



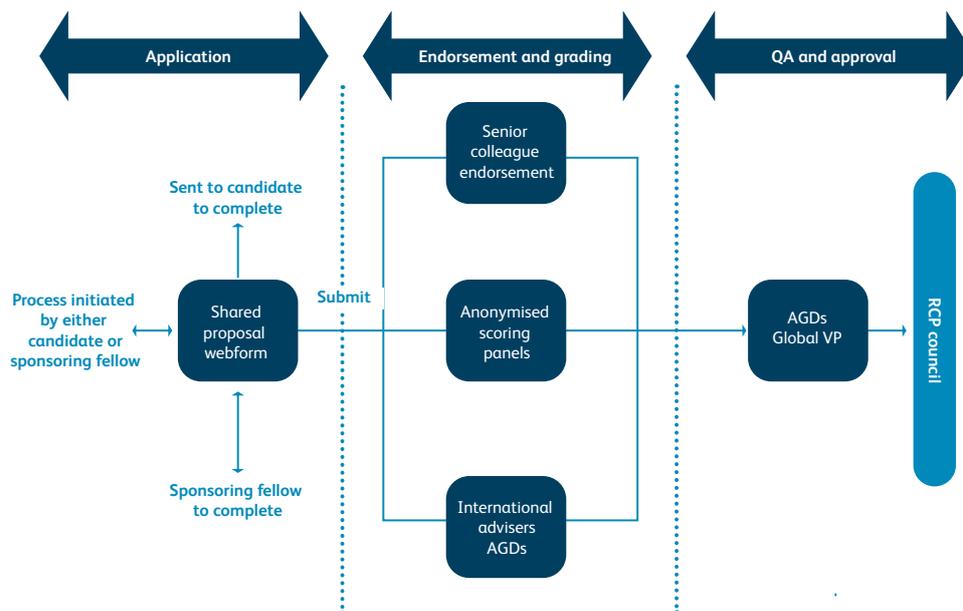
## Background

Successful election to fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) requires eligible candidates to demonstrate the values expected of a fellow, which go beyond standard contractual obligations and support and deliver clinical excellence. Fellows of the RCP are established senior clinicians and will usually have been in substantive employment at consultant or equivalent level for several years. Typically, it is expected that both UK and international candidates will take around 12 years from primary medical qualification or 8 years from MRCP(UK) to gain the experience expected of a fellow. Eligibility for fellowship of the RCP is not, however, dependent on length of time served. It is rather a marker of impact and achievement.

Candidates must:

- > be licensed or registered in their country of practice
- > be engaged with regular review of their practice through their hospital, university, institution or national physician college, confirming excellence in clinical care
- > make a [declaration of good standing](#).

Candidates may propose themselves or be proposed by a current fellow. Both methods are initiated through an open, joint proposal that requires engagement of the candidate and support of a sponsoring fellow. Both types of proposal are treated on equal merit.



## How do I propose myself for fellowship?

- > Ask a current RCP fellow whom you work alongside or have worked with recently if they are happy to act as your sponsor. They will be asked to support your proposal with a short statement, a bit like a reference. If you do not know or work closely with any RCP fellows, we recommend contacting an [RCP international adviser](#) for your region who may act as, or advise on, a suitable sponsor.
- > Go to the RCP proposal webform via the [fellowship portal](#) (basic information only is required to initiate the process): this is not onerous or time-consuming!
- > Complete the form, including your supporting information (please read the [Supporting information guidance](#) document) and details of your sponsoring fellow and another endorsing colleague.
- > Click to share the form with your chosen sponsoring fellow, who can support your proposal with some additional information.

fellowship

- > Once they have returned it, submit the jointly completed form via the automated process. This will trigger endorsement requests from a senior colleague within your organisation whom you have nominated.
- > The automated process will also assign your *anonymised* proposal to a scoring panel.

## What do I need to do if someone has proposed me for fellowship?

- > You will already have a sponsor for your proposal, but will need to identify a senior local colleague to endorse your proposal in the next stage.
- > Go to the RCP proposal webform via the [fellowship portal](#). Update or amend any personal details where necessary.
- > Complete the supporting information section. Your sponsor will have already submitted details of your area of interest and breadth of practice, but you should use the supporting information section to expand on this with further detail or additional activities you would like considered.
- > Click to return the form to your sponsoring fellow, who will then submit the jointly completed form via the automated process. This will trigger an endorsement request from the senior colleague within your organisation whom you have nominated.
- > The automated process will also assign your *anonymised* proposal to a scoring panel.

## FAQs

### What are the eligibility criteria for international candidates?

Candidates must be working in a substantive senior clinical post in their organisation, which should resemble a UK consultant-level post.

While there is not a fixed minimum time in practice, as this will vary between countries and health systems, a recommended timeframe

for fellowship application would be around 12 years from primary medical qualification. MRCP(UK) is desirable, but not essential.

Candidates who do not have MRCP(UK) will be expected to have evidence of a comparable higher medical degree or diploma. Candidates do not need to have been subscribing RCP collegiate members previously to be proposed / self-propose for fellowship, as long as the other criteria are met.

### Should I propose myself or wait to be proposed by a current fellow?

Our revised fellowship process has been designed to make the process more accessible and equitable and is a joint proposal with a sponsor, whoever initiates the process. If you are eligible and are keen to be part of the fellowship of the RCP, then propose yourself without delay!

### How long will it take to start the process?

It is very simple to initiate the process with the agreement of your sponsor. Basic information will include your name and date of birth, place of work, home address and RCP code (if you have one). Make sure that you have contact details for both your sponsor and an endorsing colleague. More detailed information on completing the webform is available on the [fellowship portal](#).

### What is the difference between a sponsor and an endorser, and whom should I ask?

Both sponsors and endorsers should know you professionally and be able to support and validate your application with first-hand knowledge of your practice. Sponsors should be fellows of the RCP, while endorsers do not have to be. We request, however, that endorsers are in formal leadership roles in your organisation, eg clinical director or your appraiser, and that this relationship be specified. In the event that a candidate does not have a local fellow to sponsor them, we recommend contacting a [RCP international adviser](#) for your region who may act as, or advise on, a suitable sponsor.

