

## Neuropathology examination regulations

**2026**

These regulations must be read in conjunction with the 'Regulations and guidelines – College examinations for membership and diplomas'.



## Entry and training requirements

There is no specific timing for entry to the examination. Candidates should obtain guidance from their educational supervisor as to when to sit the examination. Planning should take into account the intended certificate of completion of training (CCT) date (where applicable), but candidates should apply only when they are ready. Some general guidance is given below, but apart from the sequence in which the examinations can be sat, it is not intended to be prescriptive.

### Part 1

Candidates will be admitted to an examination if they are in a recognised training programme or have fulfilled the recommended training requirements. The College generally recommends that candidates attempt the Part 1 examination after 2 years' specialist training.

### Part 2

The College generally recommends that candidates attempt the Part 2 examination after 4 years' specialist training. Candidates may not sit the Part 2 examination until 12 months after successfully completing the Part 1 examination.

## Structure and format of the examination

### Part 1

Candidates will take the FRCPATH Part 1 histopathology examination (see the [histopathology regulations](#) for further details).

### Part 2

The Part 2 examination will consist of 2 components examined over 2 separate days:

- **macroscopic component** (1-day examination) – full autopsy including clinicopathological correlation, fixed brain dissection and interpretation of macroscopic appearances, examination of brain slices, oral examination that may include autopsy scenarios and techniques, pathophysiological knowledge in relation to neurological disorders, and any aspects of providing a neuropathology service such clinical advice,



laboratory management, audit, health and safety, and the legal and ethical framework of practice

- **microscopic component** (1-day examination) – practical in neuropathology and neurocytopathology. This includes sections on surgical pathology (20 cases), intraoperative diagnosis (6 cases) and complex neuropathological cases, which may include macroscopic images, special stains, histochemistry, teased fibre preparations and electron microscopy (usually 2 postmortem cases and 1–2 muscle and nerve cases). Candidates must pass the surgical and intraoperative sections, in addition to passing overall, in order to pass the microscopic component.

Candidates must initially apply for both components in the same session. Both components will be held within the specified spring or autumn examination periods but will be at different centres and, where possible, will not take place on consecutive days.

If both components are failed, the candidate must apply to retake both in the same future session. If 1 component is passed and the other failed, the candidate will retain the pass and will need to re-sit only the failed component.

## **Additional information**

Slides for the smears used in the microscopic component will be available in both haematoxylin and eosin and toluidine blue. Candidates should bring their own microscope to the examination.

## **Timing of the examinations**

The Part 1 and Part 2 examinations will be offered twice a year in spring and autumn.

