specialist training are satisfied.

**Fees**

Examination fees and Membership subscriptions are reviewed annually. Details of current rates may be obtained from the FSRH website under *Careers and Training, Membership Exams*.

**Regulations for membership**

Candidates for Membership are required:

a. To comply with the regulations relating to eligibility outlined in this document.

b. To undertake training set out in the following regulations.

c. To pass the Part 1 examination and pass the Evidence Based Commentary before being entered for the Part 2 examination.

d. To pass the Part 1 examination, achieve a Pass for the Evidence Based Commentary, and pass the Part 2 examination.

e. To complete all three parts of the MFSRH Examination within seven years. The seven year period commences from the date of passing either the Part 1 or the Evidence Based Commentary, whichever is first. For any individual part of the examination (Part 1, Evidence Based Commentary and Part 2) six attempts are allowed.

f. To fulfil the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association in relation to declaration of conduct, admission by the President of the Council and payment of the prescribed registration fee and annual subscription.

Candidates infringing the regulations will be deemed unsuitable for Membership of the FSRH.
The FSRH reserves the right to refuse an application to attempt either part of the examination for reasons which the Council of the Faculty in its absolute discretion thinks fit.

1. The Part 1 Examination

Candidates are eligible to enter for the Part 1 examination when they have obtained their medical degree and may do so either before or after submitting the Evidence Based Commentary.

Candidates must pass the Part 1 examination before applying to sit the Part 2 examination.

The acceptance of a candidate’s application to attempt the Part 1 examination does not imply acceptance of a subsequent or coincidental application by the candidate to attempt the Part 2 examination. Candidates considering entering the Part 1 examination should read the full MFSRH regulations including details of the Evidence Based Commentary and the entry requirements for the MFSRH Part 2 examination.

The Part 1 examination is held in April and October. This is a 1 ½ hour paper which consists of 60 single best answer questions. All the questions are based upon clinical science and applied science, which is specified in the syllabus.

The Pass Mark is determined for each examination by applying a modified Angoff standard setting method. The Pass Mark will vary from year to year depending on the degree of difficulty of the questions that are set.

There is no limit to the number of attempts at the Part 1 examination.

Method of application

To avoid confusion, candidates must use the SAME surname (preferred or family name) in all correspondence with the FSRH. Candidates who subsequently change their name(s) for whatever reason must immediately inform the FSRH and supply documentary evidence.

Application for entry to the examination must be made through the FSRH website along with payment by the closing date. Payment can be made through the website or via cheque, which should be made payable to the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare.

Closing dates for entry to the examination are advertised on the website and can be obtained from the Examinations Department. Late entries are not accepted.

Candidates must bring photographic ID to all examinations for scrutiny by the invigilators and examiners. Candidates who fail to produce their ID at the beginning of any section of an examination will normally be refused entry to that examination.

Candidates who fail to appear for a particular Part 1 examination shall forfeit the examination fee.

Candidates who withdraw from an examination within 8 weeks of the date of the examination without credible mitigating circumstances will be liable to an administrative charge. The remainder of the fees will be refunded.

Candidates may defer sitting the examination on a maximum of three occasions over a 2-year period; thereafter the whole examination fee is forfeited. Candidates who wish to defer sitting the
examination must notify the FSRH at least 8 weeks prior to the date of the examination; otherwise they will be liable to an administrative charge.

Candidates whose deferment is followed by cancellation will be liable to an administrative charge. Details on administrative charges can be found in the MFSRH Entry Fees document on the FSRH website under Careers and Training, Membership Exams.

2. The Evidence Based Commentary

All candidates must submit an Evidence Based Commentary which must comply with the following:

i. The topic for the Evidence Based Commentary will be set by the Examination Committee annually and released on 1st September. The candidate has an absolute deadline of 31st August the following year to submit the Commentary on this topic.

ii. The Evidence Based Commentary should be a minimum of 1000 words and maximum of 2000 words including text, tables and appendices (references are not to be included in the word count). The format must follow the guidance notes. Candidates who attempt to extend text through excessive use of tables will be penalised; the EBC will be graded a fail.

iii. The Evidence Based Commentary must be submitted by electronic means to the Examination Department. In addition to the submission in electronic form, candidates must send a printed copy of the Evidence Based Commentary, together with the signed Certificate of Originality and payment of the Submission Fee by cheque or money order in sterling currency.

In the event of a borderline fail the candidate will receive brief feedback and can submit a revised Evidence Based Commentary, once only by 30th November of that year. If the revised Evidence Based Commentary fails the candidate cannot resubmit on that topic. Any further submission must be on the topic for a subsequent year and be accompanied by another payment of the submission fee.

If an Evidence Based Commentary fails outright, the candidate cannot resubmit on that topic. Any further submission must be on the topic for a subsequent year and be accompanied by another submission fee.

Plagiarism (copying the work of others without appropriate acknowledgment) is forbidden, and anyone who commits plagiarism will be barred from Membership of the FSRH.

Please consult the Candidate Guidance Notes for the Evidence Based Commentary for essential detailed information.
3. The Part 2 Examination

The Part 2 examination has three components: Critical Reading Questions [CRQ], Extended Matching Questions [EMQ] and an Objective Structured Clinical Examination [OSCE]. The examination relates to the application of clinical science to the practice of sexual and reproductive healthcare (see document Syllabus for Part 2 MFSRH).

The Part 2 MFSRH examination components:

i. Critical Reading Questions (CRQ)

This is a 1 ½ hour written paper.

