



PAKISTAN MEDICAL COMMISSION

Frequently Asked Questions



Frequently Asked Questions- MDCAT

- **What is the MDCAT?**
 - MDCAT will be a computerized test taken at designated centers across Pakistan and abroad. To attain admission in private or public medical and dental colleges in Pakistan, an aspirant is required to appear in the MDCAT and pass with the minimum passing criteria. The syllabus is available at pmc.gov.pk

- **What is the MDCAT subject breakdown and weightage?**
 - Number of Questions: 210
 - Biology: 68
 - Chemistry: 56
 - Physics: 56
 - English: 20
 - Logical Reasoning: 10
 - Examination Duration: 3.5 hours
 - MDCAT Passing Criteria: 65%
 - *The result of your MDCAT exam will be available to you 30 minutes after the conclusion of the examination

- **What is the eligibility criteria for the MDCAT?**
 - Any person, being a Pakistani or an overseas Pakistani or foreign national above the age of 16, shall be eligible to register for and attempt the MDCAT exam
 - A Higher Secondary School Certificate or equivalent 12th grade qualification is not required for MDCAT registration

- **How do you apply for the MDCAT?**
 - Log onto mdcat.pmc.gov.pk
 - Make an account
 - Provide the necessary information and credentials
 - MDCAT Fees
 - Rs. 6000 fee for local applicant
 - Payment can be made via credit/debit card



- Payment can also be made via MCB after download bank challan (Paid challans do not need to be uploaded onto the portal)
 - 99 USD for applicants in foreign countries
 - Payment can be made via credit/debit card
 - Once payment is made, an applicant will not be able to edit their information
 - Wait for the confirmation notification on the portal
 - Choose your MDCAT examination time slot on the portal between 20th July to 5th August 2021
 - There will be 2 exam slots per day to choose from between 30th August - 30th September 2021
 - Deadline for MDCAT registration is 15th July 2021
 - To help acquaint you with the newer computer-based examination methodology, you will be provided 1 practice exam upon registration
- **What is the duration of the MDCAT?**
 - 3.5 hours
 - **What is the passing criteria of the MDCAT?**
 - 65%
 - **Where are the testing locations of the MDCAT?**

ICT	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	AJ&K	GB
Islamabad	Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Bahawalpur , Sargodha, D G Khan, Sialkot	Karachi, Sukkur, Nawabshah,	Peshawar, Swat, Abbottabad, D I Khan,	Quetta	Muzaffar abad, Mirpur	Gilgit



- **How do I pay for the MDCAT?**

- Rs. 6000 fee for local applicant
 - Payment can be made via credit/debit card
 - Payment can also be made via MCB after download bank challan (Paid challans do not need to be uploaded onto the portal)
- 99 USD for applicants in foreign countries
 - Payment can be made via credit/debit card

- **How will the MDCAT be conducted?**

- The MDCAT will be a fully computer based examination



Frequently Asked Questions- NLE

- **What is the NLE?**

- The NLE Step 1 will be a computerized test taken at designated centers across Pakistan and various international locations (subject to registrations) to assess the skill of clinicians before granting them full licenses to practice. The syllabus is available online at pmc.gov.pk

- **What is the NLE subject breakdown and weightage?**

- Theory component
 - This will consist of MCQs targeting higher cognition and will check a candidate's ability to apply knowledge. No MCQs will target recall. The theory component will have 200 MCQs in which 70% will be from clinical disciplines and 30% from basic sciences
 - Validity of MCQ exam will be 5 years from the date of passing
 - Passing marks will be 70%
 - Basic Science Disciplines included in the exam:
 - Applied Anatomy
 - Applied Physiology
 - Applied Biochemistry
 - Applied Pathology
 - Clinical Pharmacology
 - Community Medicine
 - Forensic Medicine
 - Clinical Disciplines included in the exam:
 - Surgery and allied
 - Medicine and allied
 - Gynecology & Obstetrics
 - Pediatrics
 - Ophthalmology
 - Otorhinolaryngology (ENT)
- Clinical Skills Exam (CSE)
 - This will assess essential clinical skills for a practicing general medical and dental practitioner. The format of this exam will be similar to that of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)



- Upon passing their theory component, a candidate will have to pass the Clinical exam in 3 attempts during these 5 years, failing which they will have to re-sit the whole exam
 - Passing marks will be 70%
 - The duration of this exam will be 3 hours and 20 minutes and will consist of 20 stations, with each CSE station assigned 8 minutes with 2 minutes for the changeover:
 - 7 Surgery and Allied Stations
 - 7 Medicine and Allied Stations
 - 2 Gynae and OBS Stations
 - 2 Pediatrics Stations
 - 1 Eye Station
 - 1 ENT Station
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- **What is the eligibility criteria for the NLE?**
 - Any foreign or local graduate, having followed their respective pathway to licensing, can give the NLE.
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- **How do you apply for the NLE?**
 - Log onto nle.pmc.gov.pk
 - Sign-up for an account
 - Fill in the form with the necessary personal information
 - NLE Step 1 Fees
 - Rs. 12000 fee for local applicant
 - Payment can be made via credit/debit card
 - Payment can also be made via MCB after download bank challan (Paid challans do not need to be uploaded onto the PMC Online website)
 - 175 USD for applicants in foreign countries
 - Payment can be made via credit/debit card
 - An applicant will not be able to edit their information after making their payment
 - Wait for the confirmation notification on the PMC Online website
 - Applicants will be able to choose their NLE Step 1 time slot on the PMC Online website
 - There will be 2 exam slots per day to choose from between 20th August - 27th August 2021



