

SPECIALTY BOARD

Pre-Exit Exam workshop

Research Segment

5 September 2025

Professor Martin C.S. Wong

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Consultant (Honorary), Department of Family Medicine, NTEC, Hospital Authority

Specialist in Family Medicine

Editor-in-Chief, Hong Kong Medical Journal, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine

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 2025 – Passing Rate

Total number of Candidates attempted Research	21
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Number of Candidates PASSED overall	19
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Passing Rate	90.5%
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Guidelines on Exit Exam

Please download from our college website:

www.hkcfp.org.hk

Education & Examination → Exit Examination

Guidelines for 2026 Full Exit Exam will be available SOON~

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

Reminder: Presentation of Research Study at Research Forum

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

2026F 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**

From 2024 Exit Exam onwards

- 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 2026



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
- The study should be **conducted independently** under the **supervision of your trainer.**

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**.

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

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*. 6th Edition, 2021
2. Geoffrey R. Norman and David L. Streiner, *Biostatistics: The Bare Essentials*, 4th Edition. Shelton, Connecticut : People's Medical Publishing House-USA, 2014
3. Felicity Goodyear-Smith, Robert Mash. *How To Do Primary Care Research*. 1st 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

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.

Build research capacity

- The topic is important...but did not generate much new information
- Aim/ objective/ hypothesis not stated
- “ I recommend the candidate to read one or two key paper in the same field and learn how other researcher present data, conduct discussionthere is NO need to create your own style in research “
- “ just a minor comment that the reader may be interested to know whether there have been any previous studies conducted in Asia pacific (apart from HK) . The statement on this to highlight the present knowledge gap will be useful to justify novelty ..”

Build research capacity

- Do in single GOPD
- Consider do pilot
- Technical thing like method, result analysis
- Include the study instruments
- Original questionnaire...concern on use in Chinese, ?Validity
- Sample size calculation is confusing
- Small sample size limit the analysis
- There is no mention of how the interviewees were selected and that may risk having only superficial and uniformity of data..”
- Use of qualitative to help



Thank you