

Cessation of the MRCS (ENT) Examination

Following a stakeholder engagement process, ICBSE and the four Surgical Royal Colleges of the UK and in Ireland are announcing that the MRCS (ENT) is being discontinued, subject to GMC approval. This will ensure that the summative assessment that candidates sit between the general phase of training (Core Surgical Training) and subsequent specialist phase of training (Higher Surgical Training in the UK) is consistent between all the surgical specialties. The last diet of the MRCS (ENT) OSCE will be delivered in February 2026.

Transition Plan

ICBSE and the Colleges are announcing the cessation of the examination at this stage to enable first-time candidates planning to sit the examination five further opportunities to do so. This represents four attempts in line with the examination's regulations, in addition to a further discretionary attempt in line with ICBSE's additional attempt policy.

First-time candidates wishing to avail themselves of the maximum number of attempts at the MRCS (ENT) examination are therefore required to apply for the October 2024 sitting, the deadline for which is 15 August.

Candidates applying for the examination after the October 2024 sitting will therefore not have maximum number of attempts available to them but can still apply for the remaining sittings of the examination.

Candidates who plan to enter ENT Higher Surgical Training in the UK but have yet to attain the MRCS (ENT) by February 2026, will be required to pass the MRCS Part B in order to exit from Core Surgical Training. Candidates in this position will have the full number of attempts to pass the MRCS Part B in line with the existing regulations, subject to the time-limit identified within these.

Any candidate planning to enter ENT Higher Surgical Training in the UK may now choose to take the MRCS Part B rather than the MRCS (ENT) OSCE.