

GENERAL REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR TRAINEES

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INDIGENOUS MEDICINE UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO SRI LANKA

2019

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1. BACKGROUND

The System of Ayurveda Medical education in Sri Lanka commenced in June 1929 with the establishment of the Swadesheeya Vaidya Vidyalaya, which became the Institute of Indigenous Medicine (IIM) in 1977, when the University of Ceylon was established and later it was absorbed to the University of Colombo in 1980. No postgraduate medical examinations were conducted by the IIM until the establishment of Postgraduate Section. The Postgraduate Section was formed more than two decades ago at IIM and number of MPhil and Postgraduate Diplomas have been awarded. There was no structured and organized postgraduate training in MD (Ayu) to ward clinical postgraduate degrees were available in Sri Lanka of any kind to benchmark in this field. The medical officers from the Department of Health and lecturers from Universities visited India for training and to obtain such MD clinical qualifications. Therefore, the conduct of a Postgraduate degree course in MD (Ayu) in Sri Lanka became decisive.

The Board of Management of the IIM, University of Colombo and University Grants Commission recommended commencing and conducting a MD (Ayu) programme in 2012. Training in the specialties of Ayurveda Medicine at postgraduate degree level done in accordance with the Indian System of Medicine (Refer: CCIM Gazette of India, 2012 March 19) was taken in to consideration when arriving at the above decision. Accordingly, postgraduate degree course of MD (Ayu) commenced in 2012 at the IIM. However, the UGC and Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medicine with the concurrence of Cabinet of Ministers made a policy decision to establish the Postgraduate Institute of Indigenous Medicine (PGIIM) to provide specialists to Ministry of Health that fulfils the stipulated requirements in the Special Gazette notification number 1882/50 dated 3rd October 2014. Accordingly, the establishment of the PGIIM was gazetted in July 2017 and the Ordinance was gazetted in December 2017.

2. CURRENT STATUS OF THE PGIIM

The PGIIM is the only Higher Education Institute in Sri Lanka empowered by a gazette notification to register students for MD and Board Certification relevant specialty study programmes of five (5) years duration with a compulsory one (1) year training overseas. These are the qualification required by Public Service Commission to appoint specialists in Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Specialties as per PSC Gazette Notification. . It has been the responsibility of the PGIIM to provide all the required specialists in major The PGIIM is affiliated to the University of Colombo in relation to academic and administrative affairs.

3. AUTHORITIES OF THE INSTITUTE

3.1 Board of Management

The Board of Management is the principal administrative, financial and academic authority of the Institute and is comprised of:

- 3.1.1 The following ex-officio members namely:-
 - · The Director;
 - The Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister in charge of the subject of Education or the nominee of such Secretary;
 - The Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister in charge of the subject of Indigenous Medicine or the nominee of such Secretary;

- The Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance or the nominee of such Secretary;
- The Commissioner of Ayurveda
- · The Immediate Past Director of the Institute;
- Directors/Heads of all under graduate institutes/Units of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicine established under the Act;
- The Director of the Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurveda Research Institute.

3.1.2 The following other members, namely -

- One member each from among specialist grade doctors of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicine from the Department of Ayurveda nominated by the Commissioner of Ayurveda.
- Three members with distinguished service to represent each of the following fields legal, administrative, and financial appointed by the Commission;
- Two members nominated by the University Council from among the appointed members of the Council.

The Chairman of the Board of Management shall be the Director who is also the Chief Executive Officer and officer in charge of discipline in the Institute.

3.2 Boards of Study and Specialty Boards of Study

The Board of Study (BOS) is the main academic organ of a given medical discipline. There are three BOS established under the Ordinance; BOS Ayurveda Medicine, BOS Siddha Medicine and BOS Unani Medicine. There are six Specialty Boards (SpB) in relevant Ayurveda Specialties, 2 in Siddha Specialties and 2 in Unani Specialties. The BOS with the relevant SpB will plan programmes of study, draft and review curricula, plan clinical or laboratory training, plan and carry out examinations, select resource persons, recommend training centers for approval and nominate examiners subject to approval by the Board of Management and the Senate of the University of Colombo. The BOS/SpB has to monitor progress of trainees with appropriate mechanisms described in the Prospectus.

