

# **SPECIALTY BOARD Pre-Exit Exam workshop**

## **Research Segment** 25 August 2023



## **Professor Martin C.S. Wong**

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Consultant (Honorary), Department of Family Medicine, NTEC, Hospital Authority  
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# Build research capacity

## Research Segment –

*Assesses the candidate's ability to conduct a research project which include :*

Performing a literature search and defining a research question,

Selecting the most appropriate methodology to answer the research question,

Performing appropriate analysis and interpreting the results with a discussion and conclusion

# Exit Exam 2023 – Passing Rate

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<b>Total number of Candidates attempted Research</b>	<b>11</b>
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<b>Number of Candidates PASSED overall</b>	<b>10</b>
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<b>Passing Rate</b>	<b>91%</b>
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# Guidelines on Exit Exam

Please download from our college website:

[www.hkcfp.org.hk](http://www.hkcfp.org.hk)

**Education & Examination → Exit Examination**

*Guidelines for 2024 Full Exit Exam will be available SOON~*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Year

<b>Feb 1</b>	Commence higher training
<b>March</b>	Preparatory workshop
<b>Mar- June</b>	Literature review, identify and refine research question and draft research protocol (4 months)
<b>July 31</b>	Deadline for submitting IRB (allow 2-3 months)
<b>August 31</b>	Notification of successful Research Fund applications
<b>Oct 31</b>	Deadline for submitting HKCFP Research Fund application
<b>Sept - Feb</b>	Commence data collection (6 months)

### **Reminder: Presentation of Research Study at Research Forum**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

<b>March- May</b>	Data Analysis (3 months)
<b>June - August</b>	Writing full report (draft)
<b>Aug 26</b>	Pre-Exit Exam Workshop (TODAY!)
<b>September</b>	Submit to supervisor for comments
<b>Oct- Nov</b>	Study report revisions (final)
<b>Early January</b>	Submit for examination

# 2024F Exam Guidelines

Each candidate is required to submit:

- FOUR COPIES and a word file (.doc or .docx) of the research report;
- Supporting document(s) of Ethics Approval issued by recognized ethics committee;
- Certification by Clinical Supervisors/ Mentors (Appendix C); **AND**

**NEW**

- Electronic copy of raw data (e.g. experimental measurements, survey responses, interview transcripts, audio recording files) that have not been processed nor analyzed. Data on human subjects should be anonymized and de-identified.

**Submission Deadline: 2 January 2024**

**NEW**

## Submission of raw data

- Data **hasn't been processed** yet by machine nor human
- **Should not put effort** on raw data for submission. Raw data would not be assessed
- If in doubt, Examiners can request to check the raw data
- Raw data can be experimental measurements, survey responses, interview transcripts, audio recording files (e.g. .cvs, .xls, .docx, .pdf, .mp4)
- **Data on human subjects should be anonymized and de-identified** to protect confidentiality
- If necessary, **seek consent** from interviewees
- Subject to disqualification if failed to provide raw data

# Submission of research report

- The names of the practice, the candidate, his/her supervisor and colleagues who have assisted in the research project **should NOT be stated** in the Research Report.
- The candidate has a free choice of topics for the research. The research topic chosen should be relevant to the specialty of Family Medicine and/or Primary Care.
- The date of ethics approval must be within 3 years before the application deadline of the Exit Examination.



# Format of the research report

A standard format with an **Introduction** giving background and objectives; **Method** giving details of Subjects, Study Design and Measurements, Interventions, Outcomes, and Statistical Methods; **Results; Discussion; Conclusions; References; and Acknowledgements.**

**NEW**

The text should be **between 2,500 and 4,000 words** in length, excluding the abstract, references and acknowledgements.

**NEW**

Graphs and tables should be limited to 6 and **references between 15 - 30.**

An Abstract of up to 250 words should be set out under the headings of **Objective, Design, Subjects, Main Outcome Measures, Results, and Conclusions.** Up to five keywords should be listed below the abstract.

Abbreviations should be spelt in full when first used.