- Applicants will be provided 1 practice examination upon registration to help acquaint you with the new computer-based examination methodology

- **What is the duration of the NLE?**
 - 3.5 hours

- **What is the passing criteria of the NLE?**
 - 70%

- **Where are the testing locations of the NLE?**
 - The details of the testing locations are available once you complete the registration for NLE

- **How do I pay for the NLE?**
 - You can pay for the examination on the portal. 12000pkr for locals or 175 USD for foreign applicants

- **How will the NLE be conducted?**
 - The NLE will be a fully computer based examination



Frequently Asked Questions- Education & Evaluation

- **What is the assessment criterion for foreign postgraduate medical institutes?**
 - As a regulator, PMC does not 'assess' foreign medical and dental institutions- undergraduate or postgraduate. PMC has set criteria for recognizing foreign undergraduate and postgraduate institutions. These criteria are explained

- **What is the inspection criterion for domestic undergraduate medical & dental institutes?**
 - PMC is in the process of finalizing standards and inspection criteria for Undergraduate medical and dental institutions within Pakistan. These will be uploaded as soon as they are finalized.

- **What are the inspection criteria for domestic postgraduate medical and dental institutes?**
 - PMC is in the process of finalizing standards and inspection criteria for postgraduate medical and dental institutions within Pakistan. These will be uploaded as soon as they are finalized.

- **What are PMC recognized PG qualifications?**

POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATION

 - Postgraduate Qualification shall mean a qualification acquired after certification of completion of a structured training program under direct supervision of a designated supervisor encompassing all competencies required by a licensed doctor to qualify for inclusion in the Specialist Register.

 - Pakistani Postgraduate Qualification (u/s 22 of the PMC Act, 2020)
 - A Postgraduate Qualification shall be recognized by the Council subject to fulfillment of the following conditions;
 - Granted by the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan; and
 - Training undertaken at a Medical Institution recognized by the Council for training or grant of a Post Graduate program under section 23(2) of the PMC Act, 2020.



- Foreign Postgraduate Qualification (u/s 24 of the PMC Act, 2020)
 - A Foreign Postgraduate Qualification shall be recognized by the Council subject to fulfillment of the following conditions;
 - Granted by a Foreign Postgraduate Institution recognized as the Postgraduate Institution by the regulatory authority in the relevant country for grant of Post Graduate Qualifications and recognized by the Council under section 25 of the PMC Act, 2020;
 - Obtained after formal, objective assessment with a certification after either a period of training or acquiring of minimum competencies equivalent to the comparable qualification granted by CPSP.

- **What is an additional postgraduate qualification?**

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION

- Additional Qualification shall mean a qualification acquired in addition to a Postgraduate Qualification after completion of a structured training program under direct supervision to develop specific competencies after completion of a Post Graduate qualification which qualifies a licensed doctor to represent as a specialist in the specified area of specialization in addition to the subject of the Postgraduate Qualification.

An Additional Qualification shall not grant a right to be included in the Specialist Register if a Post Graduate or Alternative Qualification has not been obtained by the Licensee.

An Additional Qualification may be considered by an institution for credentialing of a general practitioner who does not possess a Post Graduate Qualification or Alternative Qualification subject to such licensed doctor at no time being represented as a Specialist.

- Pakistani Additional Qualification (u/s 22 of the PMC Act, 2020)
 - An Additional Qualification shall be recognized by the Council subject to fulfillment of the following conditions;
 - Granted by a Pakistani Medical Institution recognized by the Council for grant of Additional Qualifications under Section 23(2) of the PMC Act, 2020;
 - In a subject which is part of a broader specialty in which the Council has recognized a Pakistani or Foreign Postgraduate Qualification.
- Foreign Additional Qualification (u/s 24 of the PMC Act, 2020)
 - A Foreign Additional Qualification shall be recognized by the Council subject to fulfillment of the following conditions;



- Granted by a Foreign Medical Institution recognized by the regulatory authority in the relevant country for grant of an Additional Qualification and recognized by the Council under section 25 of the PMC Act, 2020;
- In a subject which is part of a broader specialty in which the Council has recognized a Pakistani or Foreign Postgraduate Qualification.