The details of all functions of BOS/SpB and procedure to be followed to appoint members/coopted members is described in the PGIIM ordinance gazetted in December 2017.No. 01 of 1980 and subsequent amendments.

3.3 The Final Authority

The final authority on academic matters is the Senate, on administrative matters the Council of the University of Colombo and financial matters the Board of Management of PGIIM. The Chief Executive officer of PGIIM shall be the Director and he shall be responsible for disciplinary matters too.

4. ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

Boards of Study	MD and Board Certification (SLQF Level 12	
Ayurveda Medicine	MD in Ayurveda in Kayachikitsa and Board Certification	
	MD in Ayurveda in Shalya Tantra and Board Certification	
	MD in Ayurveda in Prasuthi Streeroga and Board Certification	
	MD in Ayurveda in Kaumarabhrithya and Board Certification	
	MD in Ayurveda in Swasthavritta and Board Certification	
	MD in Ayurveda in Dravyaguna Vignana and Board certification	
	MD in Ayurveda in Bhaisajya Kalpana & Rasashastra and Board Certification	
Siddha Medicine	MD in Siddha in Gunapadam and Board Certification	
	MD in Siddha in Maruthuvam and Board Certification	
Unani Medicine	MD in Unani in Moalijat and Board Certification	
	MD in Ayurveda in Ilmul Adviya and Board Certification	

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA OF SELECTION EXAMINATIONS

- Ayurveda/Siddha/Unani undergraduate degree at Bachelors level (SLQF Level 6) recognized by the Senate of a University established by UGC under the University Act.
- Ayurveda/Siddha/Unani undergraduate degree at Bachelors level (SLQF Level 6) registered with the Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Medical Council.
- Satisfactory completion of internship acceptable to the Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Medical Council.
- Satisfactory completion of one year work experience in Sri Lanka, after completion of internship (State or private sector).
- Complying with any other PGIIM general regulations relevant to selection of trainees.

PS- Prospective trainees will be allowed to attempt screening/selection examinations without limitation of number of attempts. This is applicable in respect of all Selection Examinations AND

6. SELECTION FOR TRAINING PROGRAMMES

- 6.1 The PGIIM shall issue circular letters and advertisements in the newspapers calling applications for Selection Examinations. Prospective applicants need to respond to such advertisements. When and if available the details may be available in an appropriate website too.
- 6.2 Applications Forms received in response to such notices along with payments will be scrutinized by the Senior Assistant Registrar/ AR in consultation with the respective Boards of Study. Candidates will be selected for training programmes on the basis of

performance at the Selection Examinations (that have been prescribed by the SPB/BOS/BOM) and the number of training positions/slots available as determined by the Department of Ayurveda.

- 6.3 Training will be carried out in training units approved by the SPB/BOS/BOM/Senate Boards of Study and the Board of Management. Allocation of trainees to training units will be done on the basis of the existing criteria laid down in the relevant Prospectus, availability of units and trainers.
- 6.4 List of trainees is submitted to the Department of Ayurveda or to the employer concerned for releasing of trainees to follow courses of study/training programmes. The responsibility of releasing of trainees to the PGIIM rests with the Department of Ayurveda/ University/private sector employer concerned.
- 6.5 An Ayurveda Medical Officer or an Academic in a Higher Education Institute shall be permitted to follow a full time PG training programme leading MD and Board Certification only in one discipline.

7. ALLOCATION OF THE TRAINING SLOT FOLLOWING SELECTION

The selection for the training programme according to the maximum number indicated in the circular calling for applications for the Selection Examination and the allocation of training units to Medical Officers in Department of Ayurveda, Universities, Armed Forces/Police, Non State Sector (Sri Lankans) and Foreign Candidates who have passed the selection examination will be done as described below:

