

Diploma of Legal Medicine (DLM)

Regulations and Information for Candidates



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Foreword

These regulations apply to all Diploma of Legal Medicine (DLM) of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine candidates.

The DLM Examination Regulations outline specific requirements and procedures for the Diploma of Legal Medicine (DLM).

Future Updates

To stay current with evolving standards, these regulations are subject to change. Candidates should regularly check the Exams page of the FFLM website for the latest updates and formal notices regarding any amendments.

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1. Introduction

The DLM serves as a benchmark for professionals who are interested in or required to apply forensic and legal medicine to their clinical practice.

These regulations outline the standard requirements and objectives as defined, providing candidates with an understanding of the scope of the qualification.

To ensure these regulations remain clear and concise, additional resources and guidance documents are provided as hyperlinks in the [Appendix: Useful Resources](#) at the end of this publication. Candidates are strongly advised to refer to these links for the most up-to-date procedural and clinical information. Hyperlinks are indicated by blue, underlined text.

2. Date of publication

These regulations are reviewed prior to each examination diet, with the most current version being made available on the Regulations, Syllabus & Guidance page of the FFLM website.

3. Examination Specific Regulations

While these regulations outline the specific requirements for a candidate's chosen assessment, they do not stand alone. It is the personal responsibility of every candidate to ensure they have read and fully familiarised themselves with the FFLM General Examination Regulations.

The General Examination Regulations provide essential, overarching information that applies to all FFLM assessments, including:

- Data Protection and Privacy
- Duties and Responsibilities of Candidates
- Extenuating or Mitigating Circumstances
- Disability and Reasonable Adjustments
- Rules governing Professional Conduct and Academic Integrity
- Procedures for Applying, Withdrawing, Refunds, and Deferrals
- Results and Appeals
- The Formal Process for Appeals and Special Considerations

Failure to adhere to the requirements set out in both the specific and general regulations may affect a candidate's standing or result. You can access the most recent version of the General Regulations directly via the Exam Regulations, Syllabus & Guidance page of the FFLM website.

4. Purpose of the Assessment

The DLM is designed to formally recognise knowledge in the field of forensic and legal medicine.

It is aimed at a wide range of professionals, including doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, and lawyers, who require a robust understanding of how the law intersects with healthcare, forensic investigation, and professional ethics.

Passing the DLM does not automatically qualify a person for FFLM Membership. However, registered medical or dental practitioners who pass with distinction are exempt from the Part 1 Membership of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine (MFFLM) examination for four years.

4.1 Academic Framework

The DLM provides a rigorous evaluation of the legal and regulatory structures central to UK healthcare. It is envisioned by the FFLM as a vital contribution to the broader learning and professional growth of those dedicated to the field of forensic and legal medicine.

4.2 Aim

The DLM serves to distinguish practitioners who possess an extensive command of forensic and legal medicine. Its primary objective is to evaluate a candidate's acquisition of the diverse medico-legal knowledge required by the examination syllabus.

4.3 Objectives

The qualification offers an objective assessment of the clinical, legal, and ethical intersections across all UK jurisdictions. Successfully passing the DLM provides formal evidence of a candidate's in-depth knowledge of forensic and legal medicine within the United Kingdom.

4.4 Assessment Methodology

The DLM is strictly a knowledge test; it does not assess clinical skills or competence through practical examinations.

5. Examination Structure

The DLM serves as a dedicated knowledge assessment, focusing exclusively on a candidate's theoretical understanding of the field. The examination does not include practical assessments, such as Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), to evaluate clinical skills or hands-on competence.

The assessment is designed to rigorously test a candidate's grasp of the syllabus through a standardised single paper consisting of 150 single best answer (SBA) and multiple-choice questions (MCQs) to be completed within three hours. This ensures that successful candidates have demonstrated a detailed and objective mastery of the legal, ethical, and regulatory principles governing Healthcare across all UK jurisdictions.

