Royal College of Physicians

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RCP fellowship proposal

Self-proposal for international candidates

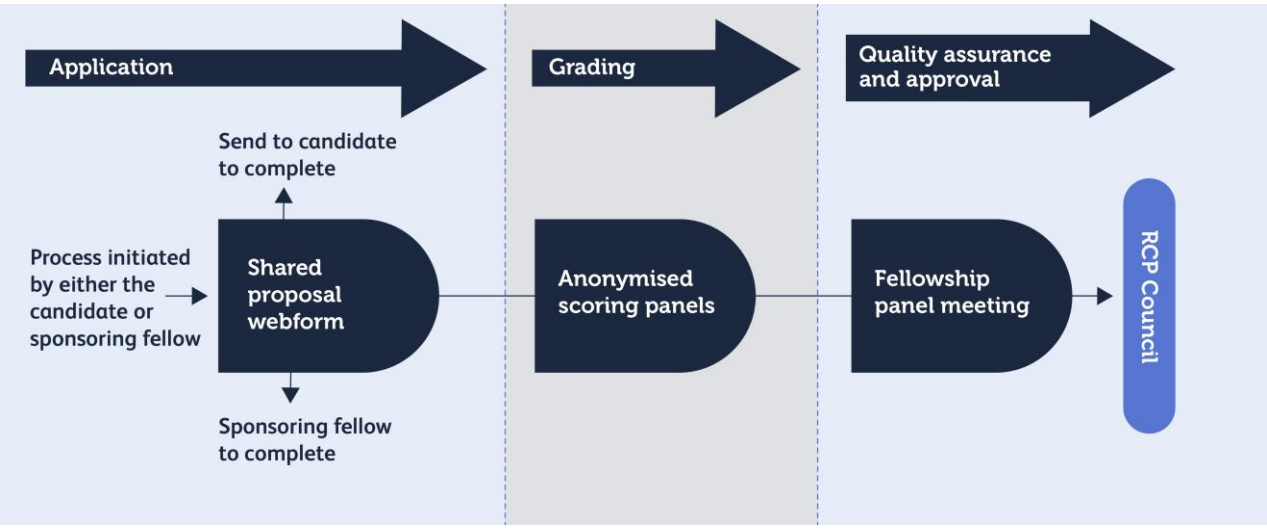
Background

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 they will usually have been in substantive employment at consultant or equivalent level for several years. 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 practising autonomously
- 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.



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How do I propose myself for fellowship?

Ask a current RCP fellow who you currently work with, or have recently worked with, if they are happy to act as your sponsor. They will be asked to support your proposal with a short statement, similar to a reference. If you do not work closely with any RCP fellows, please visit the Register of Fellows to seek a fellow within your region who may act as, or advise on, a suitable sponsor. Sponsors must be independent individuals with no familial relation to the applicant.

- Go to the RCP proposal webform via the fellowship portal (only basic information is required to initiate the process).
- Complete the form, including your supporting information (please read the Supporting information guidance document) and details of your sponsoring fellow.
- Click to share the form with your chosen sponsoring fellow, who can support your proposal with some additional information.
- Once they have returned it, submit the jointly completed form via the automated process.
- 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?

- 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 al
- section to expand on this with further detail or additional activities that you would like to be considered.
- Click to return the form to your sponsoring fellow, who will then submit the jointly completed form via the automated process.
- 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 those applying for fellowship would usually 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 or self-propose for fellowship, as long as the other criteria are met.

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Should I self-propose 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 you can self-propose during the next cycle.

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 your sponsor. More detailed information on completing the webform is available on the fellowship portal.

Contact: fellowshipqueries@rcp.ac.uk
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