



Exam fees in 2022/23: Explaining the cost of the MRCGP

The MRCGP is the professional licensing examination for independent practice as a general practitioner in the UK. Licensing examinations are invariably complex and, as such, costly to deliver.

The fees charged by the College are directly related to the high proportion of fixed costs for providing these examinations. The RCGP, unlike other Medical Royal Colleges, must pay backfill for our examiners who are practising GPs and often need to employ locums to cover their absence from practice. Also, as the MRCGP is the end point licensing examination for independent medical practice in the UK, the RCGP is unable to offset costs, as some other colleges do, through the international delivery of exam components.

Over recent years the RCGP have tried to freeze costs for trainees but as the number of reasonable adjustments have increased, along with our fixed costs, it is inevitable that we will need to ensure the cost of the examination is aligned to these increases, and that of inflation. We have implemented different fees for each examination component (ie AKT and RCA) to reflect the different costs associated with each. In order to remain fair to all candidates, and following feedback from AIT reps, we have resolved to charge trainees for exam cancellations and spurious appeals to ensure that we do not have to further increase fees for all trainees.

We understand the financial hardship that many GPs experience during their training and RCGP Council has determined that the College should not use the MRCGP as a source of income to fund other college activity. At the start of each year, a prudent budget is set for the exam based on the principle that the exam fee should not be used to fund any part of the college's activities that are not connected to the development, delivery, or maintenance of the MRCGP (including, through the Workplace Based Assessment component, pre-CCT training).

The Charity Commission requires the College to report annually but, as there is a great deal of variability around the number of trainees taking the exam each year, it is impossible to guarantee a 'break even' at the end of each financial year. It is inevitable that some years will generate a surplus and others a deficit. Therefore, the College works to the principle that over a three-year period the exam should be cost neutral, and fees are adjusted accordingly. The RCGP has also committed, through the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC), to regularly review details of our examination costs and to be as transparent as possible over our fees.

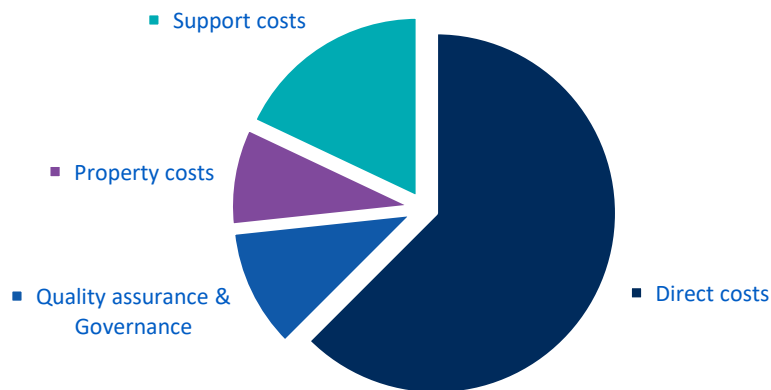
It is important to remember that examination fees are a tax-deductible expense via candidate's tax returns, and further information on claiming a tax rebate on training fees (including a step-by-step guide) is accessible through the RCGP website.

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/training-exams/mrcgp-exam/important-mrcgp-info-and-admin.aspx#fees>

Overall costs of delivering the MRCGP in 2022/23

Cost Centre	Costs (in £1000)
Direct Costs Staff, External providers, professional fees, doctors fees	£4346
Quality Assurance & Governance Workplace-based Assessment, GPSA, Curriculum	£752
Property Building costs, allocated on a floor space/usage business	£606
Support Costs for RCGP support functions e.g. HR, IT, Finance etc	£1250

Overall MRCGP Costs 2022/23



Direct costs of delivering the MRCGP in 2022/23

Cost Centre	Costs (in £1000)
Staff RCGP Examinations team, Chief Examiner, Clinical Leads	£527
Doctors fees and expenses Examining, Training, Standardisation, Quality Assurance	£2515
External Providers/Professional Fees Pearson VUE, FourteenFish, Psychometric provision etc	£1298
Internal Venue Use of 30 Euston Square facilities for examination purposes	£6

Overall Direct costs 2022/23

