



The Royal College of Anaesthetists

OVERSEAS EXAMS AND ELIGIBILITY FOR TRAINING AND CCT

BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION

Historically the examinations of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland, the MCAI and FCAI, have been recognised for progression within the UK training programme, and for the award of completion of training, on the 2007 and previous curricula.

With the introduction of the 2010 Curriculum for a CCT in Anaesthetics, the RCoA sought to maintain the position whereby the MCAI and FCAI are recognised within the training programme for progression and the award of completion of training. The GMC presented an alternative route to the Specialist Register, the Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (Combined Programmes) (CESR[CP], for those who have not undertaken an approved training programme in its entirety, for example those appointed above CT1 on the basis of overseas anaesthetic training or experience.

The MCAI and FCAI (along with other Primary FRCA exemption examinations (www.rcoa.ac.uk/node/14453) are not GMC approved tests of knowledge within the training programme for the award of completion of training within the 2010 CCT Curriculum. As such, trainees in possession of either of these in lieu of the UK FRCA examinations would be awarded a CESR[CP]. There are now very few trainees on the old 2007 Curriculum and all of them must transfer to the 2010 Curriculum by 31 December 2015.

In December 2014 the RCoA Council agreed that trainees passing the MCAI after 1 April 2015 will cease to be eligible to sit the final FRCA (www.rcoa.ac.uk/node/19128), although the MCAI will continue to be recognised as an exemption qualification for those who passed the exam before 1 April 2015 in accordance with the seven year validity period.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The GMC has recently published a position statement seeking to clarify the position of examinations within GMC approved curricula, in particular examinations undertaken outside the UK, both in other European countries and outside Europe (www.gmc-uk.org/education/27138.asp).

It has become apparent that since the introduction of the 2010 Curriculum, recognition of the MCAI and FCAI within the training programme for the award of a CESR[CP], is incorrect.

The GMC's position is that trainees must have passed the FRCA in its entirety in order to progress in training to the award of a CCT. The MCAI and FCAI will no longer be recognised as part of the training programme. In addition no other overseas examinations will be recognised as a test of knowledge.

ACTION

The GMC has confirmed that with effect from 1 June 2015 exams taken from outside the UK are not acceptable for the purposes of *progression through* anaesthetic specialty training.

In addition, with effect from 1 June 2015 exams taken from outside the UK are not acceptable for the purposes of *appointment* to anaesthetic specialty training. However, doctors with approved training which includes a test of knowledge from EEA countries may be considered eligible for *recruitment purposes* to enter UK training at ST3.¹

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The GMC has agreed that those who are currently in an anaesthesia specialty training programme (i.e. ST3+) and already have either component of the Irish examination will be able to complete their anaesthetic training without having to sit a further examination, and be awarded a CESR[CP].

Core trainees who have achieved the MCAI (or other FRCA Primary exempting qualifications) prior to 1 June 2015, must be appointed to ST3 by 31 December 2016 for this qualification to be honoured throughout the remainder of training for the award of CESR[CP].

Trainees with either component of the Irish examinations (MCAI or FCAI) obtained whilst on the 2007 Curriculum who have since transferred to the 2010 Curriculum remain on course for a CCT rather than a CESR[CP] as per previous assurance and agreement from the GMC. **Any trainees on the 2007 Curriculum not accrediting before the 31st December 2015 must move to the 2010 Curriculum at the earliest opportunity and seek advice from the Training department.**

KEY DATES

01 April 2015

Achievement of MCAI from this date is no longer accepted for part exemption eligibility for the Final FRCA.

01 June 2015

Achievement of non-UK exams from this date is no longer accepted.

31 December 2016

Non-UK exams achieved prior to 01 June 2015 are no longer accepted for appointment to, or progression through, training.

Trainees who defer entry to ST3 for 2016 and start in 2017 will be afforded one additional year i.e. until 31 December 2017 providing the deferment is for one of the reasons outlined in the Gold Guide and approved by the relevant Dean.

FAQS

A comprehensive set of FAQs, specific to anaesthesia, will follow once the full range of scenarios as presented in the GMC position statement has been considered.

This is a complex area and so you should contact the Training team for advice, should you have any queries.