



Regional Specialty Adviser: Clinical Radiology

Role description

Regional Specialty Advisers (RSAs) act on behalf of the RCR to ensure that standards for training, curriculum delivery and workplace-based assessment of trainees are maintained. They provide advice and support in their own region and carry out the role of external adviser, providing independent review and quality assurance of the ARCP process outside of their own region.

RSAs are also asked to act as the RCR representative on advisory appointment committees (AACs) to quality assure the recruitment and appointment of consultants, specialty doctors and associate specialist posts to NHS trusts and health boards.

The responsibility for delivering training lies with local offices as exercised through the various school and training programme structures. The process of approving training programmes and locations, and inspecting these by formal visits, is the responsibility of the GMC. Responsibility for recruitment and appointment of consultants, specialty doctors and associate specialist posts lies with NHS trusts. Our expectation is that RSAs will work cooperatively to support these organisations in the interests of high-quality training and patient care.

Responsibilities include:

1. working alongside their local office, the RCR and the GMC to ensure the delivery of high-quality training and ultimately patient care **in their region**, through provision of impartial advice and support for all processes of delivery, assessment and evaluation of specialty training
 - a. acting as local experts on RCR curricula, assessment, and requirements for progression, to support trainees and TPDs
 - b. helping to disseminate and promote RCR policies and advice on the delivery of training in their region
 - c. providing an independent perspective on the quality assurance processes of the training programme in their region
 - d. offering support and advice to heads of school, training programme directors and others involved in training in their region
 - e. offering independent advice and support to trainees and if necessary, providing a channel for raising concerns with the local training organisation and/or the RCR
 - f. where agreed with the local training organisation, participating in the local ARCP process and providing feedback on the evidence provided to support

- this process (including the quality of educational and clinical supervisors' reports)
- g. where agreed with the local training organisation, being a member of the local specialty training committee (or equivalent)
2. assisting in the quality assurance of training **in other regions** by acting as an external adviser, providing feedback on the ARCP process, the evidence provided to support this process (including the quality of educational and clinical supervisors' reports), and ARCP outcomes
 - a. attending ARCP panels in at least one other region to observe the ARCP process, providing a review of outcomes and the evidence supporting these, as laid out in the Gold Guide
 - b. submitting a structured report to the RCR and region visited, providing feedback on the external review of the ARCP process
 - c. taking part in standardisation meetings, highlighting and sharing good practice, and working with the RCR to improve the consistency of the ARCP process across regions
 3. to provide quality assurance for the recruitment and appointment of consultants, specialty doctors and associate specialist posts to NHS trusts and health boards
 - a. Reviewing role descriptions for consultant, specialty doctor and associate specialist posts and making recommendations in accordance with RCR guidance
 - b. ensuring that any job plans reviewed include provision of appropriate support, particularly where the role includes training responsibilities
 - c. to act as the RCR representative on AACs
 4. undertaking training for the RSA role as necessary and for the external adviser part of the role at least every three years, in accordance with the Gold Guide
 5. acting as an ambassador for the RCR as a professional membership body in accordance with the College's [values](#) particularly conveying to their employer(s) the value obtained through involvement in College activities at a personal, team and organisational level

Person specification

In order to fulfil this role the individual will be expected to demonstrate:

- significant experience of the delivery and organisation of training in the UK (e.g. as an educational supervisor or training programme director)
- in depth understanding of the curriculum, workplace-based assessments, e-portfolio and critical progression points
- experience of the ARCP process
- evidence of engagement with quality improvement of training in their respective region

- knowledge of the requirements for training and ARCP set out by the Gold Guide
- interest in maintaining the high professional standards of radiology through quality assurance of recruitment and appointment to NHS trusts and health boards
- willingness to complete training and attend meetings as necessary

The role of RSA should not normally be combined with that of Training Programme Director, Head of School or departmental lead clinician/clinical director

Eligibility and term of office

The RSA is a Fellow of the Royal College of Radiologists in good standing, resident in the United Kingdom who at the time of application is in active clinical practice in a substantive consultant post in the relevant region, holding a current licence to practise.

The RSA is responsible to the Medical Director, Education and Training for the relevant specialty and the term of office is three years. A maximum of two consecutive terms can be served.

Time commitment

The RCR view is that the responsibilities of the RSA cannot be properly discharged without an acknowledgement of this commitment as a fixed component of the consultant's job plan, however this is a matter for local negotiation and the RCR cannot enforce this.

The amount of time taken to fulfil the responsibilities of the RSA role varies with the size and needs of training programmes and the needs of individual trainees within the region. Any time suggestion is therefore a baseline allocation for the role.

The RCR recommends an allocation of 0.5 SPAs per 25 trainees in the region, plus up to 5 days per year to fulfil requirements regarding externality of the ARCP process and to attend relevant meetings. RSAs are expected to attend RCR meetings for heads of training and meetings for RSAs. These meetings may be longer meetings held in person or shorter virtual meetings. CPD points will be awarded for attendance as appropriate.

RSAs will also be required to complete training for their role and to participate in local training scheme QA and ARCP.

Resources

The Training and Education Team is responsible for the RCR's role in quality assurance of training. The Professional Practice Team are responsible for the RCR's role in quality assurance of recruitment and appointment to NHS trusts and health boards. These teams will support the RSA as required.

This is a voluntary role. For attendance at ARCP, travel and expenses are covered by the deanery local office where the ARCP took place. Local trusts will cover any expenses relating to involvement with their AACs. The RCR will meet travel expenses incurred by the RSA in acting on behalf of the RCR in accordance with the RCR [travel and expenses policy](#).

How to apply

Forthcoming RSA vacancies will be advertised through RCR communication channels and the RCR will invite applications from eligible consultants.

Applicants should complete an [application form](#) indicating how their experience meets the person specification. This should be sent by email to QATraining@rcr.ac.uk. They will be invited to complete an anonymous diversity monitoring form.

Applications will be considered by the Medical Director, Education and Training and where there is more than one applicant a panel scoring process will be used to rank candidates. The outcome of this process will be notified as soon as possible to all applicants.