- There should be only one "merit list" for selection of trainees from all segments for the training programme.
- There should be only one "list for allocation of training units" of trainees from all segments after selection to the training programme.
- The principle of not compromising the maximum number permitted in selection for the training programme and allocation of training units for the Department of Ayurveda doctors will be respected.
- There should be Six Segments as listed below:
 - Segment1: Medical Officers attached to Department of Ayurveda
 - Segment 2: Medical Officers/Academics attached to Universities
 - Segment 3: Medical Officers attached to Armed Forces/Police
 - Segment 4: Medical Officers in the Non State Sector
 - Segment 5: Medical Officers with overseas relevant MD qualifications or equivalent who will enter through the lateral entry route
 - Segment 6: Foreign nationals
- In each segment, the number of trainees should be the maximum number indicated in the circular calling for applications as decided by the BOS/PGIIM. In instances where the BOS decides not to indicate the maximum number for Universities and Armed Forces all from Segment 2 and 3 should be selected if they are above the "cut off line"
- The number in Segment 1 should be the maximum number that could be selected for training by the Board of Study depending on facilities for training there by not compromising the number of training opportunities available for training.
- In the absence of candidates from Segment 2 and 3 above number in Segment 1 should not be increased after the examination.

- Based on above the maximum total number of trainees to be selected out of the total candidates will be determined.
- Based on the final mark in the Selection Examination of all candidates in all five segments who passed the Selection Examination will be prepared in the descending order.
- In the above merit list depending on the maximum number permitted in Segment 1 (medical officers attached to Ministry of Heath) a "cut off line" will be drawn.
- All candidates attached to Ministry of Health above the cut off line will be selected for the training programme
- Based on the maximum number permitted for Segment 2, 3 and 4 the candidates for each segment will be selected only if they are placed above the cut off line in the merit list and based on merit within each Segment

8. SELECTION OF NON-STATE SECTOR TRAINEES

Such applicants should fulfill all eligibility criteria of the Selection Examination. Such applicants should sit for the relevant Selection Examination and qualify to be eligible to register for the relevant MD Study Programme.

9. EXEMPTIONS ON THE BASIS OF FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS

A Sri Lanka or an overseas applicant who applies for admission and registration to a MD and Board Certification study programme must possess an equivalent qualification obtained following full-time hospital based clinical training in the specialty such as such as MD, from a recognized university or institute in India or another country. The applicant may be admitted to a suitable point in the Pre MD programme if required to do so as decided by the BOM/BOS/SpB. But all such applicants should sit for the MD Examination and complete the post MD training to be eligible for Board Certification. The registration and course fee will be communicated to such applicants by the BOM.

10. FEES AND PAYMENTS

Registration fees, Course fees, Examination fees and other fees decided by the BOM are payable by the trainees to follow training programmes and to sit the PGIIM examinations. Information concerning fees payable could be obtained from the Academic and Examination Branches of the PGIIM. Current rates are available with the Accounts Branch.

- 10.1 Those selected will be required to pay the specified Registration fee as a once and for all payment and should register with the PGIIM for the entire duration of the training programme of study.
- 10.2 Each trainee also should also should pay the course and examination fees approved by the BOM at the point of registration for each year of training/examination. It shall be the responsibility of the trainee to pay for all cost of overseas trainees if and when relevant.
- 10.3 The trainee should make all above payments to the PGIIM and it shall be the responsibility of the trainee to recover such fees from the employer when and if possible.
- 10.4 Nonpayment of fees at the stipulated time shall lead to discontinuation from the study programme. In such instances to reinstate the trainee status, the trainee will have

to re-register with the PGIM by paying the registration fees and a handling fee determined by the BOM.

10.5 Schedule payment structure of fees

Registration and tuition fees are payable in respect of the MD training programmes annually as follows:

Installment	Time	
1st year fee + Registration	Before commencement	
2 nd year fee	1st month of 2nd year	
3 rd year fee	1st month of 3rd year	
4 th year fee	1st month of 4th year	
5th year fee	1st month of 5th year	

10.6 No fees shall be refunded. In special situations such requests will be considered on a case by case basis by the Finance committee and recommendation submitted to BOM for a final decision

11. LEAVE

The stipulations that are applicable in relation to leave for trainees are as follows:

