

**Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow**  
**Regulations relating to the Diploma in Travel Medicine**  
**March 2009**

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## 1. Introduction

The Diploma in Travel Medicine examination is offered in conjunction with Health Protection Scotland for those attending their Travel Medicine course (enquiries relating to the course should be directed to Health Protection Scotland, Clifton House, Clifton Place, Glasgow, G3 7LN, tel +44(0)141 300 1132, [www.hps.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk)). This document provides a guide for candidates preparing for the examination. It contains the examination regulations and outlines the format and scope of the sections of the examination.

These regulations are subject to regular review.

## 2. Eligibility for the Award of the Diploma

To be eligible for the award of the Diploma all candidates must have:

- i) a nursing, medical or equivalent qualification recognised by the College
- ii) passed all 3 Modules of the Diploma in Travel Medicine distance learning course, including the examination, and have attended both compulsory residential components of the course.
- iii) complied with all the current regulations of the College and paid the Diploma fee.

## 3. General Conditions

- i) Application for Admission to the Examination

Application forms for the examination will be given to candidates during the first residential week of their Diploma Course, normally in March. These must be returned to the College by the date indicated, along with supporting documentation, in order for the candidate to be allowed to sit the examination.

- ii) Infringement of the Regulations

The Council of the College may refuse to admit to the examination, or to proceed with the examination of, any candidate who infringes any of the regulations, or who is considered by the examiners to be guilty of behaviour prejudicial to the proper management and conduct of the examination.

## 4. Eligibility to sit the Examination

In order to sit the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) candidates must have:

- i) provided the College with satisfactory evidence of their nursing/medical qualification or equivalent
- ii) attended the compulsory residential component of the course (one week in March).

In order to sit the written examination candidates must have:

- iii) provided the College with satisfactory evidence of their nursing/medical qualification
- iv) attended the compulsory residential week components of the course (one week in March and September respectively)
- v) passed all 10 Units of Module 1 (including resubmissions).

## 5. Format of the Examination

The examination takes the following format:

### i) **OSCE Section**

The OSCE takes place during the mid-term residential week in September at the College.

This will last 1 hour and 20 minutes. Each candidate will progress through a series of 10 clinical stations where travel medicine topics and communication skills will be assessed.

### ii) **Written Section**

The written section takes place in February and there are two written papers:

- a) a multiple choice question (MCQ) paper consisting of 40 questions to be answered in one hour and 15 minutes. Each question offers 5 possible answers. The questions are in single best answer format.
- b) a modified essay question (MEQ) paper consisting of 10 questions to be answered using short bullet-point answers. This will last one hour and 30 minutes.

Overseas candidates may request to sit the written section of the examination in their home country. If agreed by College, the appropriate arrangements must be made by the candidate with their local British Council or Embassy and any fee charged by these institutions must be met by the candidate.

### iii) **Mark Allocation for the Examination**

OSCE = 15 % of the overall Diploma mark

MCQ = 20% of the overall Diploma mark

MEQ = 10% of the overall Diploma mark.

Candidates must achieve a minimum overall mark of 50% or above in the OSCE + Written to be awarded the Diploma.

A candidate who fails to achieve this minimum overall mark may be offered one resit attempt in the section(s) for which a mark of less than 50% has been achieved.

## 6. Representations and Appeals

Appeals may be made to the College's Head of Examinations relating to the conduct of the examination.

Appeals will not be accepted on the grounds that a candidate:

- a) considers his/her efforts were under marked
- b) did not understand or was unaware of the examination Regulations
- c) seeks to question the professional or academic judgements of the examiners

An appeal must be submitted in writing by the candidate (appellant) setting out in full the details of the appeal. The appeal must be made within 30 days of publication of the results. (The College's Appeal Procedures may be found on the website - [www.rcpsg.ac.uk](http://www.rcpsg.ac.uk)).

## 7. Syllabus

Topics assessed in the examination are covered in Modules 1 and 2 of the course and include:

- Travellers' health: historical and contemporary perspectives. Emerging infections: travelling over time.
- Pre-travel risk Assessment. Psychological Aspects of Travel.
- Infections and Epidemiology of Infections
- Malaria
- Immunisations theory, practice and available vaccines
- Women and Children Travellers
- Travellers with Pre-existing Health Problems
- The effects of altitude on health. Travel in cold climates. Expedition medicine.
- Triage of the Returned Traveller; Health screening and psychological considerations in the returned traveller; Infection in the returned traveller.
- Providing a travel medicine service
- Asylum seekers and refugees
- Impact of tourism on host countries.
- A perspective from Sub-Saharan Africa.
- A perspective from the India sub-continent.
- A perspective from South and Central America.
- A perspective from South-East Asia
- Health problems associated with air travel (including motion sickness, jetlag, fear of flying and air rage).
- Accidents and injuries experienced by travellers.
- Swimming and sub-aqua diving.

## **Appendix I**

### **College Directory**

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow  
232-242 St Vincent Street  
Glasgow  
G2 5RJ

College Switchboard: +44(0)141 221 6072  
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#### ***Examinations & Assessment Unit***

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