6. Entry Requirements and Exemptions

6.1 DLM Entry Requirements

The DLM Examination is open to all applicants.

The qualification is designed to appeal to a broad range of professionals, including, but not limited to, those from medical, legal, and forensic backgrounds who share an interest in the intersection of law and healthcare.

6.2 DLM Exemptions

There are no exemptions.

7. DLM Pass Result and Postnominals

The DLM and Part 1 MFFLM utilise the same examination paper; however, a higher pass mark is required for the MFFLM.

Candidates passing the DLM examination will be entitled to use the postnominal DLM. If a candidate subsequently passes the membership examination, MFFLM supersedes DLM and both postnominals should not be used.

Candidates who pass the DLM with Distinction but are not eligible to take Part 2 may apply for membership and use the following postnominals:

Membership Type	Postnominals
Affiliate	AFFLM
Associate	ASSOC FFLM

8. Award of the DLM Qualification

Upon receiving written confirmation of a successful result, Diplomates may choose to have a certificate formally presented at the FFLM Annual General Meeting (AGM). Details of the FFLM's AGM can be found on the Annual General Meeting page of the FFLM website.

The names of all successful diplomates will be published in alphabetical order on the public-facing area of the FFLM website (www.fflm.ac.uk). This public record is strictly limited to the diplomate's full name and the date the qualification was awarded.

Candidates should refer to the FFLM General Examination Regulations for additional information on certificates.

9. DLM Fail Result

A candidate not achieving the pass mark in the DLM examination will be deemed to have failed the examination.

10. Number of Attempts

Candidates can apply and sit the DLM examination as many times as required.

11. Document Version Control and Update History

This section tracks all substantive updates to these regulations. The most current version supersedes all previous editions.

Version	Date	Author / Editor	Changes made	Approved by
1.0	20 May 2026	Kim Feltham	Initial release	Dr Deryn Evans and Dr Sandy Fielding

12. Appendix: Useful Resources

The hyperlinks provided in this section are intended for guidance and candidate support only.

While the FFLM endeavours to maintain the accuracy and currency of these links, both internal FFLM documents and third-party resources are subject to periodic updates, revisions, or archiving without prior notice.

The FFLM is not responsible for the content of external websites, nor for any temporary unavailability of internal documents due to administrative updates. Candidates are responsible for ensuring they are referring to the most recent version of any statute, clinical guideline, or internal FFLM policy relevant to their specific examination diet.

If an internal link appears broken, please contact the Examinations Manager at forensic.medicine@fflm.ac.uk.

Category	Resource Title	Description
Core Regulations	Exam Regulations, Syllabus & Guidance	Examination Specific Regulations
Clinical Guidance	FFLM Courses	Details of FFLM courses.

	Publications	Library of FFLM publications.
	Quality Standards	FFLM published list of Quality Standards.
	Syllabus	Legal and clinical competency framework.
Logistics	Acronyms & Abbreviations	List of useful FFLM acronyms and abbreviations.
	Confidentiality Agreement	Confidentiality agreement form for examinations.
	eLearning Course	Available online learning resources for candidates.
	Events Calendar	Details on FFLM future and past events.
	Examinations	Introductory page to FFLM examinations.
	Exam Diary & Fees	Details on examination fees.
	Exam Withdrawal Request Form	Request to withdraw from an examination.
	Extenuating & Mitigating Circumstances	Request for Extenuating & Mitigating Circumstances.
	FFLM Membership	Details of FFLM Membership.
	Privacy Policy	FFLM Privacy Policy.
	Reasonable Adjustments	Request for Reasonable Adjustments.
	Standing Orders	FFLM Governance and Standing Orders.
	Refund Request Form	Request for a refund of examination fees.

	Revision Materials	Examination learning resources for candidates.
External Resources	GDPR	UK GDPR principles.
	Useful Links	Links to external Forensic & Legal Medicine websites.

This resource list was last verified during May 2026.