

Candidate and Counsellor FAQ

Transition to In-person Assessment

1. Who decided to resume in-person interviews?

The [Qualification and Assessments Committee](#) (QAC) considered a request from the Hong Kong region in line with an approved policy. Regions must meet specific criteria to return to in-person assessments. This decision was taken alongside interim measures arising from the [Entry and Assessment Review](#) programme, and will be used to trial in-person identity checks as part of the assessment process.

2. Will other regions resume in-person interviews?

Regions are assessed on a case-by-case basis against set criteria that support the objectives of any new measures. The Hong Kong region is trialling a process for in-person identity checks. We will carefully review the results of the pilot in HK to understand if this change will be applicable to any other regions in future.

3. If I prefer online assessments, will I have the option to choose or conduct hybrid interviews?

Only in-person assessments will be offered in Hong Kong to support the identity checking trial. Alternative arrangements will only be made for candidates who have applied for and have been granted a reasonable adjustment as per our [reasonable adjustments policy](#).

4. How can I apply for a reasonable adjustment?

Information on applying for reasonable adjustments is [available here](#).

5. Did you consider a hybrid approach to interviews?

Yes, various options were considered. However, only in-person assessments will be conducted in Hong Kong to support the identity check pilot.

6. Will there be support provided for candidates to understand how in-person interviews are conducted?

Yes. We will offer seminars from July onwards to help candidates familiarize themselves with the in-person interview format. Both candidates and counsellors are strongly encouraged to attend. Further details will be provided in May.

7. Do I still need to upload my APC/SPA submission via the assessment platform?

Yes, the submission process remains the same. The submission window for the October assessment session will be from 21-28 July.

8. What if I am referred in the April or July assessment windows? Will I be required to switch to the in-person assessment process?

Yes, after the July assessment session, all interviews will take place in person for the duration of the pilot.

9. What are the differences between an online and in-person assessment?

Nothing apart from the physical location of where you will be taking the assessment is changing. The structure, timing, length of interview approach to assessing and questioning remains the same as it is for online assessments. Our information seminars will explain the differences and we will provide supplementary document focusing on in-person assessment.

10. Will the interview dates in October still be as advertised?

Our intention is to continue to run the October assessments from 16-20 October, subject to venue availability. Minor changes of dates, if required, will be advertised with sufficient advance notice.

11. I live in Macau or Taiwan. Will I need to come to Hong Kong to do my final assessment?

We will continue to only offer candidates in Macau and Taiwan an online assessment.

12. What does the identity check entail, and what are the forms of photographic identification document acceptable when I register my attendance for interview?

All candidates will be required to provide a piece of photographic identification when registering for their in-person assessment.

One of the following forms of identification is sufficient for registration - Passport, HKID or Return Home Permit.

13. What if I forget to bring my photographic identification document on the interview day?

We will not proceed with your attendance registration for interview, and we will defer your assessment and cancel your scheduled interview. Deferral fee will be charged at the time you apply for assessment in the next submission window.

14. Do I need to print out my submission?

No, the use of your submission during interview will not be permitted.

15. Do I need to submit presentation slides in advance?

No, this is not required.

16. Do I need to print out my presentation slides for my interview panel?

This is optional, although we encourage you to for an effective presentation.

17. What IT devices can I use for my presentation?

You are permitted to use your laptop to present, after which you are required to put away your laptop. Please ensure your device is charged, charging cable/power supply will not be provided in your interview room. You may use note/index cards during presentation. Use of mobile device for presentation is not permitted.

18. If I do not want to use laptop for my presentation, what other alternatives of visual aids are permitted?

You may bring your own flip charts. Clip on style flip boards will be provided in the interview room. The recommended paper size is 58CM (W) x 75CM (L). On addition to flip charts, you may use note/index cards during presentation.

19. Can I use my mobile device as note/index cards during my presentation?

No, this is not permitted. Please opt for palm-sized note/index cards.

20. What is the recommended arrival time before the scheduled interview?

20 minutes prior to interview start time. RICS may at their discretion cancel the interview if you have not registered as present 5 minutes before the start time of your interview. Candidates will be provided with an information pack along with their interview confirmation, please refer to said document for detailed instructions.

21. What if there is an extreme weather warning on the day of the interview?

In-person assessment will proceed as usual under T1, T3 and T8 signals. For T9 and T10 signals, we will be cancelling in-person assessment and reschedule to online assessment in the same session, or you can defer until the next in-person session.

In-person assessment will proceed as usual under Amber and Red rainstorm signals. For Black rainstorm signal, we will be cancelling in-person assessment and reschedule to online assessment in the same session, or you can defer until the next in-person session.

22. What if I choose to defer my assessment due to extreme weather warning, do I need to pay for deferral fee, provide my Intent to Submit (ITS) and re-apply for final assessment via the platform?

No, deferral of interview due to extreme weather warning is an exceptional circumstance therefore you are not required to pay for deferral fee. Yes, you will need to provide your ITS and re-apply for final assessment through the platform. Please plan accordingly by viewing the deadlines [here](#).