

# Exam Support in Obstetrics and Gynaecology: A Scottish Experience

## Experiences of Preparing for the Membership Examinations of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists from Candidates in Scotland

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### Introduction

Like most medical specialties, gaining membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists is essential for progress in training.

Pass rates in Scotland have been gradually declining in recent years and are consistently below national UK average<sup>1</sup>.

- In 2022 the pass rate in Scotland was 48% compared to 72% in 2018
  - In the same years UK averages were 60% and 77% respectively<sup>1</sup>.

We sought to understand the experience of candidates in Scotland and identify interventions to improve success.

### Methods

To enquire about candidate experiences, an online questionnaire was developed with oversight from the Specialty Training Board for O&G.

It comprised 43 multiple choice and free text questions to capture both quantitative and qualitative data regarding approach to, and support surrounding, exams. The questionnaire was distributed to all doctors in Scottish obstetrics and gynaecology training positions via their respective Training Program Directors. Responses were collected anonymously using the Microsoft Forms platform and exported to Microsoft Excel for analysis.

#### MRCOG Trainee Experience

Apr 4, 2025

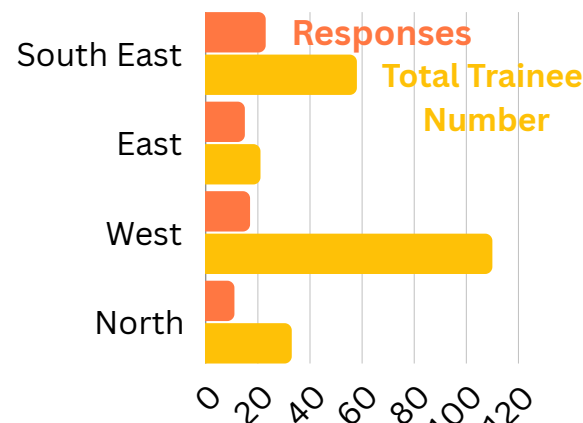
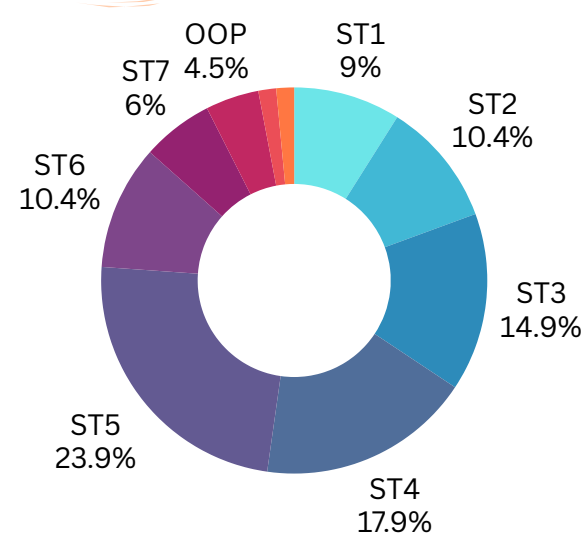
Gathering information about the experience of trainees sitting the MRCOG examinations in Scotland



