

ST3 recruitment into medical specialties 2012 – MRCP (UK)

The Medical Programme Board reviewed its decision on recruitment to medical specialty ST3 posts, which commence in August 2012, and in particular the requirement for successful applicants to have full CMT competences, including all parts of the MRCP(UK) to be able to take up their appointments.

A review was planned, but made more important by the fact that more trainees than anticipated passed the PACES exam in the second diet reducing the potential risk of a large number of last minute rota vacancies caused by trainees being unable to take up post due to not securing full MRCP (UK).

MRCP (UK) and the JRCPTB have undertaken to make every effort to allow CMT trainees to have sufficient attempts at all parts of the examination in order to receive results in time to be eligible for ST3 entry in August 2012. GMC approval has been granted in principle to explore the earlier release of PACES results and the feasibility of an earlier retake if necessary.

The Medical Programme Board have therefore decided that for 2012 applicants will need to have passed the part 2 written examination but do not need to have passed the PACES exam to receive an offer of a ST3 post in a medical specialty.

To be able to take up their appointments in August 2012, applicants will need to have full CMT competencies, including all parts of the MRCP (UK).

Update on changes to MRCP(UK) exam requirements

The JDC welcomes the Medical Programme Board's decision on recruitment to medical speciality ST3 posts, commencing in August 2012

In 2012 applicants to medical speciality ST3 posts will now only be required to have passed their part 2 written examination, but do not need to have passed the PACES exam to receive an offer of an ST3 post. Candidates will, however, need to have full CMT competencies, which includes all parts of the MRCP(UK) including PACES, to be able to actually take up their ST3 appointments. This means that candidates who have not passed PACES at the time they receive their ST3 offer will need to have done so by the time the ST3 post starts, otherwise the offer will be withdrawn.

MRCP(UK) has also announced that a new results release process will be introduced for the MRCP(UK) Part 2 Clinical Examination (PACES). This process will be in place from the third diet in 2011 and will enable UK candidates to view their results via the MRCP(UK) website within approximately 10 working days of sitting the examination.

The JDC also look forward to the outcome of the review into the MRCP(UK) exam process, which the MRCP(UK) have committed to. We shall communicate these outcomes as they become available.

[Read the full statement issued by MRCP\(UK\)](#)

Background

It was announced earlier this year (May 2011) that in 2012 applicants will be required to have passed the full MRCP(UK) including PACES to be eligible to receive an offer of a ST3 post. The reason for this change was to prevent a shortfall of ST3 doctors caused by applicants who fail to complete MRCP in time, which would impact on service delivery in acute medical specialties.

The JDC were disappointed with the decision which was made and had concerns that candidates were being asked to complete their MRCP exam earlier in their careers and in a significantly shortened timeframe, in order to obtain a ST3 post in 2012.

Due to more trainees than anticipated passing the PACES exam during the second diet than expected, thereby reducing the potential risk to service delivery, a review of the decision was accelerated by the Medical Programme Board.

[Read the BMA's previous statement on this issue](#)

Final Communications Statement to be published on MRCP (UK) and JRCPTB website

ST3 recruitment into medical specialties 2012

The Medical Programme Board (MPB) has reviewed its decision regarding recruitment to medical specialty ST3 posts in England and Wales which commence in August 2012. In particular the date by which successful applicants are required to have full CMT competences, including all parts of the MRCP(UK) to be able to take up their appointments, has been reviewed.

Concerns that there would be a large number of last minute rota vacancies due to trainees not being able to take up posts have not materialised. Although there were some last minute gaps due to failure to pass MRCP(UK), these were more than compensated for by a larger number of trainees with proleptic offers who passed MRCP(UK) shortly before posts were due to commence.

The MPB has therefore decided to allow proleptic appointments to ST3 medical specialties in 2012. As in 2011, applicants will need to have full CMT competences, including all parts of the MRCP(UK), to be able to take up their appointments in August 2012.

MRCP(UK) and the JRCPTB continue to undertake to make every effort to allow CMT trainees to have sufficient attempts at all parts of the examination in order to receive results in time to be eligible for ST3 entry in August 2012.

As part of this ongoing commitment MRCP(UK) is pleased to announce that from the third diet in 2011 a new results release process will be introduced for PACES enabling UK candidates to view their results via the MRCP(UK) website within approximately 10 working days of sitting the examination. For more information please visit the MRCP(UK) website at www.mrcpuk.org