

Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) applicants: Applying for the Fellowship examination of the Royal College of Pathologists (FRCPath)

1. Introduction

This guidance is intended to provide advice for doctors who are in receipt of a Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) decision by GMC and who are required to provide evidence of an examination equivalent to the standard of the FRCPath Part 2 examination in one of the pathology specialties.

For such doctors who wish to attempt the FRCPath Part 2 as part of that evidence, the [College Examinations Regulations and Guidelines for Fellowships and Diplomas](#) state that candidates may apply for the appropriate FRCPath Part 2 examination if recommended to do so by a GMC CESR decision (see section 6.2, page 7).

2. Process for applying for the FRCPath Part 2 application

a. Doctors who have passed FRCPath Part 1 in the appropriate specialty

Doctors in receipt of a CESR decision by GMC and who have passed the FRCPath Part 1 examination in the appropriate specialty must apply for the FRCPath Part 2 examination in the normal way. They are not required to submit details of the GMC CESR decision to the Examinations Department with their examination application.

b. Doctors who have attempted, but not passed, FRCPath Part 1 in the appropriate specialty

Doctors in receipt of a CESR decision by GMC and who have attempted but not passed the FRCPath Part 1 examination in the appropriate specialty must pass the FRCPath Part 1 examination before applying for FRCPath Part 2. They are not required to submit details of the GMC CESR decision to the Examinations Department with their examination application.

c. Doctors who have not attempted FRCPath Part 1

Doctors in receipt of a CESR decision by GMC and who have not attempted or passed the FRCPath Part 1 examination may apply for the FRCPath Part 2 examination if recommended to do so by a GMC CESR decision. They must complete the FRCPath Part 2 application form and have it signed off by a College Fellow who has been supervising a period of training for the doctor. It is expected that the doctor will have already sought advice from the Training Department at the College that this period of training is appropriate to achieve the top-up training required by GMC and that it assists in preparing them adequately for the FRCPath Part 2 examination.



The doctor must submit their FRCPATH Part 2 application form to the Examinations Department by the required deadline along with:

- a copy of their GMC CESR decision
- a covering letter stating that the doctor is applying for the FRCPATH Part 2 examination as recommended by a GMC CESR decision.

The Examinations Department will ask the Training Department to verify the CESR decision by GMC. In so doing, the Training Department will check that the doctor has undertaken the majority of their recommended top - up training as outlined in the GMC CESR decision.

It would normally be expected that the doctor would have submitted a top-up training plan to the Training Department prior to starting their top-up training and in advance of the application for the FRCPATH Part 2 examination. Should this not be the case, the Training Department will contact the doctor to request further details about their training and to ensure that it is appropriate. It should be noted that this may be a lengthy process and if it cannot be completed before the exam entries are completed by the Examinations Department, doctors may not be able to enter in the exam session of their choice.

Upon confirmation from the Training Department that the doctor has received a GMC CESR decision and that the appropriate top-up training has taken place, the Examinations Department will enter the doctor for the FRCPATH Part 2 examination, assuming that all other requirements are met.

3. Contact details

For advice about applying for the FRCPATH Part 2 examination, please contact:

Examinations Department
The Royal College of Pathologists
4th Floor
21 Prescott Street
London E1 8BB

Tel: 020 7451 6745

Email: exams@rcpath.org

Website: <http://www.rcpath.org/examinations>

For advice about the CESR process, please contact:

Lindsay Fortune
Training Co-ordinator
Training Department
The Royal College of Pathologists
4th Floor
21 Prescott Street
London E1 8BB

Tel: 020 7451 6748

Email: equivalence@rcpath.org

Website: <http://www.rcpath.org/training-education>