



Frequently Asked Questions for Licentiate (GFM) and (SOM) Candidates

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Introduction

The FFLM is changing the format of the Licentiate (LFFLM) examinations in General Forensic Medicine (GFM) and Sexual Offence Medicine (SOM).

Candidates will no longer submit a Compendium of Validated Evidence, (COVE), or a Case Portfolio; instead, they will sit a short answer question (SAQ) paper in the Part 2 examination. The Part 1 LFFLM will remain as a single best answer (SBA) paper. The Part 2 LFFLM will still have the OSCEs, along with the SAQ paper.

As a result of these changes, the Examination regulations are being revised and will be published in good time for the commencement of the 2024/25 examination diet.

This document provides guidance for LFFLM candidates in the form of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

Question 1

I am currently in the process of completing my COVE. I was intending to submit it in November 2023. Do I continue with my COVE, or do I now just complete the new SAQ paper in March 2025?

ANSWER

Candidates who began their LFFLM from October 2021 onwards have the option of either completing their COVE and Portfolio or sitting the SAQ paper in March 2025.

Question 2

I have so far completed the Part 1, COVE and OSCEs, with the Portfolio my only remaining part to finish. Is it acceptable to now undertake the SAQ paper instead of completing the Portfolio?

ANSWER

Yes, candidates who began their LFFLM from October 2021 onwards can either complete their COVE and Portfolio or wait and sit the SAQ paper in March 2025.

Question 3

I have completed all parts of the LFFLM except for the Portfolio, which I am in the process of completing. Can I confirm that I will still be able to attain this qualification through completing my Portfolio and that I will not need to sit the SAQ paper?

ANSWER

You can submit your Portfolio to complete your qualification. This will need to be submitted by 30 June 2024. If the Portfolio is not submitted by this deadline, then you will need to sit the SAQ paper in 2025, instead.

Question 4

I completed the Part 1 LFFLM in October 2022. I plan to sit the Part 2 OSCEs in March/June 2024. Am I required to submit a Portfolio and COVE at the point of application to sit Part 2 in 2024 or will it move to the new examination format immediately?

ANSWER

If you plan to sit the OSCEs and SAQ paper in March 2025, then you will not need to submit a Portfolio and/or COVE when applying to sit the Part 2 OSCEs.

However, if you plan to sit the OSCEs in 2024, then you will need to submit your COVE at the point of application, as per the current regulations.

Question 5

I plan to sit the OSCEs in March/June 2024, however, the SAQ paper isn't until March 2025. Do I have to sit the OSCEs and the SAQ paper in the same examination diet?

ANSWER

No, you will be able to sit the OSCEs in March and June 2024 and the SAQ paper in March 2025 if that is your preference. However, we encourage candidates to sit the SAQ paper and the OSCEs in the same examination diet, (year).

Please note that if you plan to sit the OSCEs in March and June 2024, you will still need to submit your COVE at the point of application, as per the current regulations (please also see Question 4).

Question 6

How long do I have to complete the LFFLM Part 2?

ANSWER

All elements of the LFFLM Part 2 must be completed within four years of passing the LFFLM Part 1.

Question 7

I passed my LFFLM Part 1 in October 2021 and would like to sit the SAQ paper in March 2025. What happens if I don't pass the SAQ paper the first-time round - will I have the opportunity to re-sit?

ANSWER

No; you would not be able re-sit the SAQ paper in 2026. This is because the time frame within which all parts of the LFFLM must be completed, remains four years. For example, if you obtained the Part 1 LFFLM in 2021, passed the OSCEs, in 2023 or 2024, but failed the SAQ paper in 2025, then the validity of your Part 1 would have expired before the next opportunity to sit the SAQ paper.