## Results

**30%**  
response rate  
(67/222 trainees)

### Demographics



**18%** reported neurodivergence

**10%** International Medical Graduates (IMG)

### Exam Outcomes

**61%** of respondents report at least one exam failure

**70%** of international graduates\*

\*majority sat exam prior to UK practice

**75%** of those with neurodivergence

**60%** report no support following exam failure

**52%** of those with ≥2 same-exam fails

**1/3** of those with known neurodiversity

Should prompt neurodivergence screening

Should prompt tailored support

Average number of attempts to pass

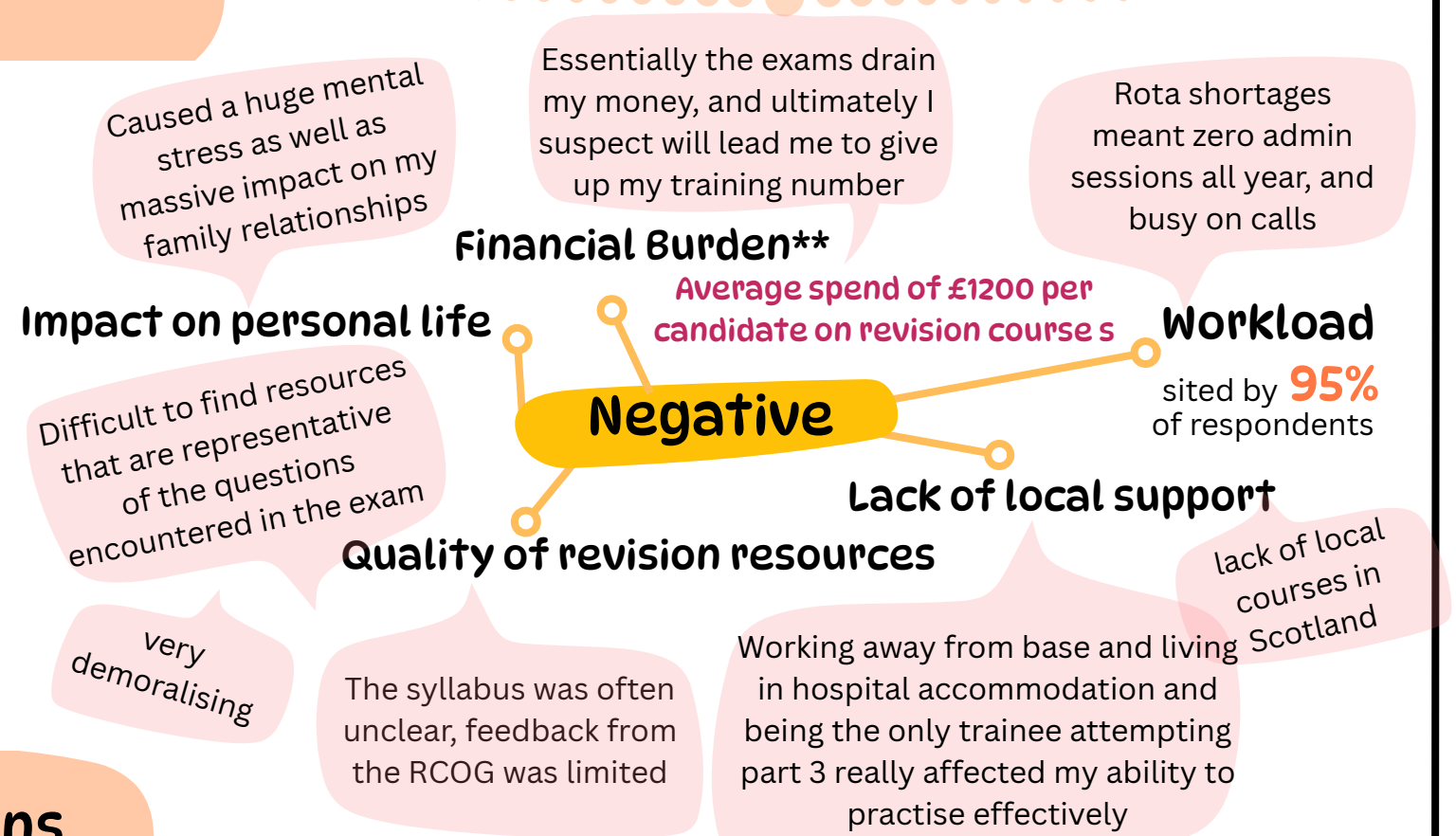
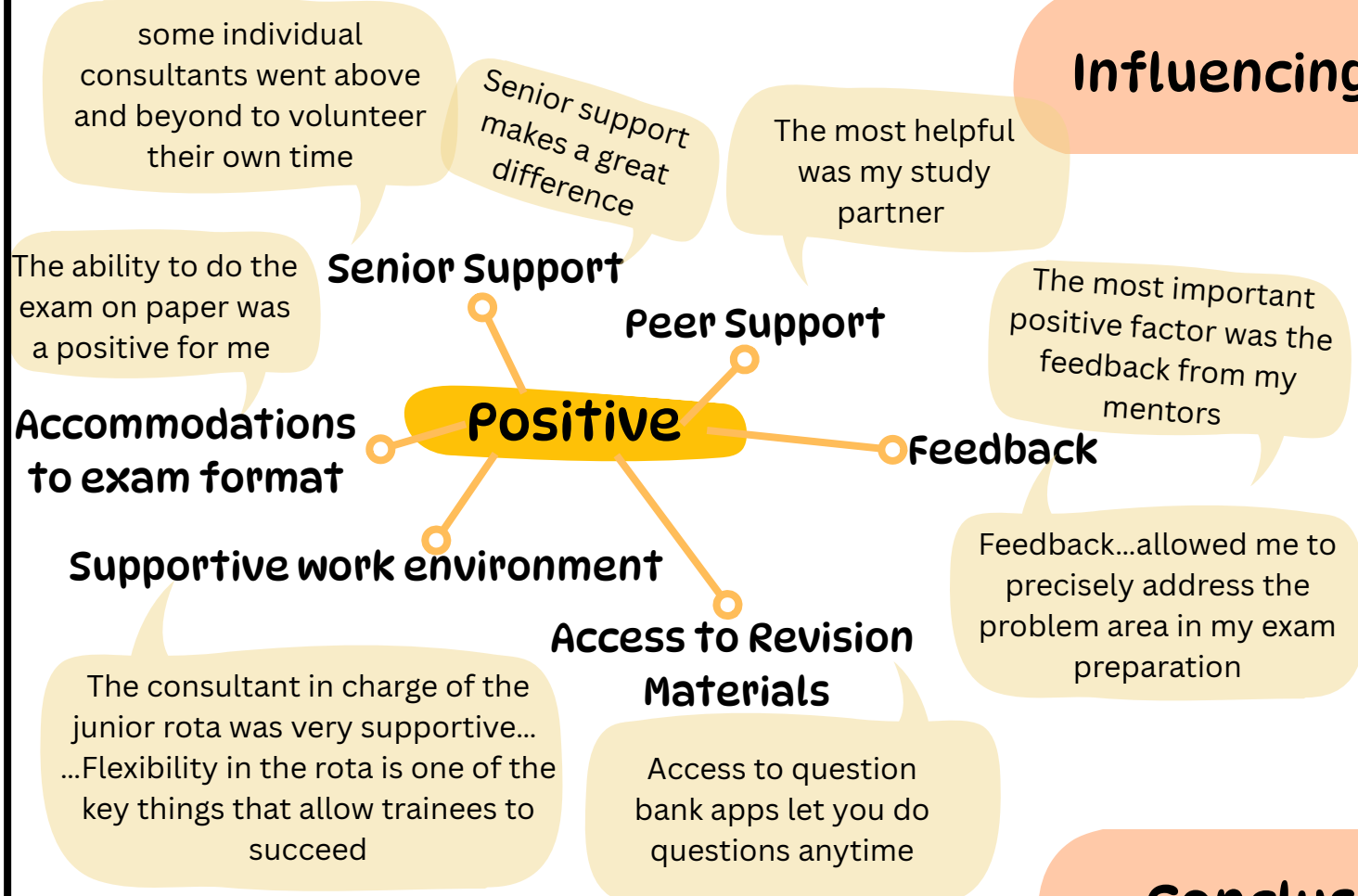
**3.3** for international medical graduates

