MRCGP (INT): Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1) What is MRCGP [INT] and who should apply?
MRCGP [INT] is an international exit examination, taken after higher professional training in family medicine. Passing an MRCGP [INT] accredited exam proves that the doctor is practicing family medicine to the same professional standard as their UK counterparts. Successful candidates are entitled to apply for international membership of Royal College of General Practitioners RCGP. Registered international members can use the post-nominal designation MRCGP [INT].

MRCGP [INT] accreditation means that the exam has the same academic rigour as the membership exam for UK-based GPs. However, passing an MRCGP [INT] accredited exam doesn’t qualify one to practise in the UK. The exam is designed for practitioners working in a specific region and the exam content reflects local epidemiology, disease profiles, cultural and religious practices and local healthcare systems. Study by, and the assessment of, Family Doctors is intended to provide a focus and impetus for them, their academic organisations and programmes.

2) What are the eligibility criteria to take the MRCGP [INT] exam?
There are three categories of eligibility criteria as given below:

   a) Certification of completion of a structured three years training course inclusive of experience in Family Medicine/General Practice and accredited by the South Asia Region MRCGP [INT] Board.

   b) Certification of completion of an accredited one year programme in Family Medicine with an additional three years of clinical experience. This should either consist of three years in Family Medicine or a minimum of two years in Family Medicine with a further year in a speciality or specialities allied to Family Medicine/General Practice that are certified by the local accrediting organisation and approved by the regional MRCGP [INT] Board.

   c) Minimum of five years clinical experience of which a minimum of three years should be in Family Medicine/General Practice and the other years in speciality or specialities allied to Family Medicine/General Practice certified by the local accrediting organisation and approved by the regional MRCGP [INT] Board.

3) What is the structure of the exam?
There are two parts to the examination. You must pass both parts in order to pass the examination overall.

   - Part 1: Written - A multiple choice paper
   - Part 2: Oral - Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) –

Candidates need to pass Part 1 before they can proceed to Part 2. There are no limits to the number of times a candidate can sit Part 1 of the examination. Having passed Part 1,
a candidate will have up to three attempts at Part 2. Failure after three attempts will require the candidate to re-sit Part 1 examination. Furthermore, the two parts must be passed within 6 years of acceptance of your application. Each part is currently available twice a year.

4) Could you elaborate on the two parts of the examination?

Part 1 - Multiple Choice Paper (MCP) / Acquired Knowledge Paper (AKP)
This examination is currently available twice a year, in May and November, and can be taken in the individual countries of South Asia.

The multiple choice paper will consist of 200 questions in the single best answer format. Time allowed for completion of the paper is 3½ hours.

Part 2-Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)
The second part of the examination will be a clinical assessment in the OSCE format. There will be 14 active stations, each allocated 10 minutes, and also a small number of rest stations. Each station will test clinical, communication and practical skills. Starting from 2010, this examination is held twice a year, usually in March and September, and will be available at different times in Karachi (Pakistan) and Colombo (Sri Lanka).

5) What is the exam fee?
The examination fee is in the range of GBP 450. However, this can vary. You can check the MRCGP [INT] South Asia website for the most recent updates at: http://www.mrcgpintsouthasia.org

6) How do you apply for the exam?
Indians wanting to apply for the MRCGP[INT] exam can either download the application form from the MRCGP[INT] South Asia website: http://www.mrcgpintsouthasia.org/ or obtain a hard copy from a regional MRCGP [INT] co-ordinator at one of the Local Accredited Bodies.

A hard copy of the application form duly filled and signed should be submitted along with the following documents:

If you are applying for Part 1 of the examination:

- 1 passport size photograph of the applicant (To be verified by any MRCGP [INT] graduate, your supervisor, department Head or a senior member of your professional body who should sign and stamp on the back of the photograph and put the date.)
- Copy of your valid medical license certificate
- Bank draft with the application fee in favour of “MRCGP [INT] SOUTH ASIA"

If you are applying for Part 1 of the examination:

- In addition to the above documents you will be required to show proof of passing of Part 1 of the examination.
7) **Any suggested reading material for Exam preparation?**

The MRCGP [INT] exams will test the candidate’s skill in the following areas: Clinical Knowledge, Consultation and Communication Skills, Clinical Examination & Evidence based practice.

The following are the recommended reading material for each category:

**Clinical:**
- British National Formulary (BNF)
- Oxford Handbook of General Practice
- NICE Guidelines
- *Practical General Practice: Guidelines for Effective Clinical Management* by Alex Khot MA MB BChir DCH and Andrew Polmear MA MSC FRCP FRCGP (Jan 13, 2011)
- *ABC of Dermatology*. PK Buxton BMJ Publishing

**The Consultation/ Communication Skills**
- *The Inner Consultation*. Neighbour R Klumer
- *Skills For Communicating With Patients*. Dr. Jonathan Silverman, Suzanne M. Kurtz, Juliet Draper

**Clinical Examination**
- Macleod's Clinical Examination Book

**Evidence based**
- *An Introduction to Medical Statistics*. Martin Bland; Oxford University Press

**Journals / other publications**
- British Journal of General Practice
- British Medical journal

**For more information:**
Detailed instructions are available at http://bit.ly/1cs2yu8