



Royal Australasian College
of Dental Surgeons
Let knowledge conquer disease

OMS EXAMINATION POLICY

June 2022

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Purpose

This policy outlines the examination processes for the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS) Surgical Science and Training (SST) Examination and OMS Fellowship Examination not explicit within the Accredited Training in OMS Handbook and associated policies. The policy governs the decisions of the Board of Studies and Examinations Committee.

Background

The SST Examination assesses a candidate's basic surgical science knowledge, including Anatomy, acute care, ward scenario, critical care, and surgical skills. The examination tests whether the candidate has the appropriate knowledge and expertise to care for the surgical patient. The examination comprises an online written examination and a clinical viva examination. An OMS 1 trainee must pass the SST Examination and achieve satisfactory six-monthly formative assessments to progress to OMS 2 training.

The OMS Fellowship Examination is a summative assessment of a trainee's achievement of the learning outcomes of the OMS Curriculum. The examination assesses whether the trainee has the appropriate knowledge and experience to care autonomously for the surgical patient as an OMS consultant. The examination consists of four sections: an online written examination, clinical examination, surgical Anatomy viva, and OMS vivas. An OMS 4 trainee must pass the OMS Fellowship Examination and other training requirements to be awarded a fellowship.

Definitions

RACDS / the College	the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons
OMS	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
Trainee	A medical and dental practitioner undertaking accredited training in the RACDS OMS Training Program
Specialist International Medical Graduate	A medical and dental practitioner who completed their primary medical, dental, and specialist qualifications outside of Australia or New Zealand and is undergoing specialist recognition assessment
Candidate	A medical and dental practitioner who is a trainee or non-trainee and registered to attempt the examination

Policy Statement

1. EXAMINATION REGISTRATION

- 1.1. Candidates must register for the SST Examination and OMS Fellowship Examination by submitting the appropriate registration form (i.e., FOMS 04, FOMS 06) to the College by the advertised closing date. Their respective Director of Training must review and approve their registration before submission to the College. Furthermore, the Training Committee must review and approve the trainee's

eligibility for the OMS Fellowship Examination before registration. The forms, timetables, and fees can be found on the OMS trainees page of the RACDS website.

1.2. Trainees may apply for exemption from the SST Examination (FOMS 03) if they have completed the RACS Generic SET Surgical Science and SET Clinical Examination (GSSE & CE) or the Intercollegiate MRCS (United Kingdom) – Part A & B. Please refer to sections 4.6 and 4.7 of the Accredited Training in OMS Handbook for information on eligibility requirements, timing, format, and passing standards of the examinations.

1.3. The Overseas Trained Specialist Subcommittee may require specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) to complete the OMS Fellowship Examination as part of their specialist recognition assessment. Please refer to the RACDS Specialist Assessment of Specialist International Medical Graduate Policy for information about the specialist assessment process in Australia and New Zealand.

2. WITHDRAWAL FROM EXAMINATION

2.1. Candidates who wish to withdraw from an examination must advise the College in writing before the written examination date. Withdrawal before the closing date for registration will be fully refunded, less a 10% administration fee. Withdrawal at least 14 days before the written examination will be partially (50%) refunded. Withdrawal less than 14 days before the written examination will not be refunded. Please refer to the RACDS Refund Policy for more information.

2.2. Candidates who do not attend an examination without notifying the College will be considered a failed attempt unless there are extenuating circumstances, which can be supported by appropriate documentation submitted to the Board of Studies.

3. EXAMINATION CONDUCT

3.1. A breach of academic integrity may constitute academic misconduct. Academic misconduct occurs when behaviour or action (i.e., intentional or unintentional) breaches the principles underpinning academic integrity. Academic misconduct in examinations includes but is not limited to plagiarism, unauthorised collaboration, unauthorised materials and resources, and impersonation. All instances or allegations of Academic Misconduct will be considered in line with the RACDS Academic Integrity Policy.

3.2. The Director of Education will designate an Academic Integrity Officer (AIO), who may be a member of RACDS Staff, to investigate alleged breaches of academic integrity to establish the full facts and circumstances of the alleged misconduct. The AIO will prepare a full report detailing the findings of the investigation.

3.3. The College reserves the right to withhold examination results while investigations are ongoing.

4. OUTCOMES

- 4.1. The Court of Examiners sets the passing standard at each examination using formal standard-setting methods. It may be adjusted with consideration to differences in the difficulty of examinations and to maintain the standards. The minimum score required to pass may be set by applying an error adjustment to the passing standard score.
- 4.2. To successfully pass the SST examination, a candidate must achieve the passing standard in the written examination (i.e., multiple-choice question paper and short answer question paper), clinical examination, and critical care station in the same examination diet.
- 4.3. To successfully pass the OMS Fellowship Examination, a candidate must achieve the passing standard across all four sections (written, anatomy, medium cases, and OMS vivas) in the same examination diet.
- 4.4. The College will securely dispose of all examination materials, including online candidate scripts, after determining results and release of individual feedback. Online candidate scripts will be deleted permanently and cannot be recovered or reconstructed.

5. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

- 5.1. The Court of Examiners assesses the marks of all candidates immediately following the written and clinical examinations. The Registrar will notify candidates of the results by email within two (2) working days.
- 5.2. Unsuccessful candidates will receive general feedback within four weeks following the release of examination results. The College encourages unsuccessful candidates to meet with their Director of Training, Supervisor of Training, or mentor to discuss results and to prepare for the next examination if eligible.

6. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1. A candidate may apply for consideration of special circumstances (i.e., medical, compassionate, chronic impairment, or disability) as soon as possible before or during the examination in line with the RACDS Special Consideration in Examination and Assessment Policy. Candidates must submit relevant supporting documentation at the time of application.
- 6.2. The College will not accept applications from candidates who fail to notify the College before or during the examination or after the publication of results. Such special circumstances will not constitute grounds for reconsideration, review or appeal under the Reconsideration, Review and Appeals Policy

6.3. Where an application is made under this policy, the notification of the outcome of the examination will be delayed pending the resolution of the application for consideration of special circumstances. The College will notify the applicant of the outcome by email within 30 days of receipt of the application.

7. APPEALS

7.1. A candidate may appeal the decision within 30 days of notification subject to the RACDS Reconsideration, Review, and Appeals Policy. The Registrar and Board of Studies will consider each case on its merits in accordance with the policy.