

CHANGES TO THE MARKING SCHEME FOR THE MFOM DISSERTATION

A new structured marking form has been introduced for the assessment of the MFOM dissertation after a period of development and piloting and a side-by-side trial against the old form. The Chief and Deputy Chief Examiners for Research Methods will monitor the introduction period of the new form. Any queries should be sent to [Emma Cox-Smith](#).

Candidates whose dissertations attain a pass mark will notice that they are no longer asked to make a point-by-point response on specific revision points, though errors for correction prior to binding might be highlighted by the assessors. This is the final stage of the transition from the old formative dissertation assessment process to a summative assessment, in line with other components of MFOM. Otherwise, they will notice little difference in the feedback they receive. They will obtain a grading, as before, though in slightly changed language: 'excellent pass, good pass, clear pass, marginal pass, marginal fail, clear fail'. They will receive the names of their assessors. Assessor feedback will be structured under the same headings as in the current form. Assessors will continue to provide feedback on any competencies that may need to be covered elsewhere in training and the form will now encourage trainees to present a copy of the feedback form at the next ARCP so that specific MFOM competencies can be discussed. The list of research competencies in the curriculum has been removed from the form to avoid confusion because many of the competencies, e.g. use of a medical library, familiarity with databases, preservation of confidentiality, are not specific to the dissertation.

Assessors will notice the following changes:

- A numerical scale (1-100) to replace the old 'Excellent/Good/Average/Worse than average'
- Descriptive phrases for sections of the numerical scale to illustrate the performance expected at each level.
- Extracts from relevant MFOM Regulations to act as prompts about the performance expected of MFOM candidates.
- Conflict of interest statement.