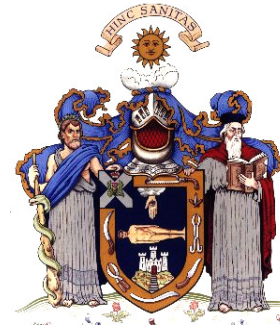


**Regulations relating to the
FELLOWSHIP OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE
OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH FRCSEd (Ophth)
in the subject of OPHTHALMOLOGY**

With effect from August 2007



1. Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons is open to trainees who have completed at least four years of training in Ophthalmology and passed the Fellowship Examination.
2. Candidates must possess a primary medical qualification which is acceptable to the Council of the College.
3. Successful candidates are eligible for election to Fellowship of the Royal College and once elected may designate themselves FRCSEd (Ophth).

PURPOSE OF THE EXAMINATION

4. This examination has been designed for use as a conjoint examination with partner organisations overseas and is not intended for use by UK trainees. The examination is not approved by PMETB as an assessment that would contribute towards the award of the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT). However UK trainees who wish to apply for this examination are permitted to do so.

THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME:

5. The training programme should follow the curriculum set out in the Portfolio of Ophthalmology Training of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh which can be downloaded from the RCSEd website. This curriculum is consistent with the UK Ophthalmology Training Curriculum produced by the Royal College of Ophthalmologists which may be viewed at www.rcophth.ac.uk
6. Training is designed to be of five year's duration. The first two years will consist of basic training in all areas of ophthalmology, to include some exposure to subspecialty areas of ophthalmology. The next three years will consist of core training in the seven major subspecialty areas of ophthalmology.
7. Core subspecialty training will be provided in training rotation posts. Each training rotation post will be of 4-6 months duration. Cataract and Refractive surgery training may be dealt with as a separate part of the training rotation, or included alongside other parts of subspecialty training. Neuro-ophthalmology training may be dealt with as a separate part of the training rotation, or included alongside other parts of subspecialty training, such as strabismus, or medical ophthalmology. The format of training rotations will vary to some extent, depending on local circumstances. However the complete curriculum must be undertaken, even if this requires some training to be undertaken in hospitals outside the main training hospital.

8. Minimum training recommendations are given for each subspecialty. Subspecialty clinics should be organised in such a way as to ensure that the focus of the clinics is subspecialty practice. While such clinics may contain a small number of “general” ophthalmology patients, the great majority of patients in these clinics should be subspecialty cases.
9. It is envisaged that many trainees will undertake formal “fellowship” subspecialty training for one or two years after completion of core training.
10. Equivalent training programmes which follow a similar curriculum may be considered for entry to the examination. Training Programme Directors must write to the Head of the Information and Examination Application Section to request an assessment of their programme by the College’s Specialty Advisory Board in Ophthalmology.
11. Experience on a part-time basis in a post approved by the College will be accepted provided that the duties in the post do not occupy less than half of the weekly working time. One years’ experience in such a post will be considered as equivalent to six months’ experience in a full-time post.

APPLYING FOR THE EXAMINATION

12. Applications may be made online or by direct application to the College, addressed to the Head of the Application Evaluation Section, and must be accompanied by certificates showing the date and place of obtaining a primary medical qualification and particulars of subsequent experience. The name on the primary medical certificate will normally be the name by which candidates are registered. Applications must also be accompanied by the full amount of the fee payable for the appropriate part of the examination and must reach the College by no later than the advertised closing date. NO ALLOWANCE WILL BE MADE FOR POSTAL OR OTHER DELAYS.
13. The dates of the examinations and the fees payable for admission to the Fellowship Examination are set out in the examinations calendar which is obtainable free of charge from the College (see College website: <http://www.rcsed.ac.uk>).
14. Candidates are not permitted to apply for any part of the examination at more than one centre within a two month period.
15. Candidates should submit their applications to sit the examination no later than the closing date indicated in the examinations calendar. Applications should be sent to:

*Head of the Information and Examination Application Section
The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
The Adamson Centre
3 Hill Place
Edinburgh
EH8 9DS.*

16. Any candidate who does not fulfill the normal entry requirements may apply for special consideration to the Director of Surgical Training, but admission will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

CANDIDATES WITH SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

17. Special examination and other assessment arrangements may be made for candidates with permanent or temporary disability. These arrangements are intended to allow candidates to perform to the best of their ability. It is the responsibility of the candidate to notify the Examinations Section when they submit their application of any special circumstances. Applications for special consideration must be supported by written evidence in the form of a medical report from their General Practitioner for medical conditions (an educational psychologist's report is required for requests for extra time because of dyslexia). Further information for candidates who are pregnant is given at Annex B.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

18. Each candidate should keep a surgical log book and a training experience portfolio, recording his/her training experience in supervised training posts as it arises. The Portfolio of Ophthalmology Training of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh should be used.
19. During the training period each candidate must obtain satisfactory assessments from their Trainers. A certifying letter from his/her Director of Training must be provided confirming that the candidate has fulfilled the following criteria:
- a) substantially completed training in all core areas of the curriculum
 - b) obtained satisfactory training assessments
 - c) compiled a satisfactory training portfolio.

