

Applicant Guidance

**General Practice:
Multi-Specialty Recruitment Assessment (MSRA)
COVID-19 EXTRAORDINARY SITTING**

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this guidance is to outline requirements to allow successful completion of the Multi-Specialty Recruitment Assessment (MSRA) for recruitment to GP training during the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The requirements stated in this guidance will only apply for the Round 1 Re-advert 2020 recruitment episode in acknowledgement of the national emergency and will not set a precedent for future delivery of the MSRA or GP recruitment. This specific sitting of the MSRA will be referred to in this guidance as MSRA (COVID-19).

The MSRA (COVID-19) is a computer-based assessment, delivered in partnership with Work Psychology Group and Pearson VUE, which has been designed to assess some of the essential competences outlined in the Person Specification and is based around clinical scenarios.

The MSRA (COVID-19) is utilised by several postgraduate medical specialties. Each speciality considers the MSRA (COVID-19) differently as part of its selection process. It is recommended that you visit specific national recruitment websites and familiarise yourself with the appropriate guidance for that speciality.

2. Sitting the MSRA (COVID-19)

All applicants who apply for GP training posts in Round 1 Re-advert 2020 will be required to sit the MSRA (COVID-19) - previous outcomes will not carry over and there are no exemptions or exceptions to this requirement.

In light of the current suspension of exam delivery at Pearson VUE-owned and operated Professional Centers (PPCs) throughout the UK and other countries, the MSRA (COVID-19) will be delivered exclusively using Pearson VUE's OnVUE online testing solution which will allow the MSRA (COVID-19) to be delivered directly to applicants, negating the need to travel to an exam centre.

The exam will be temporarily hosted on the UK Foundation Programme (UKFPO) testing platform and applicants should disregard any UKFPO branding that may be visible.

3. Structure of the MSRA (COVID-19)

Limitations on the maximum exam length that can be delivered directly to applicants via OnVUE mean that the MSRA (COVID-19) exam will differ from the usual structure of the MSRA. The MSRA (COVID-19) will consist of the Professional Dilemmas (PD) paper with the length of the PD paper remaining changed at 95 minutes. This truncated MSRA has been approved by senior clinical representatives from across the four nations and junior doctor representatives from the BMA Junior Doctors Committee (JDC) and Academy of Medical Royal Colleges trainees' committee.

The structure of the PD paper, including the question types, the competency domains being assessed and the scoring process is detailed in full in the [MSRA Exam Blueprint & Information](#) document; you are strongly advised to read this document. Sample and practice questions for both of the papers are available from the [GPNRO Resource Bank](#).

4. Adjustments under the Equality Act 2010

All HEE Local Offices and Deaneries are aware of the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate applicants provided these requests are made known in advance.

Due to current circumstances, the only adjustments for MSRA (COVID-19) that can be accommodated on this occasion are requests for additional time. The maximum amount of addition time available is +25%.

5. Registering for the MSRA (COVID-19) & Scheduling an Appointment

All applicants who have been assessed as demonstrating evidence of eligibility as outlined in the Longlisting section of the [GP ST1 / TGPT Applicant Guidance](#) will be invited to sit the MSRA (COVID-19). If you are invited, you will be required to book an appointment and undertake the MSRA (COVID-19); failure to do so will result in your GP application not progressing further.

The correspondence you receive from the GPNRO will ask you to register with Pearson VUE using very specific account credentials provided in the message. If you have applied to other specialties, you may receive multiple messages containing the same credentials from each. In this instance, you only need to register once. Failure to register will result you being unable to sit the MSRA (COVID-19) and your GP application will be withdrawn.

Due the MSRA (COVID-19) being hosted on the UK Foundation Programme (UKFPO) testing platform, **all applicants this round must create a new account** on this temporary platform in order to sit the exam.

5.1 OnVUE Minimum Requirements

Before booking an exam, applicants should ensure that their equipment and environment meet Pearson VUE's required specification for the successful delivery of an online proctored exam.

You should visit <https://home.pearsonvue.com/ukfp/onvue> and run the system test to ensure that device you intend to use to sit the MSRA (COVID-19) meets the minimum specification requirement. You should also ensure that your testing environment is a quiet, private location with a strong and reliable internet connection.

It is strongly recommended that you avoid sitting the exam at work or on a work computer as it is likely that your employer's strict network security / firewall will disrupt the online exam delivery.

You are also strongly advised to familiarise yourself with Pearson VUE's policies and procedures which are also available in the above link which must be strictly adhered to. You should be aware that any violation of policies and procedures will result in the immediate termination of your exam and withdrawal of your application.

5.2 Booking an exam

If you are invited to the MSRA (COVID-19), you will be required to register and log into your Pearson VUE account and use the self-service functionality to book an exam on a date and time of your choosing, subject to availability within the specified testing window. The *only exception* to this is if you have requested a special accommodation of additional time, under the Equality Act 2010; in this instance, you will be contacted separately *provided* you have completed the registration process outlined above.

When booking your exam, it is strongly recommended that you avoid booking from a mobile device or internet browsers that have reached the end of their product support lifecycle as these are unlikely to be supported.

5.3 Confirmation of exam booking

Once you have booked your exam, you will receive an automated confirmation email to your registered email address. If you do not receive this confirmation, log into your Pearson VUE account to confirm if the booking process was completed in its entirety.

6. Admission Policy

The MSRA (COVID-19) is proctored in English only. There is not an option for local language proctoring for this exam.

