

Hints and Tips for CESR Applicants in Clinical Radiology



Advice from assessors to help you succeed

1. Understand the standards

- **Know the UK CCT Curriculum:** your application must demonstrate you have the same knowledge, skills and experience as a day one consultant radiologist. Use the RCR's Specialty Specific Guidance (SSG) to structure your evidence.
- **Focus on competence:** show you can perform independently in a (hospital) setting. A balanced portfolio with general radiology and subspecialty work is key.

2. Provide high-quality evidence

- **Be recent:** evidence should come from the last 5 years. Older evidence may not hold as much weight.
- **Be clear and concise:** triangulate your evidence to ensure consistency across sections (e.g. audit logs, appraisals and teaching records). Avoid repetition.
- **Verify your claims:** ensure all information is supported by specify details such as dates, roles and outcomes.

3. Cover all curriculum areas

- **Include all modalities:** demonstrate experience across general and subspecialty areas (e.g. plain film, CT, MRI, ultrasound).
- **Address gaps:** explain any gaps in work history with evidence and a clear rationale.
- **Appraisals Matter:** space appraisals appropriately (eg two over two years) and include meaningful reflections.

4. Tailor your submission

- **Use the SSG as a checklist:** map your evidence directly to curriculum domains. Highlight how your experience matches required competencies.
- **Structure your documents:** use numbered and indexed files for easy navigation. A clear and logical layout will help assessors understand your submission.

5. Showcase Clinical skills

- **Sample reports:** provide reports that reflect a range of modalities and complexities, include paediatric and interventional cases.
- **Audit and teaching:** back claims with evidence (eg audits should include dates, outcomes and your role).
- **Balanced portfolio:** avoid over specialisation - highlight the breath of your clinical work.

6. Avoid common mistakes

- **Disorganised evidence:** poorly indexed or repetitive submissions slow down assessment.
- **Unverified claims:** vague statements (eg "I performed teaching!") without outcomes or feedback lack impact.
- **Narrow focus:** a super specialised portfolio won't demonstrate general radiology competency.

7. Seek support and feedback

- **Ask for advice:** reach out to colleagues who have completed CESR or mentors in your field for guidance.
- **Engage with RCR resources:** use templates, checklists and guidance documents provided by the RR to ensure your submission meets standards.

8. Take your time

- **Plan ahead:** the CESR process can be lengthy. Invest time in gathering organising and reviewing evidence.
- **Be proactive:** clarify uncertainties with the Workforce Development and Training team or RCR guidance before submitting your applications.

A successful CESR application hinges on clarity, relevance and completeness. Think like an assessor - your evidence should make it easy for them to conclude that you meet the standards of a UK consultant radiologist.

