

External review of the specialist medical colleges' performance – specialist international medical graduate assessment process

19.4 – Analysis - Page 271

The report states that *'the College does not publish the assessment standards or criteria which applicants are assessed against'*.

In Section 2 of all discipline specific Trainee Handbooks the specific learning outcomes across all aspects of the curricula are listed. There is an indication at what stage these outcomes should be achieved within the program. i.e. early stage of training and more advanced stage. This information gives candidates very clear guidance against which they are being assessed. There is a link to the Trainee Handbooks on the main OTS webpage.

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The report states *'.....and complete relevant assessments, including at least one formal written examination.....'*

This statement is referenced to a policy where it does not appear. For clarification the formal assessment requirements vary from individual to individual and may include written and practical (e.g. morphology/histopathology) examinations. It is correct that all candidates who are determined as partially comparable will be required to do the final oral examination.

The report states *'The College....' does not clearly distinguish the difference between supervisors and peer reviewers'*.

Whilst acknowledging that the actual policy of supervision may need some clarification, the report did not indicate that distinct reporting forms are used which clearly differentiate between the expectations and activities of a 'trainee' and that of an applicant going through the peer review process.