

Regulations for the Examinations for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologists in Clinical Radiology

Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologists (FRCR) may be obtained by examination after 34 months of full-time clinical radiology training.

GENERAL

- (a) **Clinical Experience:** No specific duration of clinical (non-radiological) experience is required to enter the examinations.
- (b) **Flexible (Part-time) Training:** All periods of time specified in this document are whole time equivalent (WTE).
- (c) **Absence from Training:** Absence on sick leave or maternity leave reduces the time spent in radiology training and may affect examination eligibility. Details of any sick and/or maternity leave must be entered on the application form.
- (d) **College Membership:** Those undertaking specialty training in the UK are required to be enrolled with the College as trainees, to maintain membership throughout their training and must be up-to-date with their subscription in order to enter any part of the FRCR Examination.
- (e) **Exemption:** No exemption is granted from any part of the FRCR Examination on the basis of experience or other qualifications.
- (f) **Attempts:** From Spring 2015 no candidate will automatically be permitted more than six attempts at any FRCR examination or examination module. In order to attempt an examination or examination module for a seventh, or further, time candidates will have to demonstrate additional educational experience. Any examination or examination module a candidate has previously taken counts towards his or her six attempts i.e. the rule is backdated to include previous attempts.

FIRST EXAMINATION FOR THE FELLOWSHIP

The First FRCR Examination comprises two modules: physics and radiological anatomy. The physics module covers UK ionising radiation legislation, patient safety and the physical principles that underpin diagnostic medical imaging and is examined by a single multiple choice question (MCQ) paper. The anatomy module covers radiological anatomy across all body systems and imaging modalities and is examined by an image viewing session. Both modules are held three times a year, normally in March, June and September.

From Spring 2015 no candidate will automatically be permitted more than six attempts at any FRCR examination or examination module. There is no requirement to attempt or pass the modules in any order, nor any restriction on the number of modules that can be attempted at a

single sitting. Candidates need to pass both modules in order to be deemed to have achieved overall success in the First FRCR Examination.

Applicants need to hold a formal clinical radiology training post, in which they are actively receiving clinical radiology training, (or to have held such a post in the past) in order to enter the First FRCR Examination.

There is no requirement to provide confirmation that a candidate has undertaken formal training or lecture course attendance covering the examination syllabus for the modules to be entered. Candidates who are undertaking specialty training in the UK must obtain approval from their training programme director prior to applying for an examination..

Candidates who made one, two or three unsuccessful attempts at the First FRCR Examination prior to December 2002 (including attempts at examinations that granted exemption from that examination) and/or one or two unsuccessful attempts at the First FRCR Examination between December 2002 and March 2009 will be permitted to enter the current examination. Candidates who made four unsuccessful attempts at the First FRCR Examination prior to December 2002 (including attempts at examinations that granted exemption from that examination) or three unsuccessful attempts at the First FRCR Examination between December 2002 and March 2009 will not be permitted to enter the current examination.

FINAL EXAMINATION FOR THE FELLOWSHIP

The Final FRCR Examination is in two parts: Part A and Part B. Candidates are not permitted to attempt both Part A and Part B at the same sitting. Candidates must have passed the First FRCR Examination prior to entering the Final FRCR Part A Examination and the Final FRCR Part A Examination prior to entering the Final FRCR Part B Examination.

Part A of the Final Examination for the Fellowship

The Final FRCR Part A Examination comprises the six modules listed below:

- (1) Cardiothoracic and Vascular
- (2) Musculoskeletal and Trauma
- (3) Gastro-intestinal (including liver, biliary, pancreas and spleen)
- (4) Genito-urinary, Adrenal, Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Breast
- (5) Paediatric
- (6) Central Nervous and Head & Neck (including spine, eyes, ENT, salivary glands and dental)

Each module is examined by a separate single best answer (SBA) question paper covering all imaging modalities, and including some anatomy and techniques. The six modules are held over three consecutive days twice a year, normally in March and September.

From Spring 2015 no candidate will automatically be permitted more than six attempts at any FRCR examination or examination module. There is no limit on the number of modules that may be attempted at a single sitting. There is no requirement to resit a module once it has been passed. Candidates need to pass all six modules in order to be deemed to have achieved overall success in the Final FRCR Part A Examination.

Applicants need to hold a formal clinical radiology training post, in which they are actively receiving clinical radiology training, (or to have held such a post in the past) and to have passed the First FRCR Examination in order to enter the Final FRCR Part A Examination. There is no requirement to have completed a specific duration of training.

There is no requirement to provide confirmation that a candidate has undertaken formal training or lecture course attendance covering the examination syllabus for the modules to be entered. Candidates who are undertaking specialty training in the UK must obtain approval from their training programme director prior to applying for an examination.

Candidates who passed some but not all of the six modules prior to the Autumn 2009 sitting (i.e. while the examination used multiple choice questions (MCQs) rather than the single best answer (SBA) format of question) are not required to resit the modules in which they have achieved success.

Part B of the Final Examination for the Fellowship

The Final FRCR Part B Examination comprises

- a reporting session
- a rapid reporting session
- two oral examinations

The three components of the Final FRCR Part B Examination are held during a single week twice a year, normally in April and October. In the oral examinations, each candidate is examined by two pairs of examiners, all of whom are clinical radiologists.

Candidates who have passed the Final FRCR Part A Examination are permitted to enter the Final FRCR Part B Examination upon completion of 34 months in a formal clinical radiology training post. Candidates are required to obtain approval from their training programme director/supervisor as confirmation that the required duration of training covering the examination syllabus has been completed.

Candidates who are unsuccessful overall will be required to resit all three components when attempting the examination again. After three unsuccessful attempts at the Final FRCR Part B Examination, the performance of a candidate who is undertaking specialty training in the UK will be reviewed and information provided to the candidate's training programme director to assist with preparation for a further attempt.

EXAMINATION DATES, FEES AND THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Examination dates, fees and application closing dates are published at least two months in advance of each sitting. Candidates withdrawing before the closing date will receive a refund of 80% of the examination fee. Candidates who withdraw after the closing date are not entitled to a refund and shall forfeit the examination fee. It is the responsibility of all candidates to ensure their online application is completed by the designated closing date.

ADMISSION TO THE FELLOWSHIP

Before being allowed to use the title of Fellow of the Royal College of Radiologists [FRCR], successful candidates in the Final FRCR Part B Examination must formally be admitted to the Fellowship. Those who are not already Members of the Royal College of Radiologists must become Members before admission can occur. All candidates for admission are required to pay a Fellowship fee. This is paid once only, unlike the membership subscription, which is paid annually. Admission Ceremonies are held twice a year, normally in May and November. All those admitted to the Fellowship receive a complimentary invitation to be a guest of the Royal College of Radiologists at a formal Dinner to New Fellows held on the same day as their Admission Ceremony.

In order to preserve the entitlement to use the letters FRCR after their names, those who have been admitted to the Fellowship must maintain good standing with the Royal College of Radiologists through continued payment of the annual membership subscription.