References should preferably conform to the Vancouver style as used in the Hong Kong Practitioner, the official journal of the HKCFP, and must be clearly numbered in the correct order in the text. The same referencing style should be used throughout the research report. Journal titles should be abbreviated to Index Medicus Style. Up to three authors and/or editors should be listed. If there are more than three, the first three and "*et al*" should be listed.

All study instrument and/or questionnaire should be attached as part of the appendices

The candidates are recommended to include sufficient information in their research reports. References can be made to the website of the British Medical Journal on the various guidelines according to the different study designs. (<http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-authors/article-submission/article-requirements>). These guidelines are for reference only, and candidates do not need to complete or submit the guidelines.

# SUGGESTED READING / REFERENCES

1. Grant S. Fletcher. *Clinical Epidemiology – The Essentials*. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2021
2. Geoffrey R. Norman and David L. Streiner, *Biostatistics: The Bare Essentials*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Shelton, Connecticut : People's Medical Publishing House-USA, 2014
3. Felicity Goodyear-Smith, Robert Mash. *How To Do Primary Care Research*. 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, ISBN 9781138499584. Published August 16, 2018 by CRC Press
4. Harvey Motulsky. *Intuitive Biostatistics*, Fourth Edition, Published: 15 November 2017, ISBN: 9780190643560
5. Rosaline S. Barbour, *Introducing qualitative research. A student's Guide* by Rosaline Barbour. 2019 SAGE Publications Inc.
6. Leon Gordis, *Epidemiology*, 3rd Edition. Philadelphia: Elsevier Saunders 2013.
7. *Sample size calculation*. Centre for Clinical Research and Biostatistics, the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Available at:  
[https://www2.ccrb.cuhk.edu.hk/web/?page\\_id=1016](https://www2.ccrb.cuhk.edu.hk/web/?page_id=1016)

# Ethics Approval for Research Study

- MUST seek Ethics Approval from a recognized Ethics Committee before starting your study.
  - HA, DH or universities.
- Candidates are required to submit the supporting document(s) when submission of Research Report.
  - Be disqualified if failed to do

# Assessment Criteria

- The research topic and question(s), their relevance and importance to the candidate's practice and family medicine, critical review of background literature and objectives of the research,
- Appropriate research methodology: sampling method, outcome measures, data collection, analysis of results and use of appropriate statistical tests,
- Interpretation and discussion on the results, their relationship with existing literature, their strengths and limitations, and impact of the research to the practice of Family Medicine and community care.
- Overall presentation and adequacy/appropriateness of the reference list.
- A score of 65% or above is the standard for a pass.

# Research Segment Evaluation Form

## [Rating Form on Research Segment](#)

### Standards for allocation of marks

The following descriptions of performance are to be used as yardsticks of levels of achievement.

<u>Marks</u>	<u>Criteria</u>
85 % or above	Consistently demonstrates outstanding performance in all components. (Outstanding)
75 – 84 %	Consistently demonstrates mastery of most components and capability in all. (Very Good)
65 – 74 %	Consistently demonstrates capability in most components to a professional standard. (Average to Good)
55 – 64 %	Demonstrates capability in some components to a satisfactory standard but with omissions and /or defects in other components that have impact on patient care / the study carried out.
45 – 54 %	Demonstrates inadequacies in several components with major omissions or defects.
44 % or below	Demonstrates serious defects; clearly unacceptable standard overall.

- **Sample Size Calculation**  
*show your understanding*
- **Publishability**
- **Originality**  
*new knowledge / uniqueness*
- **Plagiarism**  
*zero tolerance*  
plagiarism checker

## **Use of AI-generated outputs for Exit Exam is NOT allowed**

- Written report must represent the trainee's own work. Contents produced solely by the generative AI tools would not be accepted as submission.
- Trainees are required to critically examine the output (if any) generated from the generative AI tools, with the contents checked for accuracy and screened for discrepancies.
- Academic honesty and integrity should be upheld without compromise. Improper use of generative AI tools may lead to disciplinary actions or other consequences as determined by the Academy and College.



**Thank you**