



Censor

Reports to	Senior censor and vice president for education and training (VPET)
Department	Education Directorate
Role/tenure	Voluntary role / 3 years, starting 1 August 2026
Location/hours	The role holder is expected to work flexibly to meet the requirements of the role. This will include a mix of remote and on-site working (in both Liverpool and London), and elsewhere as required.

About the RCP

The Royal College of Physicians is a rewarding and friendly place to work with an incredible history, dating back to our foundation in 1518. We are a professional membership body for physicians with around 40,000 members in the UK and across the world working to improve patient care and reduce illness. Our activities focus on educating, improving and influencing for better health and care.

We work from two main sites – The Spine, a new state-of-the-art building at the heart of the Knowledge Quarter in Liverpool, and an iconic Grade I-listed building overlooking beautiful Regent’s Park in central London. We are committed to a hybrid working model that means most staff work flexibly and are required to spend a minimum of 6 days a month in the office.

We champion an inclusive culture and welcome applications from all sections of society. We value taking care, learning and being collaborative. These values underpin everything we do.

Join us to help achieve our vision of a world in which everyone has the best possible health and healthcare.

Purpose and scope

The office of censor is a senior and ancient one going back to the origins of the RCP and royal charter of Henry VIII. At any time, there are at least four censors. Currently, there are eight censors (as well as the education and training vice president, who is also known as the senior censor), and their role has always been concerned with examinations, maintaining standards and education. Censors attend the ceremonies to welcome new fellows and members into the RCP, all the key RCP lectures, College Day and the annual general meeting. They are responsible for inquiring into and testing the qualification of all candidates for membership and RCP Council, and for the investigation of alleged disciplinary offences by fellows or members of the RCP.

Over time, the role of censor has developed to participate actively in the workings of the RCP. It is a real opportunity to provide wise counsel and to help influence and shape RCP outputs. The [RCP Code of Conduct](#) is an example of a document developed by the censors. Current

areas of activity include assisting with the constitutional review of the RCP, reviewing the procedure for the conduct and discipline of fellows and members, and supporting communications, and diversity and inclusion.

The VPET is elected and fulfils the role of senior censor as well as being the RCP officer responsible for education and training matters.

Censors must be RCP fellows in [good standing](#). They assist senior college officers with aspects of their work, based on personal interests and to use their experience and skills. Up to two new censors will be appointed in 2026 to serve for 3 years from 1 August 2026.

The RCP encourages all of its officers to be practising medical doctors who are actively connected with, and credible to, the clinical community.

Censors must possess a skillset relevant to the remit of the role (at times this may include ongoing expertise related to the NHS in the UK).

Duties of the role include:

- To serve on the RCP Education Faculty and support delivery of the Education Department strategy. For example, this may include curation and oversight of clinical content of new education products such as podcasts and video content. Other roles may include assessment of certificate of eligibility for specialist registration (CESR) applications and review of proposed new policy on which the RCP is asked to comment and respond.
- To serve on the Education Board, which meets three times each year.
- Ideally with experience as an MRCP(UK) examiner, to act as a PACES chair for at least 1–2 diets each year, and/or as examiner in the RCP Assessment Unit.
- To participate in the Standing Panel of Censors to investigate and make recommendations according to the [procedure for the conduct and discipline of fellows and members](#).
- To deputise for the VPET, as required by the RCP.
- To support senior RCP officers in their work, depending on the particular interests or experience of individual censors.
- To serve on such committees of the RCP as may from time to time be requested. For example, one censor recently participated in the review of the RCP bye-laws; censors may also be invited to join interview panels for RCP roles.
- To attend and be part of the formal procession at ceremonies for the admission of new members and fellows.
- To attend RCP lectures and other occasions (such as the annual general meeting and the presidential election), as part of the formal procession, when requested.
- To attend a biennial meeting of the president and censors.
- One censor (with another acting as their deputy) to represent the RCP on the Board of Trustees of the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons.
- Two of the serving censors are voting members of the RCP Council, acting on behalf of the others.
- To undertake an annual appraisal of their RCP role.

The role is reviewed regularly, to take account of developments in the work of the RCP and of the NHS in general. No single individual will be required to undertake all of these duties – there is an expectation that through selection the team of censors will collectively manage this large portfolio of work.

Board and committee membership

- Education Board – three times per annum.
- Council (as an attendee or as one of the two voting censor members) – six times per annum.

How we'll measure your success

- Numbers of college ceremonies/lectures attended as censor.
- Exam contributions.
- Contributions to Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) reviews and conduct enquiries (number and/or complexity).
- Contribution to question writing and other learning materials.
- Attendance at Education Board.
- Other significant achievements/initiatives identified by censor or senior censor.

Your experience includes

Essential

- Applicants must possess a skillset relevant to the remit of the role (at times this may include ongoing expertise related to the NHS in the United Kingdom).
- A fellow of the RCP in good standing with the employer, GMC and [RCP](#).
- Committed to the mission, vision and values of the RCP.
- Ability to work in a multidisciplinary environment with clinical and non-clinical colleagues.

Desirable

- Experience as an MRCP(UK) examiner
- Experience in professional governance, revalidation and conduct

Tenure

The tenure of the post is for 3 years (1 August 2026 – 31 July 2029).

Financial aspects

This is a voluntary role and not remunerated. It is the duty of a candidate for office to obtain advance agreement from their employing authority that they will be given adequate time to perform RCP duties, in the context of activities recognised by the Department of Health and Social Care, before standing for election.

It is anticipated that duties will be performed through a combination of agreed SPA time over and above the minimum required to fulfil revalidation requirements, and that any shortfall would be made up through additional external activities agreed through the postholder's job plan.

Appointees are eligible to claim reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out their roles, in line with the RCP's expenses policy.

Our values

We are committed to **taking care, learning, and being collaborative**. These values drive the way we behave, how we interact with each other, and how we work together to achieve our vision and improve patient care.

We value taking care

This means we behave respectfully towards people, whatever their role, position, gender, or background. It means we act as representatives of the RCP and take decisions in the interests of the organisation as a whole.

We value learning

This means we continuously improve through active learning and honest reflection, so that we grow personally and as an organisation, while striving for excellence. We support learning and development opportunities.

We value being collaborative

This means we work together towards the RCP's vision in a collaborative and professional way, understanding that individuals bring different strengths and approaches to our work. We value diversity and each other's contributions.

The RCP positively encourages applications from suitably qualified and eligible candidates regardless of sex, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, transgender status, religion or belief, marital status or pregnancy and maternity.

The RCP is all about our people – our members, staff, volunteers and leaders. We educate, influence and collaborate to improve health and healthcare for everyone and know we can only do this by being inclusive, encouraging and celebrating diverse perspectives. Welcoming into our community people who represent the 21st-century medical workforce and the diverse population of patients we serve is a priority for us.

As an RCP member of staff or volunteer you are expected to comply with all RCP data protection and security policies and procedures.

Reviewed: March 2026

Next review: To be reviewed annually as part of appraisal