



The Royal College of Radiologists

Examiner Role Description

Role title	CO First FRCR Part 1 Examiner
Exam	CO First FRCR Part 1 (CO1)
Preferred specialist role(s)	Clinical Oncology
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 basic 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.

Examiners join the board which is responsible for ensuring that the exam meets the needs of the approved clinical oncology training curriculum and standards set by the GMC. For each subject area, a team of clinical oncologist examiners work alongside non-medical specialists in the field, assuring the quality and clinical relevance of exam questions and curriculum. 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

Clinical oncology examiners with the support of 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
- selecting questions and standards setting for designated exam sittings to ensure a broad assessment of knowledge across the curriculum
- faculty exam paper approval and setting of pass marks for each exam sitting
- 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.

Eligibility and term of office

Applicants must:

- be a Fellow of the RCR in good standing
- hold a substantive consultant post within an approved UK training programme or a relevant hospital / scientific position.
- 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](#)
- regular attendance of examiner meetings and committed time to setting and reviewing the exam

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

Time commitment and support

Examiners usually attend two FRCR Part I examiners board meetings a year, in March/April and in late September for a full day combining exam committee business in the morning followed by review of the previous exam sitting and question review in the afternoon. Clinical oncologist 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 exam modules at every second or third sitting. This involves making a preliminary selection of questions from the established bank and attending a meeting, usually in late May or late November, to finalise all four exam papers. For each sitting they are not a designated examiner, examiners will contribute in the standard setting process for setting the pass mark for each exam paper.

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 CO1 Chair Mark Teo at mark.teo@nhs.net, or contact Examiner Engagement and Support Coordinator at amelia_wardley@rcr.ac.uk

Last updated: October 2025