- **What is an alternative postgraduate qualification?**

ALTERNATIVE QUALIFICATION

- Alternative Qualification shall mean a qualification recognized by the Council as an Alternative to a Postgraduate Qualification recognized by the Council having been acquired after certification of completion of a structured training program under direct supervision of a designated supervisor encompassing all competencies required by a licensed doctor to qualify for inclusion in the Specialist Register.
- Pakistani Alternative Qualification (u/s 22 of the PMC Act, 2020)
 - An Alternative Qualification shall be recognized by the Council subject to fulfillment of the following conditions;
 - Granted by a Pakistani Medical Institution recognized by the Council for grant of Alternative Qualifications under section 23 of the PMC Act, 2020;
 - Training undertaken at a Medical Institution recognized by the Council for training or grant of a Post Graduate program under section 23(2) of the PMC Act, 2020;
 - Obtained after formal, objective assessment with a certification after either a period of training or acquiring of minimum competencies equivalent to the comparable qualification granted by CPSP;
- Foreign Alternative Qualification (u/s 24 of the PMC Act, 2020)
 - An Alternative Foreign Qualification shall be recognized by the Council subject to fulfillment of the following conditions;
 - Granted by a Foreign Medical Institution recognized by the as an institution for grant of post graduate or alternative qualifications by the regulatory authority in the relevant country and recognized by the Council under Section 25 of the PMC Act, 2020;
 - Obtained after formal, objective assessment with a certification after either a period of training or acquiring of minimum competencies equivalent to the comparable qualification granted by CPSP;

- **What are the specialties/disciplines being registered by PMC?**

- This list is being updated. It will be uploaded soon.



- **What additional PG durations and specialties are exempted from giving NLE for full license by PMC?**
 - This list is being updated. It will be uploaded soon.
- **What is the criterion for categorization of countries for licensing pathways?**
 - Countries have been categorized in two lists for purposes of providing robust licensing pathways; **List 1** representing countries with a stringent internationally recognized licensing regulatory framework. All other countries are placed in **List 2**.
- **What is the criterion for categorization of foreign colleges for licensing purposes?**
 - **Category A** represents colleges and qualifications offered by these colleges that have been assessed and accredited at two levels, i.e. by internationally recognized accreditation agencies and by recognized national regulators.
 - **Category B** represents colleges and qualifications that are recognized by either national regulators or by one of the internationally recognized accreditation agencies; hence, these colleges possess only a single tier verification, pursuant to inspection of these colleges.
 - **Category C** represents colleges and qualifications that are not verifiable by an official and authentic national or international agency.
 - A number of institutions in this category are new and is yet to be accredited in their own countries. Once these get accredited they will be shifted to B category.
- **What is the policy for experience certificates?**
 - PMC does not provide experience certificates. These certificates should now be issued by the concerned universities based on rules given by the HEC
- **What is the policy for faculty promotions?**
 - The HEC will upload, on its own website, the policy for faculty promotions. Faculty promotions do not come under the purview of the PMC.



- **What is the policy for journals/publications?**
 - These policies are in the process of finalization and will be uploaded soon on PMC website.



Frequently Asked Questions- Biometric Verification

- **Who needs to do PMC's Biometric Verification?**
 - All licensed clinical practitioners are required to undertake NADRA Biometric Verification. Effective immediately, all Provisional and Full License holders would be required to do biometric verification upon grant of their licenses.
- **Where will these biometric verifications be conducted?**
 - Biometric verification can be done at:
 - Designated centers
 - Special Kiosks at Hospitals
 - Ordering Home Service at an additional fee
- **How do existing clinicians register for the biometric verifications?**
 - All existing doctors to register their Digital ID on <https://www.pmc.gov.pk/Online/DoctorOnline>. Fee for biometric verification will be paid at time of verification.



Frequently Asked Questions- EPIC

- **What is EPIC Verification?**
 - EPIC Verification is for those who are registered in PMC and now are willing to work abroad.
- **How to apply for EPIC Verification?**
 - EPIC will send verification to PMC along with an email to applicant to contact with PMC for Fee submission. PMC will reply back to EPIC after confirmation of Fee.
- **Mode of fee payment for EPIC Verification?**
 - Online submission of EPIC fee will be available soon but as up to now, applicant has to submit fee manually in shape of bank draft.



Frequently Asked Questions- Licensing

- **If a fresh graduate who has passed his exams but awaiting for degree, is eligible for provisional license or not?**
 - Yes please, if they are graduate from Pakistan and have DMC (Detailed Marks Sheets) & Provisional letter from University.
- **If a license is returned back to PMC due to any reason, how can applicants again apply for their already printed license which were returned to PMC?**
 - Such applicants to send an email for re-dispatching the certificate again at mailroom@pmc.gov.pk
- **What to do for those students who have completed their house job without provisional license.**
 - They should apply for provisional license first & after obtaining provisional license, they may apply for full license.



Frequently Asked Questions- General Queries

- **Please confirm if PMC has any regional or site office in Pakistan?**
 - PMC has four regional offices at Peshawar, Lahore, Karachi & Quetta.
- **Medical Tribunal is working inside PMC Office? If not then confirm the address.**

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