



FRCPATH Part 2 Histopathology International Exam Centres

Call for Expressions of Interest

Introduction

1. The Royal College of Pathologists ('the College') is the professional membership organisation and standard setting body for the education, training and professional development of medically qualified pathologists, Clinical Scientists, dental pathologists and veterinary pathologists in the UK and around the world. We examine in 17 pathology specialties, including clinical biochemistry, genetics, haematology, histopathology, immunology, microbiology, paediatric pathology, toxicology, veterinary pathology and virology.
2. The College develops and delivers specialty fellowship examinations that are recognised around the world as quality benchmarks of medical and scientific knowledge and skills. Fellowship of the College (FRCPATH) is a mark of professional standing and esteem. The FRCPATH examinations constitute an assessment of the candidate's knowledge of their specialty and their ability to apply that knowledge in the practice of the specialty.
3. The tests of theory, taken as MCQ or EMQ, short answer or essay papers in Part 1 of the examination, aim to determine whether an individual has successfully acquired a core body of knowledge that will underpin their ability to practise in their chosen specialty. The practical examinations, largely taken at Part 2, are designed to test candidates' practical skills and understanding of the specialty and may include written tests in some specialties. They aim to show whether the candidate can apply their knowledge appropriately and safely to the practice of the specialty.
4. The overall aim of the examination for medical and science trainees is to provide external quality assurance that a trainee is on course to reach the standard appropriate for practice as an unsupervised specialist or practitioner in the specialty.
5. The College currently delivers the FRCPATH Part 1 examinations globally via an online platform and the Part 2 Histopathology examination in 3 overseas centres. We are now looking to expand our roster of centres to further provide international candidates who have successfully passed the FRCPATH Part 1 examination, with improved access to the College's FRCPATH Part 2 examinations.

6. Expressions of Interest (EOI) are sought from suitably experienced institutions willing to partner with the College to establish a regional examination centre for the delivery of the FRCPATH Part 2 examination. Applications made by an individual without the support of an institution will not be considered.
7. Prior to the College agreeing terms with the preferred institution or partner, a full financial appraisal will be undertaken by the College in relation to the cost implications and viability of establishing a regional examination centre.

Criteria

8. The College will assess all EOI's against the following criteria, note that applications which do not demonstrate how a centre meets these criteria will not be considered further:

Ref	Criteria	Essential/ Desirable
(a)	<p><u>Location, accessibility and visa entry requirements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates from across the region must be able to access the centre. • Candidates located outside the region should be able to access the centre to sit the FRCPATH Part 2 examination. • The centre must be located in a country which is safe and easy for candidates and College examiners to travel independently to and around and will not create visa issues at a later date for travelling to other countries. • The centre must be located in a country with a straightforward visa process for examiners, ideally where they can be obtained on arrival. • The centre should be located in a country which is considered safe to travel by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office 	<p>Essential</p> <p>Essential</p> <p>Essential</p> <p>Essential</p> <p>Essential</p>
(b)	<p><u>Experience</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The host institution must have previous experience of either successfully delivering the FRCPATH Part 1 examination pre-2020 or an equivalent postgraduate higher medical specialist examination. • The host institution must have previous experience of involvement in delivering postgraduate medical training in the specialty. 	<p>Essential</p> <p>Essential</p>



<p>(c)</p>	<p><u>Engagement and support of regional fellows</u></p> <p>The host institution must be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate its willingness and ability to engage with College’s fellows within the region, including encouraging them to take on roles as College examiners. • Identify a College Fellow, based in the country, who would be willing to act as the College’s Local Examinations Co-ordinator (LEC) and ideally has previous experience and involvement in College examinations. The LEC will be a key point of contact for the College and will be responsible for overseeing the implementation and administration of the FRCPATH Part 2 examinations. • The host institution should have local Fellows either based within the institution or within the country who have already been involved in College examinations. 	<p>Essential</p> <p>Essential</p> <p>Desirable</p>
<p>(d)</p>	<p><u>Local promotion of the examination</u></p> <p>The host institution must be able to demonstrate its willingness and ability to work with the College to market and promote the FRCPATH Part 2 examinations including establishing relationships with key stakeholders such as training institutions, pathology and laboratory medicine associations and local Fellows who could act as College examiners.</p>	<p>Essential</p>
<p>(e)</p>	<p><u>Examination venue</u></p> <p>The host institution must be able to provide an examination venue which is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • of a sufficient size to comfortably accommodate the predicted number of candidates (40), i.e., main examination room/6 viva rooms/examiner room/candidate waiting room; • has appropriate secure storage for examination material • in an appropriate location and well signposted; • appropriately lit and heated/cooled; • accessible to candidates with restricted mobility; and • capable of meeting the needs of any candidates who have had additional time agreed for their examination by the College. This will include the provision of separate or additional examination rooms. • The venue is within an easy commute of recommended examiner accommodation and easily accessible either by foot, taxi or public transport for candidates staying nearby. 	<p>Essential</p>



Procedure

9. Institutions wishing to partner with the College must complete and submit by email to exams@rcpath.org the Expression of Interest Form. Applications from individuals without the support of an institution will not be considered.
10. Any supporting documentation to accompany the form must reach us at the following email address: exams@rcpath.org
11. Any questions or requests for clarification in relation to this call should be submitted in writing to: exams@rcpath.org

Timescales

Activity	Deadline
Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) issued.	
Deadline for submission of EOI	
Shortlisting process	
Interviews	
Selection of preferred institution/partner	