FORMAT OF EXAMINATION

20. The examination comprises of four separate parts:
- a) Part 1
 - b) Part 2
 - c) Part 3 (Clinical Skills Certificate)
 - d) Part 4 (Final Examination)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

21. The following entry requirements must be met by the closing date for applications:
- a) PART 1**
 - Possession of an acceptable basic medical degree.
 - b) PART 2**
 - After commencement of Ophthalmic specialty training.

c) PART 3 (CLINICAL SKILLS CERTIFICATE)

- Successfully passed Part 1 and Part 2.
- Commencement of second year of Ophthalmic specialty training. Candidates may however sit the examination with one year of Ophthalmic specialty training.

d) PART 4 (FINAL EXAMINATION)

- Successfully passed Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 (Clinical Skills Certificate).
- Completed four years of ophthalmic specialty training. A minimum of two of these years should have been spent in subspecialty rotational training.
- Provide a certifying letter from his/her Director of Training confirming the completion of the criteria detailed in paragraph 17.
- Provide the following documents for assessment in the examination:
 - A formal audit on an ophthalmic topic in which the candidate played a leading role.
 - A paper or research project on an ophthalmic topic in which the candidate played a major role.
- Surgical outcome audits of consecutive operations personally performed:
 - 100 cataract operations
 - 10 glaucoma operations (includes laser procedures)
 - 10 eyelid surgery operations (excludes minor procedures)
 - 3 penetrating ocular trauma operations
 - 10 strabismus operations.

EXEMPTIONS

22. Exemption from Part 1 may be granted to candidates who have passed Part 1 of the MRCSEd of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh until December 2012 or Part 1 of the MRCOphth of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists from January 1997 until 2012 or Part 1 of the new FRCOphth of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists from October 2006.
23. Exemption from Part 2 may be granted to candidates who have passed Part 2 of the MRCSEd of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh until December 2012 or Part 2 of the MRCOphth of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists from January 1997 until 2012 or Part 1 of the new FRCOphth of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists from October 2006.
24. Exemption from Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 (Clinical Skills Certificate) may be granted to candidates who have passed Part 2 of the MRCSEd of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh until 2012 or Part 2 of the MRCOphth of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists from January 1997 until 2012.

25. Exemption from Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 (Clinical Skills Certificate) and the written components of the Part 4 (Final Examination) may be granted to candidates who hold the MRCSEd in Ophthalmology or the MRCOphth until December 2012.

Also refer to the list of additional exempting qualifications on the College website

www.rcsed.ac.uk

PART 1 - BASIC SCIENCES RELATED TO OPHTHALMOLOGY

26. This part of the examination will comprise of a Single Best Answer (SBA) question paper. The paper will be of three hours' duration and will test the candidate's knowledge of basic sciences foundational to Ophthalmology.

PART 2 – OPTICS FOUNDATIONAL TO OPHTHALMOLOGY, OPHTHALMIC INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES AND GENERIC ISSUES OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

27. This part of the examination will comprise of a Single Best Answer (SBA) question paper. The paper will be of three hours' duration and will test the candidate's knowledge of optics foundational to ophthalmology, ophthalmic investigative techniques and generic issues of medical practice.

PART 3 (CLINICAL SKILLS CERTIFICATE)

28. A clinical refraction of one patient lasting 30 minutes and objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE) each lasting eight minutes which will test the following:

- Slit lamp clinical examination technique
- Binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy technique
- Slit lamp fundus biomicroscopy technique
- Pupil examination technique
- Confrontation visual fields technique
- Ocular motility clinical examination technique

29. Candidates must attempt all parts of the clinical skills certificate but need only re-sit the sections they have failed.

PART 4 (FINAL EXAMINATION)

30. There are three sections to Part 4 (Final Examination):

Section A

- One Single Best Answer question paper of three hours' duration,

Section B

- One Extended matching items question paper of three hours' duration,

Section C

- A multi-station clinical examination with structured vivas and structured clinical examination questions comprising nine sections each of twenty minutes' duration. The clinical scenario structured examinations and vivas will cover the following:

- Oculoplastics and adnexae
- Cornea, external diseases and refractive surgery
- Cataract
- Glaucoma
- Retina and uvea
- Neuro-ophthalmology
- Paediatric and strabismus
- Structured oral assessment of submitted personal surgical outcome data, a research report and formal audit report
- Structured oral assessment of competence in generic areas of medical practice and a test of communication skills using an actor.

31. Candidates must attempt all sections of the Final Examination at the first sitting but need only re-sit the sections they have failed. Re-sit candidates for Section C need only re-sit the stations they have failed.

SYLLABUS

32. The examination syllabus is available as a separate document on the RCSEd website: www.rcsed.ac.uk

PROOF OF IDENTITY AT EXAMINATIONS

33. Each candidate **MUST** bring his/her passport to each part of the examination. Exceptionally, a candidate who is not in a position to provide a passport **MUST** produce an official document that includes his/her name, signature and a current photograph. (For example, a current driving licence if it includes a photograph). Proof of identity is an essential element of the examination. The Convener of the Examinations Committee reserves the right to refuse to examine any candidate whose identity is uncertain.