- 10.1 Trainees are entitled for 14 days of leave per year with approval from BOS/SpB.
- 10.2 The BOS/SpB concerned should ensure that the trainee has completed the prescribed training in full in conformity with the criteria laid down in the Prospectus if not the trainee should be asked to repeat the shortfall caused by absence or unsatisfactory performance.
- 10.3 Whatever the leave taken (inclusive of maternity/sick leave) loss of training due to absence in each segment of the programme would have to be repeated if 85% attendance is not secured. Even with 85% attendance, trainees may be asked, as decided by the BOS/SpB, to repeat any segment of the training programme that they have not satisfactorily completed.
- 10.4 Following registration to a training programme a trainee is entitled for a maximum of one year personal leave (excluding medical leave supported by a medical certificate) for acceptable personal reasons. It would be the responsibility of the trainee to obtain approval for such leave either from the Ministry of Health or University as the case may be. However following such leave the trainee should join the New Prospectus in operation as a result of amendments been made to the previous one.
- 10.5 Maternity leave As required by "Section 18.2 of chapter 12 of the Government Establishment Code trainee should keep away from the training programme for a period of at least 28 days from the date of delivery".
 - Trainees are entitled for maternity leave as per Government Establishment Code/Public Administration Circulars. However, loss of training due to absence in each segment of the programme would have to be repeated if 85% attendance is not secured. This may mean that the candidate has to complete the shortfall of training even if they sit the examination with the subsequent batch of trainees.
 - Trainees should inform the Director/PGIIM in writing, in addition to informing relevant employer, when availing of maternity leave along with a copy of the Medical Certificate.
- 10.6 Paternity leave The trainees are entitled for paternity leave under the provisions of public administration circulars.

12. ATTENDANCE

Minimum of 85% attendance at organized lecture courses/modules, practicals, field work and satisfactory completion of prescribed clinical training are requirements for granting permission to sit examinations. In addition acceptance of the report of performance, portfolio/research report/ publications are also pre-requisites for granting such permission.

13. EXIT EXAMINATIONS

A comprehensive assessment will be held at the end of the prescribed training programme to test knowledge, skills, competencies and attitudes of the trainees (MD Examination and Pre-Board Certification Assessment). In addition should produce satisfactory outcomes on continuous assessments such as on Reports on Performance, Research Project, Portfolio Entries and Annual Reviews.

The details of the Exit (MD) examination and Pre-Board Certification Assessment are described in the relevant Prospectus.

Trainees who have reached the stipulated standard for a pass in the MD Examination will be awarded the Doctor of Medicine in the specialty concerned. The University of Colombo would confer the said Degree at the Convocation.

Trainees who have reached the stipulated standard for a pass in the Pre-Board Certification Assessment shall be awarded the Board Certification by the PGIIM in the relevant specially.

14. NUMBER OF ATTEMPTS AT MD EXAMINATION

- 14.1 The permitted number at MD Examinations shall be SIX. All six attempts should be completed within a period of eight years from the date of the first attempt. In reckoning the number of attempts, all scheduled examinations from the first attempt will be considered despite whether the trainee attempted the successive examinations or not. However, in the event the trainee has not sat a scheduled examination due to an acceptable reason such as an illness substantiated by a medical certificate to the SpB/BOS/BOM or due to any other valid reason acceptable to the BOM and Senate such an attempt will not be counted in the determination of the number of attempts. When exhausted re-entry to the same programme will not be permitted nor permitted to sit for the Selection Examination of the same training programmes.
- **14.2** Any candidate in a training programme who fails the MD Examination for the fifth attempt should be strongly recommended to satisfy the following conditions before permitting the sixth attempt.
 - a. To be appointed to a training unit for further fulltime training of twelve months with a satisfactory report.
 - To undergo Portfolio Assessment evaluation every six months with satisfactory reports.
 - c. To sit for a MD mock examination which is organized by the SpB.
- 14.3 The trainees who are unsuccessful at the 6th attempt will not be permitted to sit the MD Examination again for any reason whatsoever. However, a 'Letter Certifying Completion of Training' may be issued by the PGIIM on request indicating the durations and different components of the training programme.
- 14.4 Counting of number of attempts and withdrawal of Examination Applications

Prospective applicants may withdraw their examination applications or may be absent from the examination due to unavoidable circumstances. Following stipulations will apply for such situations.

