

MRCS

Examination Access Arrangements for Candidates with Specific Learning Differences: Dyslexia

March 2012

1. General

- 1.1 Tailored arrangements may be made for individual candidates with additional needs due to learning differences such as dyslexia by means of reasonable adjustments. These arrangements are intended to allow candidates to perform to the best of their ability and to ensure they are not discriminated against because of their additional needs.
- 1.2 While it is the responsibility of the Colleges to ask candidates if they have any additional needs, it is the responsibility of the candidate to notify the relevant College when they submit an application form of any additional needs they have, the reason for them, and any reasonable adjustments that have been helpful in the past. Applications for reasonable adjustments to meet additional needs should be submitted by the closing date for the examination and supported by written evidence in the form of an assessment report from a Chartered Psychologist specialising in adult dyslexia (Educational, Occupational or sometimes Clinical Psychologists).
- 1.3 Candidates must not assume that any application for adjustments agreed for previous sittings of any part of the IMRCS examination will be carried forward automatically or agreed. Candidates must contact each College separately in respect of each application, to sit the examination.
- 1.4 The candidate will be informed in writing of the outcome of the application for special arrangements and the nature of the adjustments which will be made to meet his/her needs.
- 1.5 The Colleges reserve the right to determine the venue and date of the examination with regard to the provision of any such arrangements.
- 1.6 Further allowance or special consideration for candidates with specific learning differences (dyslexia), other than included in this document, will not be made regarding a candidate's examination outcome.
- 1.7 This document constitutes guidance. The Colleges reserve the right to interpret this guidance and to apply it as they may consider appropriate to the individual circumstances of the candidate, the examination circuit and venue.

2. Part B (OSCE) Arrangements

The following arrangements are indicative of those that will apply for candidates whose applications for special arrangements due to dyslexia have been agreed by the College to which they have applied:

- 2.1 The College will identify a reader in advance of the examination. The reader will be able to read medical terms encountered during the OSCE with ease, but need not have a medical qualification.

- 2.2 The reader and candidate will be introduced prior to the examination and the role of the reader made clear.
- 2.3 The reader will accompany the candidate around the OSCE circuit including entering the examination bay if so requested by the candidate.
- 2.4 The reader will read any text related to the examination either outside or inside the station as requested by the candidate. They may read the text, or parts of the text, as many times as the candidate may ask within the time constraints of the examination.
- 2.5 The reader will read text, including numbers, only at the request of the candidate.
- 2.6 The reader will read text in tables, including numbers, as requested by the candidate but will not describe or comment on any tables or diagrams forming part of the examination.
- 2.7 The reader will not explain any word(s) to the candidate or intervene in the examination in any way other than to read text that forms part of the examination.
- 2.8 The reader will not write anything, or annotate any document, for the candidate. They will not read, correct or comment on anything written by the candidate.
- 2.9 Examiners will be briefed before the examination that a candidate will be accompanied by a reader. They will be briefed as to the role of the reader. The examiners will conduct the examination and apply the marking scheme in exactly the same way as for all other candidates.
- 2.10 Due to reasons of utility, for the MRCS Part B (OSCE) it is not possible under any circumstances to grant a candidate extra time.