



CO First FRCR Part 1 Examiner

Contributor candidate pack



The Royal College of Radiologists

01 Welcome



It's a pleasure to welcome you as you explore the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Royal College of Radiologists. I'm delighted that you're considering joining our committed community of professionals who contribute their time, skills and experience to support our work.

At the RCR, colleagues like you are absolutely vital to the work we do. You play a key role in helping us support excellence in medical imaging, interventional radiology and cancer treatment - both now and in the future. In contributing your time, expertise, and perspective, your involvement strengthens our impact and supports the delivery of safe, high-quality patient care, which sits at the heart of everything we do.

As a Contributor, you will help us deliver the College's strategic priorities, including providing excellent standards and guidance for the workforce, delivery of high-quality professional learning, and being recognised as the experts in our fields. Your insight and involvement help ensure that our specialties continue to grow in both strength and influence.

Many of our Contributors have told us they choose to give their time because they want to make a real difference to our specialties. And by getting involved, they've also found opportunities to build lasting professional networks and stay connected with peers across the UK and beyond. The same will be true for you.

We're proud to be a college that works in partnership with its members. Our Contributors bring energy, ideas, and commitment that shape our work and our future - and we are stronger because of it.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with you.

With warm wishes,

Dr Stephen Harden

President of The Royal College of Radiologists

02 Role Summary

Role title:	CO First FRCR Part 1 Examiner
Exam	CO First FRCR Part 1 (CO1)
Preferred specialties:	Clinical Oncology
Term Duration	5 years
Closing date for applications:	See RCR website

Why this role exists

RCR exams are an internationally recognised benchmark of excellence as well as a vital element of UK training. The [First FRCR \(CO1\) exam](#) assesses knowledge of the basic sciences that underpin, and are essential to, clinical oncology practice including physics as applied to radiotherapy, radiobiology, cancer biology including molecular biology, the pharmacology of systemic anti-cancer treatments and medical statistics.

The board is responsible for ensuring that the exam meets the needs of the approved clinical oncology training curriculum and standards set by the GMC. For each subject area, a team of clinical oncologist examiners work alongside non-medical specialists in the field, assuring the quality and clinical relevance of exam questions and curriculum. The FRCR Part 1 examiners meetings provide great interactive opportunities for specialist examiners and clinical oncologists to ensure that the exams reflect evolving oncology practice and the curriculum.

Your impact

Being an examiner at the Royal College of Radiologists offers a profound and rewarding professional experience that has a real impact to both the field of oncology and patient care.

Examiners are given the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from across the UK and around the world, with the process of developing exam questions not only enhancing one's own knowledge and critical thinking but also contributing to maintaining high standards of education and practice.

Examiners ensure UK and global candidates have gold-standard exam content that ensures future oncologists' competence, benefitting not only the next generation of oncologists but the wider healthcare system.

03 Key responsibilities and requirements

Clinical oncology examiners - with the support of specialist examiners - have a range of responsibilities including:

- updating, and developing new, single-best-answer questions
- quality assurance of the performance of single-best-answer questions within the questions bank and each exam sitting
- selecting questions and standards setting to ensure a broad assessment of knowledge across the curriculum
- exam approval and setting pass marks for each exam sitting
- review of overall candidate exam performance and provision of an examiner report
- reviewing the pattern of performance of the exam over time to ensure standards are maintained and identifying areas for improvement

Knowledge, qualifications and experience	Essential (E) or Desirable (D)
Applicants must be a fellow of the RCR in good standing	E
Hold a substantive consultant post within an approved UK training programme or a relevant hospital / scientific position.	E
Demonstrate that they have undergone appropriate equality and diversity training and are willing to abide by good practice in these areas	D
Skills and abilities	
A commitment to abide by the Contributor Code of Conduct .	E
Regular attendance is expected at examiner meetings and committed time to setting and reviewing the exam	E
Be prepared to participate in induction, training, examiner appraisal and ongoing upskilling activities.	E

The term of office is five years, with the opportunity to extend for a further year through mutual agreement.

04 Commitment and conditions

Examiners usually attend two board meetings a year, in March/April and in late September for a full day, combining exam committee business and question review. Clinical oncologist and specialist examiners for each module will also work collaboratively in two virtual half-day question writing meetings a year.

Examiners will be the 'designated' examiner for one of the four exam modules at every second or third sitting. This involves making a preliminary selection of questions from the established bank and finalising all four exam papers. For each sitting they are not a designated examiner, examiners will contribute in the standard setting process to set the pass mark for each exam paper.

Support in the role is provided through the CO1 Chair and Vice-Chairs, examiner colleagues, plus exams office staff including administrators responsible for examiner support and practical exam delivery.

Meetings are a mix of face to face and virtual. Travel to the RCR in London will be required periodically, and travel and accommodation costs are covered in accordance with the [published policy](#).



05 Support and benefits of the role

Support provided to the role

The RCR will offer you strong support, ensuring that you are informed, feel valued, and are equipped to fulfil your role.

This includes:

- information and administrative support provided by an RCR staff contact
- regular engagement opportunities with RCR staff and fellow Contributors,
- RCR's Contributor Officer, providing high-level support for all Contributors,
- the opportunity to attend induction sessions, providing you with all relevant information to fulfil your role effectively,
- the [Contributor Code of Conduct](#) and [Contributor Handbook](#), which provide reassurance around our expectations of conduct and personal integrity.

Benefits



Networking with a diverse community of Fellows and experts



Clear progression pathways to more in-depth roles



Wide variety of roles tailored to individual interests



Opportunities to advance Clinical Radiology and Oncology and improve patient care



CPD points available for many roles



Dedicated staff contact for personalised support

06 Application process

How to apply

Please complete the online application on the [RCR website](#). Applications must be supported by the current Head of Department. Applications are anonymised and ranked by a panel against pre-defined criteria; the College strives for examiners to be as representative as possible of body system specialist interests, clinical practice backgrounds and the distribution of UK training programmes.

If a conversation about the scope of the examiner role would be valuable please contact CO1 Chair Dr Mark Teo at mark.teo@nhs.net, or the RCR's Examiner Engagement and Support Coordinator at amelia_wardley@rcr.ac.uk

Our commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

We are committed to actively fostering an inclusive culture at the RCR. We uphold a commitment to building a Contributor group that reflects the diversity of our global community, and therefore we actively welcome applications from individuals from under-represented groups and diverse backgrounds. We are also dedicated to making reasonable adjustments, for example, offering documents in alternative formats to accommodate neurodiversity. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the Contributor Officer: contributors@rcr.ac.uk

Important information for Contributors

- We encourage you to explore the [Contributor Code of Conduct](#) and [Contributor Handbook](#).
- We request that all applicants complete our [EDI Monitoring Form](#). The information you provide anonymously will help us to understand how our Contributor group represents a diverse range of experience, views and backgrounds. Please complete the form here: [EDI Monitoring Form for Applicants to Contributor Roles](#)
- All data will be handled in accordance with our data protection policy and membership privacy notice.
- Please note that you may be required to complete a 'Declaration of conflict of interest' form.



“It’s a great network of colleagues and individuals who share similar interests in education and training.”

“One of the best things I do! Great group of colleagues.”

“An opportunity to work with some inspirational individuals & learn a lot about our specialty.”

“I found it interesting, personally developmental and hugely collaborative.”

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