Royal College of Physicians

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RCP fellowship proposal

Sponsoring an international candidate for fellowship

Background

Successful election to the 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 (FRCP) are established senior clinicians and will usually have been in substantive employment at consultant or equivalent level for several years. Eligibility for FRCP 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.

Proposing someone for fellowship is now an open process and candidates are aware of, and able to contribute to, your proposal. The proposal is therefore a joint application. Candidates who self-propose will need to actively seek out fellows to be their supporting sponsor.

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How do I sponsor or propose (nominate) a candidate?

- Sponsors must be independent individuals with no familial relationship to the applicant.
- Go to the RCP proposal webform via the fellowship portal. Only basic information is required to initiate the process, and it is not onerous or time-consuming.
- Complete the form and share it with the candidate you are proposing, before submitting it to the RCP.
- Or, if you are being asked to act as a sponsor by a candidate who has self-proposed, complete the form at the request of the candidate.
- Submit the jointly completed form via the automated process.
- The automated process will also assign the 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 no 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 or self-propose for fellowship, as long as the other criteria are met.

How long does it take to make a proposal and what information do I need?

It is very simple to initiate the process with the agreement of your candidate. Basic information will include the candidate's name and date of birth, place of work, home address and RCP code (if available). You will then be asked to support your candidate's proposal by completing some supporting information. Please read the Supporting information guidance document for more information.

What do I do if the candidate has initiated the proposal web form and I am acting as the sponsoring fellow?

The process is the same as that for proposal (nomination) but in reverse. Please read and check your candidate's form for accuracy and provide guidance and advice based on the criteria in the Supporting information guidance. Ensure that you are comfortable with the validity of all the statements.

Why should I tell a candidate that I am proposing or nominating them?

This is a decision of RCP Council, which wants to make the proposal and nomination process more transparent. To be proposed by a peer or near-peer colleague is a mark of the prestige of the accolade of fellowship and we will be actively encouraging existing fellows to propose a colleague for fellowship. To make the process more transparent, we have created more detailed proposal information in the Supporting information guidance, which explains the criteria for fellowship in more detail.

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