Attempt/s will not be counted for purposes such as compilation of the number of attempts and compilation of merit list and other requirements pertaining to the Examination provided:

- The applicant withdraws his/her application prior to the date of closure of applications.
- The candidate withdraws his/her application after the date of closure of applications but prior to commencement of the examination for reasons that are acceptable to the Board of Study.
- The candidate absents himself/herself from the examination without a prior intimation but submits a Medical Certificate acceptable to the SpB/BOS/BOM/Senate, in support of his/her illness with an endorsement from a by a specialist.
- Due to sudden unavoidable circumstances which are acceptable to the SpB/BOS/BOM/Senate.

14.5 Determination of number of MD examinations:-

- Trainees, on completion of the prescribed training programme should sit the first scheduled examination which will be counted as the FIRST ATTEMPT.
- Trainees who are unable to sit the first scheduled examinations due to reasons such as
 availing of maternity leave or owing to a sickness will be considered as candidates who
 are sitting the next scheduled examination first time. On success, they will be placed in
 the order of merit at the appropriate position. They will be allocated for placements
 according to the order of merit. The Board of Study would deal appropriately with
 regard to the other reasons on a case by case basis in relation to determination of
 number of attempts.
- It is the trainees' responsibility to inform to PGIIM within 1 month before the schedule
 date of the examination, if they do not wish to sit the scheduled or subsequent
 attempts with reasons.
- Trainees who have delayed sitting examinations due to reasons which are not acceptable to the SpB/BOS/BOM will be governed by rules and regulations which are in place at the time of sitting such examinations.
- In instances where reasons given by trainees for not sitting the first scheduled or subsequent examinations are not acceptable to the SpB/BOS/BOM, the number of examinations held in between will be counted when determining the number of attempts and order of merit determined accordingly. Fees paid will not be refunded.

15. NUMBER OF ATTEMPTS AT PRE BOARD CERTIFICATION ASESSMENT

The maximum number of attempts shall be four (04), and it should be completed within a maximum period of five (05) years. If either is exhausted the trainees' registration shall be cancelled. The trainee shall not be permitted to register for any other MD study programme nor sit for the Selection Examination of such a programme

16. DETERMINATION OF THE DATE OF BOARD CERTIFICATION

16.1 The trainees become eligible for Board Certification following completion of all requirements stipulated in the Prospectus. On satisfactory completion of such requirements the trainee is Board Certified with effect from the date on which they were scheduled to complete such training. For the purpose of determination of the effective date of Board Certification the durations of local and overseas training components are added to the date of release of results.

Accordingly, the effective date is considered as the date on which the trainee completed the prescribed periods of training <u>reckoned from the date of release of MD results</u> provided:

a. the local training has been commenced immediately after passing the MD Examination

- b. Overseas component/s of training has been commenced within 3 years after passing the MD Examination.
- c. a valid reason for such delay is given to a and b above
- d. There has been no complaints during the training which has resulted in the extension of the training period.
- e. There has been no delay in sitting for the PBCA and passing it as stipulated in the prospectus.
- f. has completed all requirements stipulated in the prospectus such as the case book, portfolio and dissertation within the stipulated period
- g. Has applied within one month after completion of all requirements.
- h. Board of Management, on the recommendation of the SpB/BOS/BOM has not decided otherwise.

16.2 In the event of non-completion of (a) to (h) above the extra period shall be added to the date of Board Certification.

- 16.3 However, under exceptional circumstances, the Board of Management, on the recommendation of the SpB/BOS, <u>could grant extension of time</u> up to a maximum of two years to a trainee to complete the prescribed Post MD training. In such instances, the date of Board Certification will be the due date.
- 16.4 As a prerequisite, all trainees are required to report back to the employer and to the PGIM for the purpose of Board Certification. A letter from Commissioner of Ayurveda/Vice Chancellor/Commander of Armed Forces/Inspector General of Police has to be produced to confirm that the trainee has reported for work and assumed duties in the appointed post. In the PGIIM the trainees have to sign and date a register maintained specifically for this purpose. However in the event of any delay in doing so without a valid reason the number of dates will be added to the calculate date of Board Certification as per 15.1 above.

