



Administrative Guidance for Candidates 2026

Diploma in the Philosophy of Medicine (DPMSA)

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Timetable/Deadlines

| Event | Deadline |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Closing date for application form and full payment (all candidates). Note: once payment is made, you will be directed to the BrightSpace learning platform to complete your application form. | Mid-day Tuesday 7 April 2026 |
| The due date for submission of Abstract for Long article (dissertation) & Short article (Essay) (see Guide to DPMSA incorporating Regulations and Syllabus) NOTE: You will not need a candidate number prior to submission of this essay. Please submit your long article (dissertation) abstract and short essay electronically in Word™ format on the BrightSpace Learning Platform . Your candidate number will be used to anonymise your essay during marking. | 23.59pm Friday 10 April 2026 |
| The Oral Assessment | Saturday 16 th May 2026 |
| Due date for submission of completed Long article (dissertation) Please submit one copy using the BrightSpace learning platform. Do NOT send hard copies. *Important Note. Long articles (dissertations) not submitted by the due date will be deferred to the next examination and a re-entry fee will be payable. | 23.59pm Monday 22 June 2026 |

Application Notes

Our aim is to approve all applications received. Candidates are advised to apply well in advance of the closing date for entries., and we aim to give priority to candidates who are nearing their 3-year period since completing the course.

The stated deadline is the final date by which a completed application can be considered for entry to the examination. Candidates who have extenuating circumstances which do not meet the above criteria will be considered individually by the Executive Director.

To submit an application, please go to the Shop >Centre for Health Studies Shop area on our website, click into the exams area, choose the exam payment option, select the exam entry you require. On checkout, you will be asked to create an account and finish payment. **You will then be directed to our online platform Brightspace to complete and submit your application form. Please note, only fully completed applications will be considered.**

Candidates whose employers are paying for their examination entry, and who therefore need an invoice from the Examinations Office to prompt the payment, should note that the fee **must** have been paid by the application deadline, and should plan well ahead accordingly.



Examination Fee

1. The full examination entry fee for all applicants is £975 (online payment). Students who have been awarded a bursary by the Faculty should contact the Centre for Health Studies for the relevant reduction (academicadmin@apothecaries.org).
2. The re-entry fee for the whole exam is **£975**.
The re-entry fee for the short essay only is **£325**.
The re-entry fee for the oral assessment only is **£325**.
The re-entry fee for the dissertation only is **£325**.

Candidates who withdraw from the examination after the closing date will trigger a forfeit fee as detailed below.

Payments

Payments can be made [here](#).

Candidates who are unable to pay via the website should contact academicmanager@apothecaries.org

Withdrawing or Deferring from the Examination

3. Candidates wishing to withdraw or defer from the examination must notify the Examinations Office as soon as possible. The following withdrawal and deferral charges are applicable:

| Timing of Application to Withdraw or Defer | Possible Refund (subject to approval) |
|--|---|
| Requests to withdraw or defer before the closing date for application | No fee. |
| Requests to withdraw or defer after the application closing date and 30 working days (6 weeks) before the examination. | Candidates withdrawing or deferring from an examination after the closing date and up to 6 weeks before the examination will normally be charged 25% of the fee. |
| Requests to withdraw or defer after the application closing date and 15 working days (3 weeks) before the examination. | Candidates withdrawing or deferring from an examination after the closing date and up to 3 weeks before the examination will normally be charged 50% of the fee. |
| Requests to withdraw or defer less than 15 working days (3 weeks) of the examination. | A refund will not normally be made to candidates withdrawing or deferring within 15 days of the examination. However, extenuating circumstance submitted with supporting evidence may be considered and subject to approval by the Executive Director for Centre for Health Studies. |



SHORT ESSAY & DISSERTATION BRIEF

4. Short Essay

a. An ethical analysis paper, based around a scenario in the literature, hypothetical case, ethical issue in medicine or philosophical topic of relevance to healthcare, formatted for submission to the BJGP; guidelines or the same as for a number of journals as an editorial or analysis (max 1200 words, 12 references, deadline **March 28th**)

<https://bjgp.org/authors/writing-bjgp-other-sections>

Dissertation

b. A longer dissertation on a different topic formatted as a long essay for the Journal of Medical Ethics original research/student essay (max 3500 words) https://jme.bmj.com/pages/authors#student_essay (with the stipulation that the dissertation must use philosophical methodology).

b.1 Abstract

250 word abstracts will be encouraged by the end of the first working week in **January** so that potential Selwyn lecturers can be vetted and all candidates advised on the feasibility of and useful resources for their project. The proposed deadline for the full dissertation is **23 June**, word count max 3500)

<https://www.apothecaries.org/diploma-in-the-philosophy-of-medicine/>.

5. ORAL ASSESSMENT/PRESENTATION

Presentation of argument examination (15 minutes and 5 minutes for questions) to take place date published in on **Saturday 16th May**. This also includes those candidates who are not attending the course, who will be an invited audience of the day along with Worshipful Society Apothecaries London Philosophy Fellows.

NB: Please note the dissertation component requires a different title and topic of exploration from that of the essay component.

Please refer to the regulations in the [Guide to the DPMSA Exam](#) on the website for full details.