

COVID-19: 2020.02 Primary Exam



Frequently Asked Questions

acem.org.au/covid-19

The 2020.2 Primary Written Examination has been postponed until Friday 2 October. Does this mean the application open and close dates have changed too?

No. The application dates will remain the same. You can apply from Monday 1 June until Friday 26 June 2020 by visiting the [examinations page](#) of the ACEM website. Please make sure you apply before the closing date as late applications will not be accepted.

I was planning to sit the 2020.2 Primary Viva Examination in November if successful in the 2020.2 Primary Written Examination but the application dates are now before the written exam. Can I still apply?

Yes, you can. The 2020.2 Viva application period is open from Monday 10 August to Friday 4 September 2020. Although you may not know if you have passed the Written Examination by this point, you will have the option to tick 'I am sitting the Written Examination in October and pending a successful result I would like to sit the 2020.2 Viva'.

Can I apply for both the written and the viva at the same time?

No. The applications for each distinct examination must be made separately as outlined above on the advertised dates.

The 2020.2 Primary Written Examination and 2020.2 Primary Viva examination are now closer together so I am not sure I will have enough preparation time to sit the Viva should I pass the Written examination. What are my options?

It is advisable to discuss your options and preparation for examinations with your DENT. If you do not feel ready to sit an examination,

we recommend deferring to the next sitting. Should you decide to sit the examination it will be considered an attempt towards the maximum allowable number of attempts for each examination.

What about if I am unsuccessful in the written examination in October?

If you do not pass the 2020.2 Primary Written Examination, you will be automatically removed from the 2020.2 Primary Viva Examination as you will not meet the eligibility criteria.

When will the examination fees be taken?

For the 2020.2 Primary Written Examination you will be invoiced shortly after the closing date at the end of June, once eligibility checks have taken place. For the 2020.2 Primary Viva Examination, again you will be invoiced a week or two after the closing date if you have already sat and passed the Written Examination. If you are sitting the Written Examination in October, you will not receive your invoice until shortly after results are known (mid-October).

I live in a rural or remote location and if travel restrictions are still present, may have difficulty in travelling to one of the six Written Examination venues. What are my options?

As per the [COE Communique of 5 May 2020](#), it may be possible for trainees to sit the 2020.2 Primary Written Examination closer to home if government mandated travel restrictions are still present. In the first instance, trainees should contact Primary.Exam@acem.org.au where a form to apply to do this will be provided. Trainees will be required to explain why they are unable to travel to their closest Cliftons' centre.

Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis and if accepted you will be required to sit a paper copy of the examination. It will not be possible to sit the examination online outside one of the six Cliftons' venues. These arrangements will be made in line with the government advice given regarding the date of the examination.

With the 2020.1 Primary Viva Examination cancelled in May, are ACEM expecting a large number of Viva applicants for the 2020.2 examination in November? Are spaces likely to be limited?

We do expect candidate numbers to be larger in November as applications will include the 2020.1 Viva applicants, in addition to those who pass the Primary Written Examination in October. We have therefore added a third Viva examination day in November so that the examination may run from Wednesday 4 to Friday 6 November 2020 depending on the number of candidates if needed. We will therefore be able to accommodate between 300 and 350 trainees at the 2020.2 Viva. We do not expect that we will have to turn anyone away.