



Part 1 Examination for Clinical Scientists in Haematology

Guidance for grandparenting candidates

The first FRCPath Part 1 examinations for Clinical Scientists in Haematology will be held in Spring 2009. There will be two options for Part I: grandparenting or examination.

To facilitate the introduction of Clinical Scientists already established in haematology a two-year period of grandparenting will exist during which senior, experienced practitioners may apply to have their qualifications and experience accepted without the necessity for sitting the Part 1 FRCPath examination. Such individuals would be granted associate status with the College.

Candidates who can demonstrate significant experience as Clinical Scientists in Haematology, according to the criteria outlined below, are invited to submit an application for grandparenting. The window of opportunity for grandparenting will be limited to two years: 2009 and 2010. Applications should be submitted from now and no later than mid-2010 in order to be processed within the time allowed for grandparenting.

Candidates who are ineligible for grandparenting should prepare for the Part 1 written examination for Clinical Scientists in Haematology, following the College standard procedures. The examination regulations and guidelines for clinical scientists in Haematology are on the College website. (www.rcpath.org/exams)

Eligibility criteria for College Membership

Candidates should normally meet the College's eligibility criteria for scientist applicants outlined in the *Regulations and Guidelines for Fellowship Examinations* http://www.rcpath.org/resources/pdf/regs_and_guide_2008.pdf

Eligibility criteria for Grandparenting through Part 1 examination for in Clinical Scientists in Haematology

In order to be eligible for grandparenting through the Part 1 examination each candidate must comply with the following requirements:

- Possess a first or second class honours degree, or equivalent, in a relevant science subject.
- Possess a Masters' degree, PhD or equivalent in a science relevant to laboratory medicine. Exceptionally, candidates presenting with equivalent entry qualifications may be designated as eligible by the Chair of the Panel of Examiners.

- Demonstrate an appropriate period of postgraduate practice as a clinical scientist in haematology.
 - Candidates must be registered as a clinical scientist with the Health Professions Council.
 - Candidates will normally need to have practiced as a registered clinical scientist for a minimum of five years. Candidates working part-time will be required to demonstrate the same experience on a *pro-rata* basis.

Candidates must have completed the requisite period of practice before applying.

Application process

Candidates should submit a formal application to the Royal College of Pathologists Examinations Department, comprising the following:

- The College examination application for grandparenting
- A covering letter stating the period of practice claimed and the associated dates.
- A checklist of items sent
- A detailed curriculum vitae comprising the following sections:
 - name
 - qualifications with dates and institution
 - career history (including any career breaks) in date order
 - achievements
 - professional memberships
 - full publications and abstracts
 - any other relevant information
- A statement of practice. This should be approximately 2-3 A4 sheets, single spaced, font size 10-12. It should state the nature of your practice as a clinical scientist in haematology (ie what you do at work), your working practices, your competencies, how and where you were trained, your position in the team, any special responsibilities or activities or limitations related to your work, your management experience, your participation in training of junior staff, your CPD participation, and any other information that you feel is relevant.
- The names, addresses, telephone and email contacts of two persons willing to act as professional referees, who have first hand experience of your practice. One of these should be your Lead Consultant/Head of Department or equivalent.

Supporting evidence (as applicable):

- Degree certificates, postgraduate certificates, Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Pre-Registration Training in Haematology, Health Professions Council Registration certificate, CPD certificates
- Proof of current position, e.g., salary slip, letter from personnel department.

Assessment process

Written submissions for grandparenting will be assessed by examiners appointed by the College. Candidates deemed to have demonstrated sufficient relevant practice will be invited to interview. The interview will be conducted by examiners appointed by the College. Candidates who pass the interview stage will be recommended to College Council and will receive a letter notifying them of the outcome. Successful grandparenting applicants are free to proceed to Part 2 examination from the next available examination session.

Candidates who do not succeed in their grandparenting application may not reapply via grandparenting. Applicants are therefore recommended seek advice from expert colleagues in compiling their grandparenting applications.

Unsuccessful grandparenting applicants may subsequently apply to take the Part 1 examination if they wish.

Time scale

Grandparenting applications can be made until mid 2010. In order to meet the Spring 2009 Council meeting, applications will be required by 9th January 2009 and the interviews completed by early May. The equivalent deadlines for the Autumn 2009 session will be 3rd July for application and early November for the interviews.

Candidates who pass grandparenting for Part 1 in Spring 2009 are encouraged to proceed directly to Part 2 in Autumn 2009. Candidates who pass Part 1 examinations in the spring should normally plan to take the Part 2 examination in autumn of the same year, provided that they have reached the minimum required time from their graduation. For science graduates, the Part 2 examination cannot normally be taken until 8 years after obtaining the degree entry qualification.

Part 2 examination for clinical scientists in Haematology

There is no option for grandparenting for Part 2. The normal College routes to membership will apply. Please see the examination regulations and guidelines clinical scientists in Haematology on the College website www.rcpath.org/exams.

Fees

The normal College fee structure will not apply for Part 1 by grandparenting. College fees for the Part 2 are still applicable. In 2009 this will be £965.

Membership fees will become payable by successful Part 2 candidates.

Further information

There is extensive information about the College Examination procedures available on the website, including a frequently asked questions section. Please consult this site. However, if you have any remaining questions, please contact Peter Anderson, Examinations Manager (peter.anderson@rcpath.org), Dr Tony Cumming, Consultant Clinical Scientist in Haematology (tony.cumming@cmmc.nhs.uk) or Dr Mike Scott, Consultant Clinical Scientist in Haematology (mas59@cam.ac.uk).

Examinations Department
September 2008