

'Spotlight on' series

Supporting colleagues applying for the Portfolio Pathway (formerly CESR)

Gaining specialist registration via the Portfolio Pathway (formally Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration [CESR]) can be daunting, time-consuming and stressful. Follow these top tips to support colleagues going through this process.

1 Be Supportive



Provide applicants with a clinical supervisor or mentor with experience of the Portfolio Pathway/CESR process.

Encourage others to provide ad hoc support and assistance to the applicant.

Provide SPA time to candidates to dedicate to their application.

2 Understand the process



Become familiar with GMC^{1 2} and RCR^{3 4} guidance for applying for the Portfolio Pathway/CESR.

Familiarise yourself with the current curriculum and help applicants think how their knowledge, skills and experience can be demonstrated and evidenced.

Encourage applicants to attend RCR Portfolio Pathway sessions (webinars and drop-in clinics).

3 Plan ahead

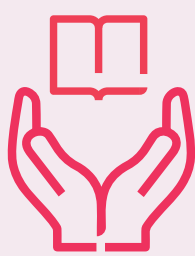


Help applicants to build a development plan to address gaps in their experience or evidence over an appropriate time period.

Optimise use of learning events with reflection recorded contemporaneously.

Review progress regularly.

4 Support learning

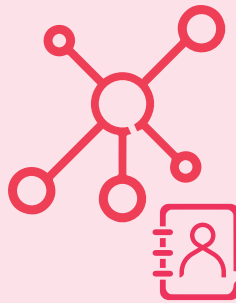


Facilitate attendance at appropriate training courses.

Offer quality improvement and audit mentorship and support around clinical governance activity.

Suggest opportunities for applicants to develop leadership skills, such as chairing meetings, rota organisation, or mentoring junior colleagues.

5 Build up professional networks



Encourage networking with other Portfolio Pathway/CESR applicants or recently successful candidates.

Link in with RCR professional networks.

Help applicants consider who to nominate as referees to their application.

Useful links

https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/sat---sbg---clinical-oncology-2021---dc13771_pdf-87101033.pdf

https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/sat---sbg---clinical-radiology---dc2289_pdf-48457902.pdf

<https://www.rcr.ac.uk/our-specialties/clinical-oncology/discover-clinical-oncology/thinking-about-a-career-in-clinical-oncology/cesr-registration-oncology/>

<https://www.rcr.ac.uk/our-specialties/clinical-radiology/discover-clinical-radiology/thinking-about-a-career-in-clinical-radiology/cesr-registration-radiology/>

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/join-our-registers/registration-applications/specialist-application-guides/specialist-registration-portfolio>

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/employers-and-other-organisations/doctors-employers-royal-colleges-and-medical-schools>

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/A%20guide%20to%20supervising%20a%20CESR%20candidate.pdf>

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