**3.1** for UK medical graduates

**4.2** for those reporting neurodivergence

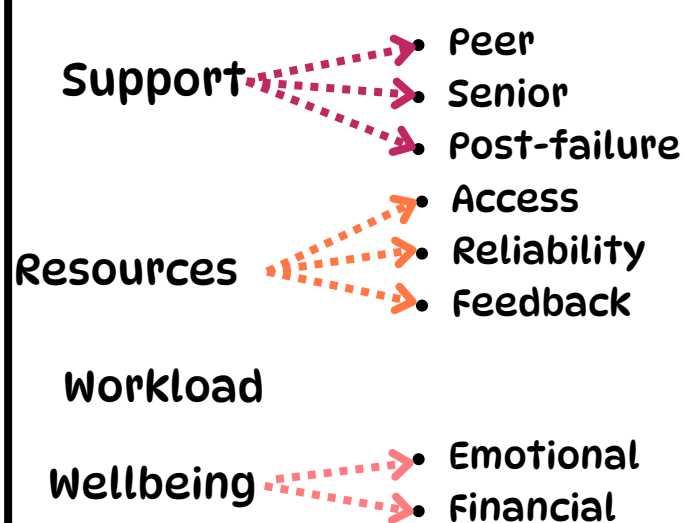
**2.5** if neurotypical

### Influencing Factors



### Conclusions

#### Key Themes Affecting Exam Success



#### Support

#### Resources

#### Workload

#### Wellbeing

#### Launch of virtual peer network

- Reduce geographical isolation
- Share resources
- Encourage candidates to share intentions with colleagues
- Include TPD; to allow optimal spread of candidates/access to study leave/reasonable adjustments
- Advocate for routine exam planning and review meetings with clinical supervisors
- Create checklist for trainers/trainees
- Highlight neurodivergence accommodations
- Regional Exam Champions
- Scottish MRCOG revision course
  - Reduced financial and time burden
- RCOG feedback pilot in progress

#### SCOTTISH O&G TRAINEES EXAM SUPPORT GROUP



Advert disseminated in March 2025 inviting O&G Trainees in Scotland to join new network

1- Scottish Specialty Training Board Data

2- "COPMed Neurodiversity Guidance: Equitable Access to Assessment and Support for Neurodivergent Postgraduate doctors in training"

<https://www.copmed.org.uk/images/docs/Equitable%20access%20to%20assessment%20and%20support%20for%20neurodiverse%20PGDITs.pdf>