



Membership of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine (MFFLM)

Regulations and Information for Part 1 and Part 2 Candidates



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Foreword

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

The MFFLM Examination Regulations outline specific requirements and procedures for the following examinations:

- Part 1 Membership of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine (Part 1 MFFLM)
- Part 2 Membership of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine in General Offence Medicine (Part 2 MFFLM GFM)
- Part 2 Membership of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine in Sexual Offence Medicine (Part 2 MFFLM SOM)

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

These Regulations relate to the assessments undertaken by doctors training in Forensic & Legal Medicine in the United Kingdom and are known collectively as the assessment for Membership of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine (MFFLM).

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 every year 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 Examinations Regulations.

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

- Data Protection & Privacy
- Duties & Responsibilities of Candidates
- Extenuating or Mitigating Circumstances
- Disability & 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 MFFLM examination is an assessment for doctors seeking a specialist qualification

in this field. Passing all required components grants candidates the eligibility to apply for Membership of the FFLM.

Doctors who pass the MFFLM and hold a valid license to practise may apply for full Membership. Application forms are available on the Membership page of the FFLM website.

4.1 Academic Framework

The MFFLM examination will play an essential role in the overall educational experience and continuing professional development of Forensic Physicians in the UK. It is hoped that it will become a prerequisite for doctors wishing to pursue a career in Forensic & Legal medicine in the UK.

Additionally, the MFFLM examination will play an important role in the international arena of postgraduate medical education. It will provide a professional standard against which physicians working outside the United Kingdom (UK) can measure their level of attainment. It may also be used by medical educationalists in other countries in respect of their local postgraduate assessments.

4.2 Aim

The aim of the MFFLM examination is to demonstrate those physicians who, having undertaken a period of general training, have acquired the necessary professional knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to practise as independent practitioners within the specialty of forensic & legal medicine.

4.3 Objectives

- The MFFLM examination evaluates the professional competence of medical practitioners who have completed a minimum of three years full-time, or the equivalent work in the relevant specialty, (within the previous five years).
- The standard of the various parts of the examination will reflect the development in the knowledge, skills and attitudes which can be expected during training.

4.4 Assessment Methodology

The MFFLM examination includes questions and assessments that require an understanding of the legal framework that underpins medicine in general and that of forensic & legal medicine in particular. Candidates will also have to demonstrate particular expertise in their chosen sub-specialties in GFM and/or SOM as per the MFFLM Syllabus.

5. Examination Structure

The MFFLM is a three-component examination.

Part 1 is an online assessment featuring 150 questions, using a combination of Single-Best-Answer (SBA) and Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs).

Part 2 consists of two components:

- A written Short Answer Questions (SAQs) examination.
- Clinical Observed Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) assessments.

6. Registration with the UK General Medical Council

6.1 Candidates working in the United Kingdom

Registration with the General Medical Council (GMC) is required for all candidates working in the UK.

6.2 Overseas Candidates

For overseas candidates who are intending to work as doctors in the UK, registration with the GMC is not necessary to take the MFFLM examination. However, prospective candidates who intend to obtain work in a forensic setting whether paid or unpaid, must register with the GMC.

A list showing those overseas qualifications eligible for full registration with the GMC is given at the front of the Medical Register published by the GMC. Doctors who are British nationals and/or who hold a qualification of one of the countries of the European Community are subject to special conditions and should seek advice directly from the GMC.

Application forms and pamphlets giving details of the requirements of each kind of registration may be obtained by contacting the GMC.

7. Part 1 MFFLM vs DLM

The Diploma of Legal Medicine (DLM) uses the same examination paper as the Part 1 MFFLM, though it is marked at a lower passing threshold.

Candidates who meet the DLM pass mark but fail to reach the Part 1 MFFLM standard will be awarded the DLM qualification only. These candidates remain ineligible for MFFLM Part 2 and must retake the Part 1 and achieve the MFFLM pass mark to progress.

8. Part 1 MFFLM Entry Requirements and Exemptions

8.1 Part 1 MFFLM Entry Requirements

Every candidate must hold a medical qualification recognised by the FFLM.

Candidates will not be admitted to the Part 1 MFFLM until two years after the date of graduation given on their diploma of medical qualification unless they hold a previous qualification in Law and intend to gain the Part 2 MFFLM in General Forensic Medicine or Sexual Offence Medicine. Candidates should email forensic.medicine@fflm.ac.uk to request exemption from the two-year requirement

by the Chief Examiner and the Academic Dean.