17. MONITORING OF THE PROGRESS OF TRAINEES

Progress of all trainees will be monitored closely by the trainers and the SpB/BOS. The overseas component of the post MD training programme will be monitored by the overseas trainer. Appropriate assessment and appraisal mechanisms are in place for trainees at Registrar and Senior Registrar levels. SpB/BOS will determine the format of these assessments and some of which are described in the Prospectus.

A trainee may have to repeat part of the training or the entire training programme if he/she has shown unsatisfactory progress during training and this will delay the date of Board Certification.

If a trainee's conduct has been found to be unprofessional appropriate action will be taken in terms of the provisions of the Disciplinary Code of the PGIIM.

18. OVERSEAS POST MD TRAINING

- 18.1 Period of Post MD Training The minimum period shall be one year local and one year overseas (minimum total of two years). It will be the responsibility of the trainee to obtain the required leave, arrange required funding (course fee and living allowance) and the scholarship if required from the employer.
- 18.2 Documents such as the letter of offer pertaining to the training post, details of fees/any remuneration if any, are required to be submitted when trainees seek approval for overseas training placements.
- 18.3 The satisfactory completion of local component of training and passing the MD examination is a prerequisite to apply for overseas training and study leave. However on

the discretion of the SpB/BOS such overseas leave may be approved before completion of the minimum post MD local training period. In such an event the balance local training period as determined by the BOS has to be completed in a training unit allocated by the SpB/BOS to be eligible to apply for Board Certification.

18.4 After completing the Post MD one year local training, the trainee should commence the overseas training within 3 years after passing the MD Examination. If not the trainee shall be removed from the training programme and shall not be eligible for Board Certification nor reentry to the same programme.

19. PRIVILEGES OF BOARD CERTIFICATION

- 19.1 Granting of Privileges of Board Certification to Ayurveda Medical Officers of Department of Ayurveda or Universities who are or/and have been in service of the Department of Ayurveda or Universities before 1st January 2019, with equivalent MD foreign qualifications obtained after following a full-time hospital based training course of minimum three years duration and passed prescribed examinations with clinical assessments could be granted privileges of Board Certification by the BOM on application, provided that the employee concerned has completed 3 years of continuous service in the state sector after obtaining such a qualification. This category of medical officers will be granted privileges of Board Certification effective from 1st January 2019.
- 19.2 However as per regulations such Ayurveda Medical Officers will not qualify for Board Certification unless they complete the two years full-time post MD training in Sri Lanka as a registered trainee.

20. HEALTH AND FITNESS

Trainees should be in sound physical and mental health and fitness to undertake the Course of study/training programme. In case of a significant illness or an impairment/disability, the trainee and/or the trainer will inform the Director/PGIIM. A trainee could be refused entry or be discontinued from the training programme on account of serious illness/impairment or physical or mental health. Such a decision will be made on the recommendation of a Medical Board appointed by the PGIIM in consultation with Department of Ayurveda/University. The decision of the Board of Management will be final.

21. DISCIPLINE

- 21.1 Discipline is considered an important aspect of training and the trainees have to always follow the guidelines of the appropriate instruments approved by the Board of Management, University Senate and the Council of the University of Colombo. Trainees will be dealt with the provisions of the Disciplinary code of the PGIIM. All trainees are subject to the general guidelines of the statutory bodies such as the SLAMC and the employer and that of the Foreign Organizations such as AYUSH.
- 21.2 The PGIIM has its own Disciplinary Code which is directly applicable to PGIIM trainees to supplement the Disciplinary Regulations of the University. The appropriate disciplinary action on offenders shall be taken by the Board of Management or the University Council as the case may be.

22. EXAMINATION OFFENCES

Trainees are required to refrain from committing Examination offences and those who commit such offences are liable to be punished under regulations of University of Colombo Rules or/and Regulations, Code of Conduct of PGIIM.

23. CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

- 23.1 When letters are sent by trainees to the PGIIM these should be addressed to the Director. If necessary the letters may be copied to the Chairperson of the SpB/BOS. No emails and SMS messages will be entertained.
- 23.2 All letters being sent from the PGIIM to Trainers, Examiners, Specialists or Trainees or to
- 23.3 Other institutions should be under the signature of the Director/PGIIM.