



# **FRCPath, Diploma and Certificate examination reasonable adjustment requests**

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## Introduction

This document gives an overview of the adjustments that can be incorporated into the exams we deliver. Recommendations listed are not specific to the given condition and may be applied across a range of conditions as required. This is a broad-spectrum working list and not expected to be exhaustive. **Accommodations can only be made on production of appropriate supporting medical or educational evidence for the requests alongside a completed reasonable adjustment request form.** Additional adjustments may be considered where operationally feasible. The Examinations team reserves the right to exclude adjustments that have not been recommended by a healthcare professional.

Candidates are reminded that, as per the [RCPath regulations and guidelines](#), if they present themselves at the examination, they are considered as being fit and well enough to sit. Candidates who need to withdraw from the examination on the grounds of ill health can do so without loss of fee on provision of appropriate supporting evidence.

Candidates may bring any required medication with them to the examination to be taken as required and should make an invigilator, examiner or member of the Examinations team aware of its location should it be required in an emergency. If they have medication that requires specific storage, e.g. refrigeration, the Examinations team must be notified in advance so that this can be arranged.

Candidates sitting examinations that require a microscope are reminded that it is the responsibility of the candidate to provide this and centres are under no obligation to provide these.



## Candidates with specific learning differences/neurodivergent conditions

This includes but is not limited to dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism.

- Additional time of 25% can be accommodated in all examinations but recommendations above 25% need to be considered on a case-by-case basis as this cannot practically be accommodated in all examinations.
- In objective structured practical examination (OSPE) style examinations with multiple stations, extra time can be given for each station in the exam.
- Where recommended, use of a laptop (without internet access) for typed answers can be provided. Candidates will type their answers on a blank word document, which will be saved and uploaded to College drives at the end of a paper/session. Candidates will also be provided with answer books to make any written notes that can also form part of their marked work if requested by the candidate at the end of the paper. If use of a particular keyboard or mouse with the laptop is required, candidates will need to provide their own to make sure it is something they are familiar with.
- For in-person exams, a separate room may be considered for candidates requiring additional time where operationally feasible.
- If recommended and it is feasible to include in an examination that does not already have rest stations timetabled, candidates can be given 'stop clock' time to take a short break during the paper. This is not additional time to complete the examination.
- Coloured overlays will not be provided, and candidates should bring their own to ensure it is one they are familiar with and use in their daily work.
- Fidget toys or other comfort items may be brought into the examination provided that they will not cause a disturbance to other candidates.



- Noise cancelling headphones cannot be worn during exams because candidates must be able to hear invigilator instructions. Where sensory sensitivities are present, simple ear plugs may be used provided candidates can still hear instructions.
- Where feasible, candidates can request a visit to the examination centre the day before to familiarise themselves with the venue.

## Pregnant and post-partum candidates

- Where possible, candidates will be allocated a desk closest to the door to make it easier to leave for bathroom breaks, noting that this may not always be possible in circuit-based examinations.
- Candidates may be permitted an additional 5 minutes per hour 'stop clock' for written exams with no rest stations scheduled to allow for bathroom breaks. This refers to time in which the examination timer is paused while the candidate takes a break and is not additional time for completing the exam. Missed time will be added to the end of the paper. Candidates will be required to notify the invigilator when they require a stop the clock break as they will not be prompted to by an invigilator.
- In Part 2 examinations where there are multiple centres, every effort will be made to allocate a candidate to their nearest centre to minimise travelling. However, candidates should be aware that they cannot be allocated to a centre where they have either trained or previously been examined to minimise potential conflicts of interest with examiners so this may limit where they can sit the exam.
- For post-partum candidates who are breastfeeding and need to express, a private room can be arranged for this to be carried out.
- Where feasible, it can be arranged for exclusively breastfed babies to be brought to the exam in breaks to be fed.