The questions are aimed at assessing the candidate’s ability to understand and appreciate the content and value (positive or negative) of published material. Any topics listed in the syllabus may be examined. The examination includes time for candidates to read the presented material. Candidates should present their answers in bullet point form or expanded note form, as advised. The examination material may consist of all or part of an original article from a medical journal, a letter, abstract, advert, media report or audit topic. The questions will also test the candidate’s ability to apply evidence based observations to clinical practice.

Candidates should bring a calculator to this examination.

ii. Extended Matching Questions (EMQ)

This is a 2 hour written paper.

The questions are designed to assess a candidate’s ability to integrate and apply theoretical knowledge, both basic and clinical and apply knowledge of ethical and legal issues in the clinical situation.

Candidates are given an alphabetised list of options from which they are invited to choose the most appropriate relating to a number of clinical scenarios (items)

The EMQ paper tests:

► applied clinical knowledge (as they relate to the modules in the Community Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare training curriculum)

► applied knowledge of basic science including pharmacology and therapeutics

► problem solving skills

► appreciation of ethical and legal considerations in the practice of sexual and reproductive healthcare

iii. Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

The OSCE examination comprises 10 active question stations. Candidates rotate in sequence and will have approximately 10 minutes at each station.

The OSCE stations assess various aspects of a candidate’s clinical competence e.g. communication skills, attitudes, ability to perform an examination using a pelvic model, interpretation of laboratory results, assessing a patient's problem on the telephone and taking appropriate action, dealing with a
service management issue, making comments on photographs, graphs or diagrams, or interacting with a simulated patient (actor/actress).

Candidates are strongly advised to have spent at least two years working as a Clinician in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare before entering the examination. Candidates are advised to gain some UK experience as the Part 2 examination is based on UK clinical practice.

The Part 2 examination is criterion-referenced: candidates' performance is related to pre-set criteria and not to the group average (norm-referenced). The pass marks for each component of the examination and the overall (average) pass mark for the examination is determined by a recognised standard setting method. This allows for variation of the pass marks according to the degree of difficulty of the questions in a particular examination. To pass the Part 2 candidates MUST pass the OSCE component and achieve an overall (average) pass mark for the examination. They must also achieve a pass or borderline fail (not more than 10 percentage points below the pass mark) for the CRQ and EMQ components. Candidates who fail outright (achieving a mark below the borderline fail mark) in either the CRQ or EMQ components will be deemed to have failed the Part 2 examination (there is no borderline fail category for the OSCE component). Candidates who fail the examination will be notified which sections they failed.

To enter MFSRH Part 2 candidates are required:

- To have obtained a pass in the Part 1 before the closing date for entry to the Part 2 AND
- To have passed the Evidence Based Commentary by the closing date for entry to the Part 2

Method of application

Application for entry to the examination must be made through the FSRH website along with payment by the closing date. Payment can be made through the website or via cheque, which should be made payable to the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare.

Closing dates for entry to the examination are advertised on the website and can be obtained from the Examinations Department. Late entries are not accepted.

Candidates must bring photographic ID to all examinations for scrutiny by the invigilators and examiners. Candidates who fail to produce their ID at the beginning of any section of an examination will normally be refused entry to that examination.

In addition, for ease of identification, candidates for the OSCE examination must ensure that their clothing is not worn in such a way that it obscures the face.

Candidates who withdraw from an examination within 8 weeks of the date of the examination without credible mitigating circumstances will be liable to an administrative charge. Details on administrative charges can be found in the MFSRH Entry Fees document on the FSRH website under Careers and Training, Membership Exams. The remainder of the fees will be refunded.

Candidates may defer sitting the examination on a maximum of three occasions over a 3-year period; thereafter the whole examination fee is forfeited. Candidates who wish to defer sitting the examination must notify the FSRH at least 8 weeks prior to the date of the examination; otherwise they will be liable to an administrative charge. Candidates whose deferment is followed by cancellation will be liable to an administrative charge.

Details on administrative charges can be found in the MFSRH Entry Fees document on the FSRH website under Careers and Training, Membership Exams.
Exclusion from Examination

Candidates are not permitted to use mobile telephones or any other form of electronic communication during any part of the examination from the time of registration until the time of completion of the examination. All mobile telephones must be switched off prior to commencement of registration.

Any candidate found using a mobile telephone will be asked to leave the examination. The circumstances surrounding the use of the telephone will be investigated and the FSRH reserves the right to refuse that candidate's application to sit future examinations.

An emergency contact telephone number will be provided so that candidates can be contacted during the examination through the Examinations Department.

Any candidate found attempting to cheat during an examination will be asked to leave the examination. The incident will be investigated and at the discretion of Council the candidate may not be allowed to sit subsequent examinations.

4. Admission to Membership

The award of Membership of the FSRH will be awarded to those candidates who have completed the Part 1 examination, Evidence Based Commentary and Part 2 examination.

The names of successful candidates will be reported to the Council for their election to Membership and subsequent admission by the President.

The prescribed registration fee (if applicable) and annual subscription are payable on election to Membership.

No one shall become a Member of the FSRH or use the designation MFSRH without having fulfilled all the conditions set out in these Regulations.

The Faculty reserves the right to refuse admission to the Membership for reasons which the Council in its absolute discretion thinks fit.

Each Member shall be entitled to the appropriate form of certificate under the seal of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Recertification

The qualification of Membership is subject to recertification every five years. Further information may be obtained from the Recertification Officer at the Faculty Office.

These regulations are regularly reviewed; it is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that up-to-date information is obtained.