



Licentiate of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine (LFFLM)

Regulations and Information for Part 1 and Part 2 Candidates



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Foreword

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

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

- Part 1 Licentiate of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine in General Offence Medicine (Part 1 LFFLM GFM)
- Part 1 Licentiate of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine in Sexual Offence Medicine (Part 1 LFFLM SOM)
- Part 1 Licentiate of the Faculty of forensic & Legal Medicine in Secure & Detained Settings (Part 1 LFFLM SDS)
- Part 2 Licentiate of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine in General Offence Medicine (Part 2 LFFLM GFM)
- Part 2 Licentiate of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine in Sexual Offence Medicine (Part 2 LFFLM SOM)
- Part 2 Licentiate of the Faculty of forensic & Legal Medicine in Secure & Detained Settings (Part 2 LFFLM SDS)

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 Licentiate was instituted by the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine (FFLM) on 01 May 2014. Its purpose is to set national quality standards for the professional care which healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, and paramedics, provide in the fields of General Forensic Medicine (GFM), Sexual Offence Medicine (SOM) and Secure & Detained Settings (SDS).

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 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 LFFLM serves as a formal competency evaluation; passing all components is a mandatory requirement for healthcare professionals seeking the qualification necessary to apply for Licentiate Membership of the FFLM. Application forms are available on the Membership page of the FFLM website.

4.1 Academic Framework

The FFLM envisions the LFFLM examination as a fundamental component of the educational journey and ongoing professional development for healthcare practitioners in

the UK. The goal is for this qualification to become a standard prerequisite for anyone seeking a career in GFM or SOM.

On an international level, the examination serves as a benchmark for postgraduate clinical forensic education, offering a rigorous professional standard for practitioners outside the UK to evaluate their expertise.

Additionally, it provides a model that global medical educators can adapt for their own local postgraduate assessments.

4.2 Aim

The primary goal of the LFFLM examination is to identify healthcare professionals, including medical practitioners, nurses, midwives, and paramedics, who have acquired the professional knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for independent practice. It ensures that those in active clinical practice have achieved the requisite level of experience to provide high-quality care in GFM or SOM.

4.3 Objectives

- The LFFLM examination evaluates the foundational professional competence of practitioners (noting that the qualification denotes core competence rather than expert status).
- Ensuring examination standards reflect the evolving knowledge and skills expected during training, supporting the principles of lifelong learning.
- To establish the examination as an essential element of continuing professional development and a prerequisite for those pursuing forensic careers in the UK.

4.4 Assessment Methodology

The LFFLM examination includes knowledge testing through a Part 1 assessment designed to identify candidates with a comprehensive grasp of the foundational GFM or SOM syllabus, alongside legal integration via assessments that require a thorough understanding of the legal frameworks underpinning both general forensic medicine and sexual offence medicine.

5. Examination Structure

The LFFLM is a three-component examination designed to assess both theoretical knowledge and clinical competency. Since the 2024 examination diet, the FFLM has streamlined the process by replacing the Part 2 COVE and Portfolio requirements with a Short Answer Question (SAQ) paper for all candidates.

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. Part 1 LFFLM Entry Requirements and Exemptions

6.1 Part 1 LFFLM Entry Requirements

All applicants must hold a medical, nursing, midwifery, or paramedic qualification that is formally recognised by the FFLM.

Candidates are eligible to sit the LFFLM Part 1 Examination only after completing a minimum of two years of full registration with their respective regulatory body (GMC, NMC, or HCPC).

6.2 Part 1 LFFLM Exemptions

There are no exemptions.

7. Part 2 LFFLM Entry Requirements and Exemptions

7.1 Part 2 LFFLM Entry Requirements

Candidates must have successfully completed the Part 1 LFFLM assessment within the previous four years. Additionally, on the date of the Part 2 exam, candidates must have completed a minimum of two years (full-time equivalent (FTE))* of active employment in a role that involves the practical application of General Forensic Medicine, Sexual Offence Medicine, or Secure and Detained Settings.

**Two 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 two years, whereas a candidate working half-time (0.5 FTE) will require four years to reach the same clinical experience threshold.*

7.2 Providing Evidence of Clinical Experience

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

7.3 Part 2 LFFLM Exemptions

There are no exemptions.

8. Part 2 LFFLM Examinations

8.1 Part 2 LFFLM Written Examination (SAQs)

Duration: 2.5 hours.

This examination tests medico-legal principles as well as clinical and forensic understanding, making judgments and formulate appropriate management plans and can be taken by healthcare professionals, who have passed the LFFLM Part 1 examination. Success in this examination demonstrates the minimum level of knowledge expected of a healthcare professional 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.

8.2 Part 2 LFFLM Clinical/Practical Examination (OSCE)

OSCEs evaluate the knowledge, skills, and professional attitudes essential for practitioners and their chosen 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 assess the candidate's ability to:

- Demonstrate the skills of history taking;
- Examine a patient/client to obtain further 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.

8.3 Part 2 LFFLM SOM Candidates Only

The information below clarifies the definition of adolescence and how the LFFLM SOM examinations reflect this in both the written and clinical components.

8.3.1 The Definition of Adolescence

The FFLM adopts the definition used by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Kingdom (UK) Government, which identifies adolescence as the phase of life between childhood and adulthood, specifically ranging from ages 10-19. This is a unique stage of human development and a critical period for laying the foundations of long-term health and wellbeing.

8.3.2 Application to the LFFLM SOM Examinations

This age range (10–19 years) is reflected across the Short Answer Question (SAQ) and OSCE assessments. Specifically, the examinations will focus on the 16–19 years age group, which falls within the formal definition of adolescence. Candidates should note the following assessment categories:

- Adult SOM (a) only candidates will be examined in cases involving complainants aged 16 -19 years, as well as adult complainants.
- Child SOM (c) only candidates Will be examined on cases involving complainants from birth to 19 years of age.
- Adult and Child SOM (a+c) candidates: Will be examined on a mix of cases across the full spectrum, including complainants from birth to 19 years of age and adult

complainants.

This structure ensures that all candidates demonstrate the necessary competency to manage the specific developmental and legal requirements associated with older adolescents.

9. Part 2 LFFLM Pass Result

A pass in both the LFFLM 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 Licentiate of the FFLM.

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

The Licentiate Diploma will not be conferred until membership has been completed and ratified by both the Membership & Fellowship Committee and FFLM Board.

10. Award of the LFFLM Qualification

Candidates must pass all components of the LFFLM examination.

Once Licentiate 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.

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 & 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	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.
	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.