WITHDRAWAL FROM AN EXAMINATION

34. Candidates withdrawing from an examination must do so in writing.
35. Any candidate who withdraws, in writing, an application for admission to any part of the examination may be refunded the fee paid (less an administrative fee of 20%) provided that notice of an intention to withdraw is received by the Examinations Section before the closing date by which applications are due, as shown in the examinations calendar. No refunds are normally made to candidates who withdraw after the closing date. A candidates may have his/her application and fee transferred to the NEXT examination if written notice is received by the College prior to the closing date for receipt of applications for the original examination diet. **NO ALLOWANCE WILL BE MADE FOR POSTAL OR OTHER DELAYS.**

36. An application for consideration for a refund on medical grounds must be accompanied by a medical certificate. An application for consideration of a refund on compassionate grounds should be supported by a letter from the Consultant or Surgical Tutor responsible for training. All such applications must be submitted to the Examinations Section of the College within 14 days of the commencement of the examination. NO ALLOWANCE WILL BE MADE FOR POSTAL OR OTHER DELAYS.
37. Any candidate who submits an application form but is subsequently found to be ineligible to enter for the examination will have his/her fee returned less 20% administrative charges.

EXPULSION OR EXCLUSION FROM AN EXAMINATION

38. The Convener of the Examinations Committee or his/her representative may refuse to admit to the examination or proceed with the examination of any candidate who infringes the Regulations or who is considered by the examiners to be guilty of behaviour prejudicial to the management and proper conduct of the examination.

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

39. Examination results will be posted on the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh website, www.rcsed.ac.uk, normally within one working month of completion of the examination. Candidates' examination numbers will be used for identification. Results, feedback advice and related documents will be mailed to candidates within one month of completion of the examination. Individual verbal counseling will not be offered.

APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES

40. Any candidate wishing to lodge a complaint must do so within thirty days of the examination. A copy of the procedural document may be obtained from the Information Section. No candidate may appeal on the basis of the results of the examination, however, he/she may complain regarding the conduct of the examination.

ELECTION TO FELLOWSHIP

41. Having passed all parts of the examination, candidates may apply for Fellowship of the College. Successful candidates will receive a petition form to complete which must be sent to the Membership Administrator together with the appropriate election fee. In the event of any candidate not being elected the election fee will be returned in full.
42. On election, each Fellow must sign the following Declaration of Intransigence: "I hereby promise faithfully to maintain and defend all the rights, liberties and privileges of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and to promote the interest thereof to the utmost of my power. I also promise faithfully to obey all the Laws of the said Royal College."

43. After signing the Declaration of Intrants every successful candidate will receive a Diploma bearing the Seal of the College and the Diploma shall state that such Fellow has been admitted after examination. The form of the Diploma is as follows:

“The President and Fellows of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh hereby admit to the Fellowship of the College “Full name of member” who has completed the required form of training and passed the necessary examinations. He/she is hereby entitled to share all the honours and privileges enjoyed by the Fellow of the said College.”

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES

44. Every Fellow shall pay each year such annual subscription as may be determined by the Council of the College.

DIPLOMA CEREMONIES

45. Newly elected Fellows will ordinarily take their seats in the College at one of the Ceremonies for the presentation of diplomas. Any Fellow who is unable to attend a Diploma Ceremony may take his/her seat at any Annual Meeting of the College and shall intimate to the College Secretary in writing his/her intention of so doing and shall comply with the necessary formalities for introduction at the Meeting.

NOTE: THESE REGULATIONS ARE UNDER CONTINUAL REVIEW THEREFORE IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT CANDIDATES KEEP IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE COLLEGE TO ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION. THE INFORMATION SECTION WILL BE ABLE TO ADVISE (00 44 (0) 131 668 9222)).

ANNEX A

ACCEPTABLE TRAINING POSTS MAY INCLUDE THOSE IN:

1. Posts in national training programmes that follow the UK Ophthalmology training curriculum in teaching hospitals affiliated to a university acceptable to the World Health Organisation. Candidates offering training from an institution in this category must provide a letter from their Director of Training confirming that the programme followed the UK training curriculum.
2. Hospitals in the European Union officially designated as General Teaching Hospitals.
3. Hospitals approved by the American Board of Surgery and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, provided that the posts are held at Resident level.

ANNEX B

NOTIFICATION OF PREGNANCY AND DEFERRAL

Deferral of examination due to pregnancy-related complications

A deferral may be permitted to candidates supplying an appropriate medical report which satisfies the College indicating:

1. the candidate has any pregnancy related problems or illness and/or;
2. the candidate's confinement is due shortly before or around the date of the examination and/or;
3. the candidate has sufficient discomfort for her to consider that it will have a detrimental affect on her performance.

In such circumstances, should any such candidate be unable to sit for the examination, a deferral will be permitted and no further fee will be required.

Any candidate who does not inform the College of her pregnancy and is consequently unable to sit for that examination will not normally be allowed to defer this examination without submission of another fee.