



## Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations

### Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in Otolaryngology

### Regulations 2015

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## **Regulations relating to the Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in Otolaryngology (2015)**

(to be read in conjunction with appropriate Guidance Notes for Applicants)

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1. The applicant must hold a medical qualification recognised for registration by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom or the Medical Council of Ireland. The applicant must have been qualified for at least six years.
2. The applicant must provide evidence of having reached the standard of clinical competence defined in the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum either for the award of the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) by the General Medical Council or for the award of Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST) by the Irish Surgical Postgraduate Training Committee. The required standard may have been achieved through training or qualifications, and experience considered together. The passing of the Intercollegiate Specialty Examination alone does not imply that the CCT, CCST (Ireland) or placement on the Specialist Register will be automatic; the Examination will form only part of the evidence required.
3. This evidence must consist of three structured references in the format prescribed by the Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations (JCIE). These references must be completed by the appropriate senior colleagues with direct experience of the applicant's current clinical practice in the appropriate specialty as defined in the Guidance Notes for Referees.
4. Candidates will have up to a maximum of 7 years to complete the examination process as follows:

Section 1: Candidates will have a two year period from their 1<sup>st</sup> attempt with a maximum of 4 attempts with no re-entry.

Candidates who have achieved the required standard in Section 1 and have been granted eligibility to proceed to Section 2 the following will apply:

Section 2: Candidates will have a maximum of 4 attempts with no re-entry.

Candidates will have a maximum of 4 attempts in totality at each Section across both the Intercollegiate Specialty Examinations and the Joint Surgical Colleges Fellowship Examinations i.e. the total of 4 attempts applies to the Intercollegiate Specialty Examinations and the Joint Surgical Colleges Fellowship Examinations alone or any combination of the two.

All previous Regulations will be rescinded.

## Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in Otolaryngology

### Guide to the Scope and Format of the Examination

**Section 1** is a written test\* composed of two Single Best Answer papers. These papers are carefully prepared to cover the curriculum content which can be best assessed in this way. A process of standard setting is performed by trained and experienced examiners to set the eligibility to proceed mark. Section 1 examinations are delivered via computer-based testing at Pearson VUE Test Centres in the UK and Ireland.

Candidates must meet the required standard in Section 1 in order to gain eligibility to proceed to Section 2.

**Paper 1** 120 Single Best Answer [SBA] (2 hours 15 mins)

**Paper 2** 120 Single Best Answer [SBA] (2 hours 15 mins)

\* Case, S.M. & Swanson, D.B. (2001). Constructing written test questions for basic and clinical sciences. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edn. National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), Philadelphia, USA.  
[www.nbme.org/PDF/ItemWriting\\_2003/2003IWGwhole.pdf](http://www.nbme.org/PDF/ItemWriting_2003/2003IWGwhole.pdf) (retrieved on 15/12/2006).

**Section 2** is the clinical component of the examination. It will consist of a series of carefully designed and structured interviews on clinical topics – some being scenario based and some being centred around volunteers. Such volunteers will be past or present patients relevant to the specialty and recruited by the host examiner. The Section 2 examinations will be held in pre-selected UK/Ireland host centres.

### Examination format (from August 2022)

#### Clinical examinations

- History Taking & Communication Skills (1 x 20 minute session) **with actors present**
- Clinical short cases on the following domains: (2 x 20 minute sessions)
  - Otology including Neuro-Otology and Head & Neck Surgery
  - Paediatric Otolaryngology and Rhinology & Facial Plastics

**Volunteers** are used for each short case

#### Oral examinations

4 x 30 minute orals

- Otology including Neuro-Otology
- Head & Neck Surgery
- Paediatric Otolaryngology
- Rhinology & Facial Plastics - (Facial Plastics will cover otoplasty, rhinoplasty, flap reconstruction, excision of facial lesions, suturing techniques, tissue handling and assessment of patients undergoing cosmetic procedures)

Pertinent to which, candidates should have a knowledge of Basic Sciences, Clinical presentation and progression of disease processes, Investigative procedures, Management policy of disease processes, Operative techniques, including reconstruction.

For further indication of the Examination Scope, candidates should consult the Curriculum as published by the SAC in Otolaryngology [[www.iscp.ac.uk](http://www.iscp.ac.uk)].

Please note that the Intercollegiate Specialty Board in Otolaryngology reserves the right to modify the format of the examination.

## **The Royal Society of Medicine Section of Otolaryngology and Section of Laryngology & Rhinology Medals**

The medals will be awarded annually to the two highest scoring candidates in Section 2, combining both examination sittings each year. The candidate whose surname is first in the alphabet will receive the Section of Otolaryngology Medal, the second candidate will receive the Section of Laryngology and Rhinology Medal. All awards are made at the discretion of the Board.

**A candidate who is an existing Member of one of the four participating Royal Colleges (Edinburgh, England, Glasgow, Ireland) and who is successful in the Intercollegiate Specialty Examination will be promoted to the Fellowship of their college, unless they indicate another preference. Only those who are subsequently accorded and maintain the Fellowship of a College are entitled to use that College's associated post-nominals.**

**September 2023**