



# The Society of Apothecaries of London

## Diploma in Forensic Medical Sciences (DipFMS)

### Administrative Guidance for Candidates

#### EXAMINATION TIMETABLE: 2021/22 AND IMPORTANT UPDATES SHOWN IN BLUE

Deadline for <b>electronic receipt</b> of your completed application form by the Examinations Office (examoffice@apothecaries.org) AND Receipt of full fee <b>electronically</b> - <i>see important note in section 2 below regarding fee*</i> , and payment instructions in section 5.	5.00pm on Thursday 21 April 2022
Due date for submission of dissertations - this is the date by which your dissertation <b>must have arrived</b> electronically via <b>Turnitin</b> to the Exam Office. <u>DO NOT SUBMIT HARD COPIES BY POST.</u>	<b>This has been extended until 5pm on Monday 27 June 2022</b>
Written paper <b>Now to be delivered online</b> - <i>see further communications from the Exam Office</i>	Thursday 16 June 2022

#### EXAMINATION FEES

1. The examination entry fee is £840.
2. The re-entry fee for the whole exam is £840.  
The re-entry fee for the written paper only, is £465.  
The re-entry fee for the dissertation only, is £420.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE.** An application is not complete without the due full fee. Candidates whose employers are paying for their examination entry, who might require an invoice from the Examinations Office to prompt a payment, should note that the full fee **must** have been paid by the application deadline – you are advised to plan well ahead accordingly.

#### WITHDRAWING FROM THE EXAMINATION

3. Candidates who wish to withdraw from the examination must notify the Society in writing. Withdrawal penalties are detailed in the table below.

If the date of receipt of notification of withdrawal falls-	The penalty incurred will be...
Before the application deadline stated above.	No penalty
In the 2 weeks after the application deadline	£135
Within 6 weeks of the start of the examination	£245
Within 2 weeks of the start of the examination	Full Fee

Continued overleaf.....

## PAST EXAMINATION PAPERS

4. A booklet of past examination papers is available from the Exam Office at a cost of £15.

## PAYMENTS

5. Payments can be made via: -

**The Society's website:** <https://www.apothecaries.org/shop/>

**Direct transfer:** To use this method of payment you must send **your name , the examination** for which you are paying and **the date of the examination** by email to the Exam Office; [examoffice@apothecaries.org](mailto:examoffice@apothecaries.org)

Sort Code: 18-00-02

Bank Account number: 05957192

IBAN: GB16COUT18000205957192

Swift/BIC Number: COUTGB22

Account name: The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London

Coutts & Co, 440 Strand, London, WC2R 0QS

The payment must be made identifiable by the inclusion of the diploma abbreviation and candidate's surname (e.g. DFMS Smith)

Candidates from overseas should ensure that their transfers yield the correct fee in Sterling AFTER deduction of bank charges. Only bankers' drafts drawn on a UK bank are accepted. Bankers' drafts should be valid for at least 3 months after the examination date.

## CURRENT DISSERTATION TOPIC and guidance statement

6. **Title:**

The limits on expert forensic evidence in investigating and prosecuting/defending crime

### **Guidance Statement:**

Medicine and science are ever developing, which impacts on the scope and reliability of forensic evidence which may be used in investigating and prosecuting/defending crime.

Describe and analyse the limits on forensic evidence which may be used in the criminal justice process, either before charge or at trial.

You may consider forensic evidence generally or certain aspects of it, and you may write about the subject from a medical or legal position (or both), **provided that your dissertation answers the title.**

Examples of aspects of the limits on expert forensic evidence might include:

- the limitations of the current state of the science/medicine (whether in terms of its identification, collection, reliability or otherwise);
- recent developments in the field of forensic evidence;
- the limits the law places on the admissibility of expert evidence; and
- whether the law is adequate to deal with the changing understanding of science/medicine.

This is not an exhaustive list.

It is important that you make sure you follow the guidance provided in the Guide to the Dip FMS exam regarding structure, referencing, word limit etc. of your dissertation before submission..

<https://www.apothecaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/DFMS-Guide-to-the-Diploma-incl-Regulations-and-Syllabus-Dec21-v30-1.pdf>