

Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations

25 February 2021

Dear Candidate

Intercollegiate Specialty Examinations – Section 2 Update

I thought a brief update would be helpful for all Section 2 Candidates in advance of more detailed specialty-specific information being cascaded by the Secretariat in the very near future. As always, everyone at the JCIE is very appreciative of your patience and understanding in the face of the challenges posed by the pandemic.

I previously intimated that the JCIE would arrange replacement Section 2 diets for every examination that was subject to a pandemic-enforced cancellation and this remains the case. The dates and venues of these replacement Section 2 examinations are now confirmed and are listed below. In keeping with the JCIE's previous commitment to the candidate pool, the fourth column of the table lists candidates who are **guaranteed a place** in the respective examination diet. Such candidates are those who were already enrolled for an examination and/or have suffered an examination postponement. **Please note, however, that these are not the only candidates that will be accommodated in each examination;** the JCIE Secretariat will offer places up to the maximum number of Candidates who can be accommodated, and the Secretariat team is currently working hard to maximise that number while taking in to account the outcome of recent Section 1 examinations.

Examination scheduling is, however, a complex task and depends not only on the total number of Examiners who are available but on their sub-specialty mix. Please rest assured that we are doing everything we can to offer places to every candidate who is eligible and wishes to take Section 2 between now and the summer. It may be that a waiting list is required in some specialties but that is the norm rather than an exception. Everyone, however, can play their part in keeping that possibility to a minimum. What can be frustrating for all concerned are late withdrawals that result in Section 2 diets not being fully utilised. With that in mind the JCIE would appreciate early notice from any Candidate who wishes to defer to a later examination date so that the space can be offered in a timely manner to one of your peers who otherwise might be held on a waiting list.

Revised JCIE Section 2 examination schedule March – July 2021

Specialty	Start Date	Venue	Candidates Guaranteed a Place
Neurosurgery	25 March	Edinburgh	No change to original planning
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	14 April	Edinburgh	All Candidates initially scheduled for March
Otolaryngology	21 April	Glasgow	No change to original planning
Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery	25 April	Glasgow	All Candidates initially scheduled for February
Vascular Surgery	10 May	Edinburgh	No change to original planning
Urology	13 May	Edinburgh	No change to original planning
Plastic Surgery	17 May	Edinburgh	All Candidates initially scheduled for March
Cardiothoracic Surgery	19 May	Edinburgh	No change to original planning
General Surgery	26 May	Glasgow	All Candidates initially scheduled for February
Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery	6 June	Glasgow	All Candidates initially scheduled for April
Paediatric Surgery	23 June	Edinburgh	All Candidates initially scheduled for March
General Surgery	7 July	Glasgow	All Candidates initially scheduled for May

I do hope that this communication goes some way to easing any anxieties you may have in relation to Section 2 examination staging. The JCIE Secretariat will be in contact with each and every one of you very soon to confirm your Section 2 status and the JCIE website will be updated with the dates and venues listed in the table. In the meantime, I would be most grateful if you could refrain from emailing and/or calling the Secretariat to seek further information. All that does is detract from the detailed planning work that is taking place. I give you my word that you will all receive more detailed information at the earliest possible opportunity.

Please keep safe and well and I wish you all the best for your Section 2 examination when the time comes.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. R. McGregor', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

JOHN R MCGREGOR

CHAIR – JOINT COMMITTEE ON INTERCOLLEGIATE EXAMINATIONS