8.2 Part 1 MFFLM Exemptions

A registered medical practitioner candidate who obtains a distinction in the DLM will be exempt from the Part 1 MFFLM examination for a period of four years.

9. Part 2 MFFLM Entry Requirements and Exemptions

9.1 Part 2 MFFLM Entry Requirements

Candidates must have successfully completed the Part 1 MFFLM assessment within the previous four years. Additionally, on the date of the Part 2 exam, candidates must have completed a minimum of three years (full-time equivalent (FTE)* of active employment in a role that involves the practical application of GFM or SOM.

**Three years FTE refers to the total amount of time spent in active practice, regardless of the calendar duration. For example, a candidate working full-time (1.0 FTE) will complete this in three years, whereas a candidate working half-time (0.5 FTE) will require six years to reach the same clinical experience threshold.*

9.2 Providing Evidence of Clinical Experience

Candidates should refer to the FFLM General Examination Regulations for information on how to submit evidence of clinical experience.

9.3 Part 2 MFFLM Exemptions

There are no exemptions.

10. Part 2 MFFLM Examinations

10.1 Part 2 MFFLM Written Examination (SAQs)

Duration: 2.5 hours.

This examination tests medico-legal principles as well as clinical and forensic understanding, making judgments and formulating appropriate management plans and can be taken by doctors who have passed the MFFLM Part 1 examination. Success in this examination demonstrates the minimum level of knowledge expected of a doctor in training and the ability to apply this knowledge to problem-solving in the candidate's subspecialty of GFM or SOM.

GFM and SOM candidates will sit papers tailored to their specific subspecialty.

Those seeking qualifications in both specialties must choose one to sit first; the second specialty paper must be taken in a subsequent year. For detailed content,

please refer to the syllabus.

10.2 Part 2 MFFLM Clinical/Practical Examination (OSCE)

OSCEs evaluate the knowledge, skills, and professional attitudes essential for doctors in the GFM or SOM subspecialties. Candidates must demonstrate their ability to integrate clinical expertise, communication, and practical skills within a forensic context.

To ensure real-world readiness, the examination features simulated consultations with actors to assess how effectively candidates manage patient/client interactions.

They test the candidate's ability to:

- Demonstrate the skills of history taking;
- Examine a patient/client to obtain appropriate information;
- Interpret findings either factual or physical/forensic signs;
- Make appropriate diagnoses/interpretations;
- Develop and discuss immediate and long-term management plans; and appreciate the ethical issues that relate to the relevant specialty.

11. Part 2 MFFLM Pass Result

A pass in both the MFFLM Part 2 written examination and the Clinical/Practical OSCE examination will confer the qualification only. Successful candidates are eligible to apply and be considered for Membership of the FFLM.

Successful candidates who wish to become Members of the FFLM may NOT use the postnominal MFFLM until their membership application has been completed and ratified by the Academic Committee, Membership & Fellowship Committee and by the FFLM Board.

The Membership Diploma will not be conferred until membership has been completed and ratified by both the Chief Examiner's Committee and by the FFLM Board.

12. Award of the MFFLM Qualification

12.1 Diploma of Membership of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine

Candidates must pass all components of the MFFLM examination.

Once Membership has been approved, an annual subscription will be incurred from the next subscription renewal (01 July each year).

FFLM members are elected subject to FFLM Standing Orders.

12.2 Award of Merit and Distinction

Merit will be awarded to those candidates who receive 70% and over in all three parts of the exam and fail not more than one OSCE station, with a recommendation from the Chief Examiner's Committee.

Distinction will be awarded to candidates who receive 80% and above in all three parts of the exam and fail not more than one OSCE station, with a recommendation from the Chief Examiner's Committee.

13. 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 & Dr Sandy Fielding

14. 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	FFLM clinical and legal competency framework.
Logistics	Acronyms & Abbreviations	List of FFLM acronyms and abbreviations.
	Complaints	FFLM Complaints Policy.
	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.
	Clinical Evidence of Experience (Part 2 Candidates only)	Part 2 Candidate Evidence of Clinical Experience Form.
	Extenuating & Mitigating Circumstances	Request for Extenuating & Mitigating Circumstances.
	FFLM Membership	Details of FFLM Membership.
	Privacy Policy	FFLM Privacy Policy.
	Standing Orders	FFLM Governance and Standing Orders.
	Reasonable Adjustments	Request for Reasonable Adjustments.
	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.