

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

Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologists (FRCR) may be obtained following successful completion of the First and Final Clinical Oncology examinations. Training may be undertaken within UK or non-UK training schemes.

GENERAL

Medical Qualifications: Candidates must have obtained a medical degree from a university acceptable to the General Medical Council and be registered as a medical practitioner with the appropriate national authority.

Training Period: No minimum period of clinical experience needs to have been completed prior to the commencement of clinical oncology training leading to the FRCR examinations.

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 with any queries regarding sick and/or maternity leave.

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.

GMC Registration: Candidates must have appropriate General Medical Council Registration for any periods of training undertaken in the UK.

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 register with 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.

Confirmation of training: Candidates who are undertaking specialty training in the UK must obtain approval from their training programme director 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).

Exemption: No exemption is granted from any part of the FRCR Examination on the basis of experience or other qualifications.

FIRST FRCR EXAMINATION

Eligibility and content: Candidates are permitted to attempt the First FRCR Examination upon completion of courses covering the syllabus in the subjects listed below. There is no requirement to have held a clinical oncology training post in order to attempt the First FRCR Examination. The First FRCR Examination is divided into the following four subjects orientated towards their clinical applications in clinical oncology:

1. **Cancer Biology and Radiobiology:** the processes of cancer cell transformation and tumour development and how these processes may be demonstrated and the response to ionising radiation of cells both individually and grouped as tissues

2. **Clinical Pharmacology:** the structure, action, use and evaluation of drugs used in the treatment of a patient with cancer.
3. **Medical Statistics:** with special reference to clinical trials and assessment of results, and the epidemiology of cancer
4. **Physics:** the application of physical principles and methods in clinical radiotherapy, physical basis of the therapeutic uses of radioactive isotopes, radiation hazards and protection.

Attempts: For each subject, there is a single paper of single best answer questions. Candidates may enter any number of subjects per sitting and may attempt the examination at **four sittings only**. An attempt is any occasion when a First FRCR examination paper is taken (i.e. any of the four subjects listed above), not four attempts at each subject. There is no requirement to re-sit a subject once a pass in that subject has been achieved; a candidate will be deemed to have achieved success at the First FRCR once all four modules have been passed.

Following a regulation change in 2014, attempts do not have to be taken consecutively, for further information please read the [regulation change FAQs](#). Candidates who have exhausted their four permitted attempts at the examination will not be eligible to enter on a fifth occasion, and there is no mechanism to request an additional attempt at the examination. Candidates whose final consecutive attempt occurred prior to, or at, the Autumn 2013 sitting will not be permitted to re-enter the First FRCR under the new regulations.

Frank Doyle Medal: Eligibility for the Frank Doyle Medal is restricted to those candidates passing all four subjects at the same sitting, at their first attempt at the examination. The Frank Doyle Medal is awarded to the candidate with the highest overall score in the examination.

FINAL FRCR EXAMINATION

Eligibility and content: Candidates must have passed the First FRCR Examination and have completed three years of supervised clinical oncology training covering the examination syllabus. In exceptional circumstances, with support from the Training Programme Director and at the discretion of the Medical Director (Education and Training), this minimum training period may be reduced to two years and six months. Candidates must pass Final FRCR Part A in order to be permitted to attempt the Final FRCR Part B examination.

The Final FRCR Examination is a two part examination: Part A and Part B.

- The Final FRCR Part A examination comprises two single best answer question papers
- The Final FRCR Part B examination comprises an oral and a clinical examination

Attempts: Candidates are permitted six attempts at Part A. In order to attempt this examination for a seventh, or further, time candidates will have to demonstrate additional educational experience. Candidates are allowed up to three years to complete Part B, starting from the sitting at which the Part A examination is passed. If success in Part B is not achieved within this time, candidate will be required to take Part A again.

Gold Award: Eligibility for the Gold Award is restricted to those candidates who have passed all sections of the final FRCR at their first attempt and all in one round. It is awarded to the candidate who has highest combined placing in the three components with the highest overall score in the examination.

ADMISSION TO THE FELLOWSHIP

Before being permitted to use the title of Fellow of the Royal College of Radiologists (or the abbreviation FRCR), Final FRCR successful candidates must be formally admitted to the Fellowship. Those who are not already Members of the Royal College of Radiologists must become Members before their admission can occur. Admission ceremonies are held twice a year, normally in May and November. 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 by continued payment of the annual membership subscription.

CHANGES

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