



Physician Associate Registration Assessment

Question and Scenario Writing Groups

The Physician Associate Registration Assessment (PARA) is developed and delivered by the RCP Assessment Unit on behalf of the General Medical Council.

The PARA knowledge-based assessment (KBA) takes place in three assessment periods annually and consists of a 200 single best answer examination, held online. The PARA clinical examination is a 14-station OSCE, which takes place in three assessment periods annually and is held at the Spine, Liverpool.

Objectives of writing groups

The Question Writing Group (QWG) has the responsibility for generating new questions and reviewing current content for the KBA. Content should focus on areas within the current [KBA blueprint](#), which is derived from the [Physician Associate Curriculum](#)¹.

The Scenario Writing Group (SWG) has the responsibility for generating new scenarios and reviewing current content for the OSCE. Content should focus on areas within the current [OSCE blueprint](#), which is derived from the [Physician Associate Curriculum](#)².

Responsibilities

- > Generating new content that is appropriate for the KBA and OSCE, in line with the relevant examination blueprint and style guide
- > Generating content that include a good mixture of primary and secondary care settings
- > Ensuring content flagged for review by the PARA board, PARA Question Paper Review Group or PARA Scenario Review Group remains clinically relevant, amending questions or scenarios as appropriate
- > Ensuring questions test knowledge in line with current guidelines across all four nations of the United Kingdom

Benefits

We offer the opportunity to network with colleagues, keep your knowledge up to date, take part in challenging discussions, be involved with the next generation of Physician Associates, shape the future of the profession, promote multidisciplinary working and continuing professional development.

By getting involved you can shape the future of the PARA.

¹ A hybrid model, also utilising the [Competence And Curriculum Framework For The Physician Assistant \(2012\)](#), will be in place until December 2026

² See note 1

This is a non-salaried position, though all reasonable expenses and travel costs will be met by the Education Department in line with the RCP expenses policy. CPD points are available via your membership organisation for each meeting attended.

Appointments will be for a term of three years, subject to satisfactory performance, and renewable after review by the PARA KBA Lead and/or PARA Clinical Examination Lead and (in respect of continuing eligibility) by the RCP Assessment Unit³.

All successful applicants will be required to sign non-disclosure and code of conduct agreements.

The group meet regularly via Microsoft Teams. Each meeting is two hours in duration, and members are expected to attend a minimum of two full days (eight meetings) over a rolling three-year period.

Criteria

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply:

- > be in active practise as a Physician Associate, or be able to demonstrate substantial experience in working with, training, or supervising the Physician Associate role
- > have at least 2 years post-qualification experience
- > be registered and in good standing on the GMC register, or equivalent
- > be up-to-date as appropriate with relevant national guidelines, CPD requirements, employer's equality and diversity training and appraisal process

Previous experience of writing and reviewing examination content (either written questions or clinical scenarios as appropriate) would also be desirable but is not a mandatory requirement.

How to apply

Individuals are welcome to apply for the QWG, the SWG, or both groups. Applicants should note the anticipated time commitment in terms of attendance before applying.

Applications for the post, including a CV and short statement outlining your suitability for the post should be submitted for the attention of Steven Ansty via Assessment.Unit@rcp.ac.uk. This is an ongoing recruitment process which will be reviewed regularly and may close without prior notice. Those interested in the advertised role(s) are advised to apply as soon as possible.

For an informal discussion regarding the role please contact Steven Ansty, Deputy Head of Assessment on the above email address, or via 0151 318 1888.

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.

³ Decisions on the renewal of membership may be referred to the PARA Senior Examiner where appropriate