



The Royal College of Radiologists

Examiner Role Description

Role title	Specialist First FRCR (Clinical Oncology) Examiner
Exam	CO First FRCR (CO1)
Preferred specialist role(s)	Cancer Biologist, Medical Physicist, Medical Statistician and Radiobiologist
Term duration	5 years
Application closing date	See RCR website

RCR exams are an internationally recognised benchmark of excellence as well as a vital element of UK training. The [First FRCR \(CO1\) exam](#) assesses knowledge of the sciences that underpin, and are essential to, clinical oncology practice including physics as applied to radiotherapy, radiobiology, cancer biology including molecular biology, the pharmacology of systemic anti-cancer treatments and medical statistics.

Our specialist examiners ensure the next generation of oncologists have the appropriate levels of knowledge to be effective in a continually evolving field of science. We rely on the specialists for the factual accuracy of each question asked in the exam.

Examiners join the board which is responsible for ensuring that the exam meets the needs of the approved clinical oncology training curriculum and meet standards set by the GMC. Each specialist examiner works as part of a team comprised of clinical oncologists and other specialists in the field, ensuring all exam questions are relevant and contemporary. The FRCR Part 1 examiners meetings provide great interactive opportunities for specialist examiners and clinical oncologists to develop challenging aspects of the evolving oncology practice and curriculum, and continuing professional development in understanding specialist and clinical principles underpinning clinical oncology practice.

Role Tasks

Specialist examiners have a range of responsibilities including:

- developing new and updating single-best-answer questions based on the approved curriculum
- quality assurance of the performance of single-best-answer questions within the questions bank and each exam sitting
- reviewing questions selected for designated exam sittings to ensure a broad assessment of knowledge across the curriculum
- review of overall candidate exam performance and provision of an examiner report
- reviewing the pattern of performance of the exam over time to ensure standards are maintained and identifying areas for improvement in the curriculum

Benefits

- **Make a difference** by ensuring UK and global candidates have gold-standard exam content that ensures future oncologists' competence.
- **Extend your professional network and meet new people** by collaborating with other examiners, partners at global venues, Officers and RCR staff.
- **Earn** CPD credits for work developing the exam.
- **Learn** more about RCR exams and develop personally via a comprehensive training and



development programme including equality and diversity and question writing training.

- Be considered for **Honorary Membership** at end of term of office.

Eligibility and term of office

Applicants must:

- be medical statisticians, cancer biologists, medical physicists or radiobiologists working in a relevant field. Medical Physicists should be HCPC registered Clinical Scientists. MPE certification would be an advantage, but not essential.
- demonstrate that they have undergone appropriate equality and diversity training and are willing to abide by good practice in these areas
- be prepared to participate in induction, training, examiner appraisal and ongoing upskilling activities
- be willing to abide by the [RCR's Contributor Code of Conduct](#)

Applicants should, ideally, have experience in delivering education and training programmes.

The term of office is five years, with the opportunity to extend for further terms through mutual agreement.

Time commitment and support

Specialist examiners usually attend two committee meetings a year, in March/April and in late September for a full day combining exam committee business in the morning and question review in the afternoon. Clinical oncology and specialist examiners for each module will work collaboratively in two virtual half-day question writing meetings a year to develop new and to update single-best-answer questions within the examination question bank.

Examiners will be the 'designated' examiner for one of the four modules at every second or third sitting (every 12-18 months). This involves reviewing a preliminary selection of questions selected by the relevant clinical oncology examiner and attending a meeting, usually in late May or late November, to finalise the question papers.

Support in the role is provided through the CO1 Chair and Vice-Chairs, examiner colleagues, plus exams office staff including administrators responsible for examiner support and practical exam delivery.

Meetings are a mix of face to face and virtual. Travel to the RCR in London will be required periodically for meetings. Travel and accommodation costs are covered in accordance with the [published policy](#).

Applications

Please complete the online application on the [RCR website](#). Applications must be supported by a current Head of Department by way of completing a supporter form. Applications are anonymised and ranked by a panel against pre-defined criteria; the College strives for examiners to be as representative as possible of body system specialist interests, clinical practice backgrounds and the distribution of UK training programmes.

If a conversation about the scope of the examiner role would be valuable please contact the Chair Mark Teo at mark.teo@nhs.net or contact the Exams Engagement and Support Co-Ordinator Amelia Wardley at amelia.wardley@rcr.ac.uk.

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