## Candidates with diabetes

- A 'stop clock' of up to 30 minutes can be put in place to allow a candidate to take time out to recover from a hypo if required. This refers to time in which the examination timer is paused while the candidate takes a break and is not additional time for completing the exam. Missed time will be added to the end of the paper.
- Candidates who use glucose monitoring software either on a separate device or on their mobile phone will be allowed to have their device on their desk in flight mode to ensure they can keep an eye on their blood sugar levels.
- Candidates may bring snacks into the exam provided that they are not disruptive to other candidates.

## Candidates with hearing loss

- Candidates will be allocated a seat at the front of the exam room.
- Written copies of exam instructions will be provided to candidates.
- Where possible, written copies of viva questions will be provided.
- In exams where there are circuits (e.g. Histopathology Part 2) with a lot of instructions and time warnings, one invigilator will have responsibility for making sure that candidate has heard the instruction.
- For candidates who use streaming apps from their phone to their hearing aids, they may take their phone into viva exams to improve how they hear the examiners. The phone must not be connected to the internet during this time and should be in flight mode.
- Examiners in viva exams will be advised in advance of any candidates with hearing difficulties and reminded on the day to speak clearly and look directly at the candidates.
- Where feasible, discussions regarding a preferred time for an oral examination or point in an examination for face-to-face stations can be had.



- Additional time for oral components can be put in place if required.
- Additional time for written components can be put in place based on the recommendation of a health professional, particularly where the condition has caused language acquisition delay.

## Candidates with speech difference

- Additional time can be allocated to any face-to-face aspect of the examination.
- Examiners will be advised in advance and reminded on the day so that they are aware of the situation.
- On a circuit-based examination, face-to-face stations can be timetabled at the end or start of the examination according to candidate preference.
- For oral examinations, candidates will be consulted regarding timetabling preference.

## Candidates with mobility impairment

- All exam venues will have been checked in advance to ensure that they are suitable for any candidates who may have mobility issues, including – but not limited to – accessible bathrooms, lifts, and navigable corridors and exam rooms.
- Timetables will be drafted to ensure that there is sufficient time for candidates to move between the main examination room and viva rooms.
- Rest breaks can be scheduled if required by a candidate where they are not already built into a paper.
- A laptop can be provided to allow candidates to type answers rather than handwriting where recommended, e.g. for conditions affecting upper limb dexterity. Laptops will not have access to the internet and files will be saved at the end of each paper/session.
- Candidates may bring items such as cushions to make sitting at their exam desk more comfortable.



## Candidates with conditions requiring additional bathroom access

This includes but is not limited to urinary frequency, Crohn's and colitis.

- All exam venues will have an accessible bathroom available for candidate use.
- 'Stop clock' additional time to allow candidate to take up to 10 minutes per hour bathroom break if required. This refers to time in which the examination timer is paused while the candidate takes a break and is not additional time for completing the exam. Missed time will be added to the end of the paper.
- Candidates will be allocated a seat near the exit of the room, with bathrooms located close to the examination room.
- If candidates need to bring any specific bathroom aids with them, these will be placed in a dedicated toilet for them which other candidates will not be able to use, where feasible.

## Candidates with energy-limiting or autoimmune conditions

This includes – but is not limited to – candidates with myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), mast cell activation syndrome (MCAS), postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS), long covid, lupus, Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes, Parkinson's, cancer diagnoses, anxiety or other mental health conditions.

- Rest or movement breaks or additional rest stations can be accommodated, where feasible.
- Additional time can be allocated to complete the examination on the recommendation of a health professional if the condition affects cognitive function. A separate room for candidates receiving additional time may be considered where operationally feasible.



- Candidates may bring any support items as required to the examination provided that they do not cause disruption to other candidates.
- Where feasible, specific furniture, e.g. adjustable chairs or standing desks, can be arranged but candidates should be aware that this may not be possible at some venues. If a specific chair type is required, candidates may bring their own to the exam.

