

Transition back to in-centre examination delivery

Questions and Answers

What is changing to the delivery of the exam?

All UK and international MRCP(UK) written examinations and Specialty Certificate Examinations (SCEs) will transition from Remote Online Proctoring (ROP) back to in-centre delivery.

Why are you going back to in centre exams?

The delivery of ROP exams carries a high level of risk in terms of both technical issues and examination security. Recent ROP technical issues have caused significant disruption for candidates. Furthermore, recent technological developments including the use of AI, mean that we need to safeguard against the potential for cheating and anything that could compromise the security of the examination, including question leakage. Moving to in-centre will significantly mitigate all of these risks.

When will the changes to exam delivery take place?

From June 2026, all written assessments will be delivered in centre. Those applying to sit before this date should note that sessions will continue to run via remote online proctoring (ROP) to maintain consistency for candidates preparing under the current format and to support a smooth transition to in-centre delivery.

How will I know if my exam will be in centre or via ROP?

The delivery format will be stipulated when the application period opens and will not change prior to exam day.

Will online exams still be available for some candidates?

Yes, online exams will still be available in certain cases. While candidates will normally be expected to sit exams in person, exceptions may be made for those who qualify for reasonable adjustments. These adjustments are designed to ensure fair access and may include online exam arrangements where appropriate. If you believe you may be eligible, please refer to the [reasonable adjustments policy](#) or contact the exams team for guidance

on how to apply. The option to sit the exam online will also be made available to candidates who are sitting in countries where it is not possible to deliver in-centre; in these circumstances, the arrangements will be confirmed with candidates ahead of sitting.

Where will the in-centre exams take place?

UK locations will be confirmed in due course.

Will exams be going back to a pencil and paper format?

Exams will still be delivered on a computer, but candidates will sit in a centre rather than at home. We will not be reverting to a pencil and paper format. The computers will be provided through the centre and will be ready and set up for the examination. Please see our website for information on specific exam format.

Will the in-centre exams be more reliable?

This change in delivery is designed to enhance the reliability, security, and overall experience of your exam. While the exams will remain computer-based, they will now be hosted in designated test centres rather than remotely. Where issues do arise, trained staff overseeing the examination at the respective centre will manage those issues liaising with the Federation Examinations team and the platform provider to bring about quick resolution.

What security measures are in place at exam centres?

Candidates will access the exam through a locked down browser and will not be able to use any other programmes when they are taking an exam.

How are in-centre exams invigilated?

Proctors monitor and supervise candidates continuously from either within the testing room or through live video monitoring. This means they always have full control of the exam environment.

Will the move to in-centre exams affect exam fees?

There is no current plan to increase exam fees specifically due to this change; any future fee changes would follow standard approval processes.

Will capacity be affected?

Surpass has a large network and we are confident most candidates will be able to sit locally.

How will potential issues such as centre locations and travel distance be addressed?

We shall continue to review and optimise test centre availability wherever we can, both in the UK and internationally.

How will protected characteristics and reasonable adjustments be addressed?

We are carrying out an equality impact assessment to ensure exam-delivery changes do not disadvantage candidates with protected characteristics. For instance, candidates with pregnancy-related needs that affect mobility, comfort or the ability to sit for long periods can be supported through measures such as:

- Rapid access to toilet facilities
- Use of equipment (e.g., saddle chairs)
- Access to food, drink or medication without disrupting others, with no loss of exam time

Adjustments for breastfeeding are considered discretionary under the Equality Act. Test centres provide lockers for personal items, and previous candidates have received extended breaks, alternative seating and permission to bring snacks, water or cushions. Some centres may also offer private breastfeeding spaces on request. In some instances, it may be possible for candidates to sit online.

We have a clear process for requesting reasonable or discretionary adjustments, which will be updated before the move to in-centre delivery. Each request will be reviewed individually to ensure the adjustment is appropriate for the candidate and the exam. If candidates have queries about specific adjustments, they should [contact us here](#).

How will test centres be chosen or assigned?

Test centres will be assigned based on candidates' locations, accessibility, and individual needs during the application process. We will make every endeavour to work with candidates and the supplier to ensure that flexible arrangements are put in place to meet candidates' preferences and needs.

Will candidates be sitting their exams alongside candidates taking other exams?

We are working closely with exam partners who have the flexibility to offer centres with minimised distractions. A case-by-case approach will be taken to accommodate individual needs.

Will I be able to leave the exam room if I finish the paper early?

Unlike with the online exam where candidates were able to finish early if they had completed the paper, candidates will be required to stay for the 3-hour duration of the paper even if they finish early. This is to reduce the possibility of disruption for any candidates who are still completing the exam.