

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

GENERAL

- (a) **Medical Experience:** Candidates must hold a primary medical degree (e.g. MBBS, BMBS, MBChB, MBBCh). 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. Candidates should contact the examinations office prior to applying online, to ascertain their eligibility for the examination.
- (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) **General Medical Council (GMC) Registration:** Candidates must have appropriate GMC registration for any periods of training undertaken in the UK.
- (f) **Candidate Identification:** Candidates who are registered with the GMC must enter the examination using the format of name in which they appear on the GMC Medical Register. Candidates who are not registered with the GMC must enter the examination in the name that appears on their passport. Candidates must use exactly the same format of name each time they enter any part of the FRCR examinations. Candidates are required to bring their candidate timetable together with photographic identification to the examination. Details on identification documents must match those supplied at application.
- (g) **Confirmation of Training:** Candidates who are undertaking specialty training in the UK must obtain approval from their Training Programme Director (TPD) prior to applying for any examination. Candidates who are not training in the UK should confirm the current location of training (or previous location if training has already been completed).
- (h) **Associated Examination Information:** The award of the FRCR indicates that the required level of competence across the curriculum has been attained. Candidates should familiarise themselves with the curriculum and each examination's purpose of assessment statement prior to making an application. By applying for an FRCR examination, candidates are confirming that they have read and understood, and will abide by, these regulations and associated guidance issued by RCR staff and via the RCR website.
- (i) **Attempts:** No candidate will automatically be permitted more than six attempts at any FRCR examination. In order to attempt an examination for a seventh, or further, time candidates will have to demonstrate additional educational experience.

- (j) **Examination access:** No exemption is granted from any part of an FRCR examination on the basis of experience or other qualifications.

The purpose of the FRCR examination is primarily to provide a national assessment mechanism for those undergoing training in the UK. Some examinations (notably the First examination Anatomy element and Part B of the Final examination) limit the number of candidates who can be examined at a single sitting, and access to examinations is prioritised as follows:

1. candidates who are undergoing formal training in clinical radiology - or a related discipline - in the UK, leading to the award of a CCT (holding an NTN)
2. candidates who are working for the NHS in clinical radiology - or a related discipline - in the UK (non NTN holders)
3. candidates who are working overseas

FIRST EXAMINATION FOR THE FELLOWSHIP

The First FRCR examination comprises two elements: the scientific basis of imaging (physics) and radiological anatomy. The physics examination 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 examination covers radiological anatomy across all body systems and imaging modalities and is examined digitally on a computer workstation.

There is no requirement to attempt or pass the First FRCR elements in a particular order, nor any restriction on the number of elements that can be attempted at a single sitting. Candidates need to pass both parts of the First FRCR in order to be deemed to have achieved overall success in the examination.

Applicants need to hold a training post in clinical radiology or a related medical discipline, such as nuclear medicine or breast clinician training (or to have held such a post in the past) in order to enter the First FRCR examination. No minimum period of clinical experience or clinical radiology training is required in order to enter.

FINAL EXAMINATION FOR THE FELLOWSHIP

The Final FRCR examination is in two parts: Part A and Part B. Candidates must have passed 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 assesses knowledge of the pathology, imaging techniques, congenital abnormalities and radiological findings that underpin clinical radiology practice. It is examined by two single best answer question (SBA) papers.

Candidates need to pass both papers at one sitting in order to be deemed to have achieved overall success in the Final FRCR Part A examination.

Applicants must have acquired 24 months in a relevant training post by the month which the examination is taken and have passed the First FRCR examination in order to enter the Final FRCR Part A examination.

Part B of the Final Examination for the Fellowship

The Final FRCR Part B examination assesses aspects of a candidate's radiological skills, all of which are considered necessary for safe and effective radiological practice. The three components (reporting session, rapid reporting session and oral examinations) are presented digitally on a computer workstation.

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 relevant training post.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

The RCR's published [adjustments policy](#) provides a formal means for candidates to submit a request for an adjustment to be applied in examinations (such as extra time) to compensate for disability.

WITHDRAWAL AND REFUNDS

The RCR's published [refund policy](#) provides a formal means for candidates to apply for a partial refund for examinations that they have entered for, but subsequently cannot attend.

CANDIDATE CONDUCT

Candidates are expected to behave in a reasonable and respectful manner throughout all RCR examinations. Candidates must comply with the instructions and requirements of the examination invigilators, RCR staff and examiners at all times. All reported or observed misconduct will be investigated: this may lead to sanctions including disqualification. Examples of misconduct (not exhaustive) are shown below:

- Candidates attempting to make a copy of, or transmit, any examination materials - this includes writing details of the cases shown
- Candidates found with any electronic device during the examination
- Candidates refusing to stop typing responses or writing/amending their answer sheets after the examination has ended

EXAMINATION RESULTS

The list of successful candidates by candidate number only, will be published on the RCR website. Results will not be available by telephone. All candidates will be sent their examination results (by email or post) as soon as possible after the results have been published.

Pass list publication dates can be found on the website - this information will also be included on individual candidate timetables that are sent out as soon as possible after the application closing date.

All candidates will receive details of scores achieved and the level of performance that was required to achieve success. Candidates undertaking specialty training in the UK will have their results copied to the relevant TPD and Regional Specialty Adviser (RSA) for information.

APPEALS AND REMARKING

The RCR's published appeals and remarking policies provide a formal means for unsuccessful candidates to request that their examination outcome is reviewed. The [appeals](#) policy permits candidates to challenge fail results on specific grounds. The [remarking](#) route enables unsuccessful candidates to have their computer-marked examination scores independently checked.

ADMISSION TO THE FELLOWSHIP

Successful candidates in the Final FRCR Part B examination become full Fellows of the RCR and are eligible to use the relevant designation FRCR. In order to preserve the entitlement to use the post-nominals, those who have been admitted to the Fellowship must maintain good standing with the RCR through continued payment of the annual membership subscription.

CHANGES

Changes to the regulations, content and format of the examinations are made from time to time.