All applicants are advised to log into their accounts 30 minutes early to start the self-check-in process, run through ID authentication protocols using artificial intelligence and to allow for any troubleshooting. If you are more than 15 minutes late after your scheduled exam time you will be unable to begin your exam.

To log into your account:

- Visit <https://home.pearsonvue.com/ukfp> and click on the Sign In button
- Click on your scheduled exam under 'Purchased Online Exams'
- Click "Begin Exam" and follow the on-screen prompts to complete the check-in process
- Once you have completed the check-in process you will be contacted by a Proctor to begin your exam

Please note that you are required to have a clean and clutter free workstation. During check in, the Proctor will ask you to perform a room and desk scan using your webcam and will inspect any materials near your workstation.

If a third party is detected in the physical room where you are seated during the exam, the exam will be immediately terminated and your application will be withdrawn.

6.1 Identification (ID) Requirements

The Identification (ID) requirements for online proctored exams differ to the requirements for an exam delivered at a test centre. Therefore, it is important that you understand the requirements for this occurrence.

You will need to show one (1) valid form of unexpired, Government-issued personal ID. The Government-issued ID must contain your name, signature and photo

The name on the exam registration must match the names on the Government issued ID exactly. *If your identification is not considered valid you will not be permitted to complete your exam.*

Examples of acceptable identification include:

- Passport
- Driver's license
- Military ID (including spouse and dependents)
- Identification card (national or local)
- Registration card (such as green card, permanent resident, visa)

Please note that Pearson VUE are unable to accept the following ID's for an online proctored exam:

- Renewal forms with expired ID's
- Government-issued name change documents with Government ID.

6.2 Alternative Identification Documents

Alternative identification documents cannot be accepted for exams delivered through OnVUE. If you are unable to satisfy the ID requirements, you must contact the GPNRO immediately at gpnro@hee.nhs.uk for further advice.

Failure to notify the GPNRO of any discrepancies will result in you not being permitted to sit the exam.

6.3 Scheduled / unscheduled breaks

There are no scheduled breaks during the delivery of the MSRA (COVID-19) and therefore, breaks are not allowed during the exam for any reason. If you leave your device during your exam the Pearson VUE proctor will end your session and you will be unable to continue testing and this will result in the automatic withdrawal of your application.

You are advised take a comfort break prior to the commencement of your exam.

If you require refreshments, water in a clear glass is allowed during testing however, eating, smoking, and chewing gum are prohibited.

7. Reschedule Policy

If you wish to reschedule your exam, you may do this via your [Pearson VUE account](#) for the exam in question, within the exam booking period. If you are an applicant with a pre-approved adjustment and wish to reschedule your exam, please contact Pearson VUE customer services via <https://home.pearsonvue.com/ukfp/contact>. You must reschedule exam appointments at least 48 hours before the appointment.

8. Cancellation Policy

If you wish to cancel your exam, you may do this via your [Pearson VUE account](#) for the exam in question, within the exam booking period. If you are an applicant with a pre-approved adjustment and wish to cancel your exam, please contact Pearson VUE customer services via <https://home.pearsonvue.com/ukfp/contact>. You must cancel exam appointments at least 48 hours before the appointment.

9. Missed Appointment

If you miss your exam and wish to schedule another appointment, please contact the GPNRO at gpnro@hee.nhs.uk immediately; you will not be able to re-book online via self-service without first being re-authorised by the GPNRO. You should be aware that availability is likely to be limited at this point and that you may be required to select disagreeable appointment times. The GPNRO will be unable to accommodate you if you miss an appointment on the final day of the MSRA window.

10. MSRA (COVID-19) Outcomes

All applicants will be notified of their results, and thus their performance/outcome a short time after the conclusion of the testing window. The date by which you can expect your results is disclosed in the GP recruitment timeline for each round. The timeline can be found on the [Recruitment](#) webpage of the GPNRO website.

The results will be published in your Oriol account against your GP ST1 or TGPT application as interview scores. Detailed guidance on how to locate or view these scores is contained in the [Oriol Applicant User Handbook](#).

10.1 Scoring Scale

The MSRA (COVID-19) scores awarded for GP applicants in the PD paper are normalised around a mean score of 250 with a standard deviation of 40. In addition, the scores are banded 1 to 4 where 1 indicates that the minimum acceptable standard has not been achieved. Applicants who achieve a band of 1 will be deemed unsuccessful and will not progress further with their application.

10.2 Maximum Achievable Score

Due to the abovementioned normalisation of scores, there is no maximum achievable score. For a given cohort of applicants, normalisation is dependent on the average performance of said cohort and therefore, it is not considered meaningful to interpret the scores achieved in the MSRA (COVID-19) with a maximum value.

10.3 Appealing the Outcome

All applicants will receive feedback when they are notified of their outcome. The outcome is final and cannot be reviewed, re-marked or disputed. There is no appeals process.

If you feel your application has not been managed correctly and have evidence of a failure in the process, there is a national complaints policy and procedure. You should explore this route if you have any concerns about your application. A copy of the policy can be located in the [GPRNO Resource Bank](#).

11. Applicant Expenses

Expenses incurred by applicants in sitting the MSRA (COVID-19) will *not* be reimbursed by the GPNRO.

12. Revision Materials

None of the GP question writers take part in or endorse any preparation courses or books.

The GPNRO understands that applicants may wish to revise and prepare for the MSRA (COVID-19) with each other in small groups. However, sharing information about the actual assessments is unacceptable and is viewed as unprofessional behaviour. The MSRA (COVID-19) uses many different equated exam forms and therefore knowledge of questions in one paper will not necessarily benefit others. We would also remind all applicants that entry to GP specialty training is competitive.