

International PACES examining as a UK PACES examiner Ambassador for RCPE

At the core of this system is an effort to recognise examiner involvement in supporting the RCPE in the PACES exam delivery. Admission to the RCPE international PACES examiner list will be reviewed ahead of allocation for each examination diet. We try to ensure that all eligible examiners, with appropriate availability, and subject to the number of examiner spaces available, are offered the opportunity to examine PACES internationally at least once in a calendar year. However, owing to the limited number of opportunities to examine internationally, this creates a significant challenge in ensuring a fair rotation in eligible examiners being allocated to represent the College, and therefore allocation cannot be guaranteed. To support a fair allocation, the RCPE has established criteria all examiners must meet, to be eligible to represent the RCPE at an international PACES centre.

Eligibility for International PACES examining

An international PACES examiner must:

- Be a Fellow of RCPE and in good standing.*
- Be fully compliant with all PACES examiner criteria.
- Have examined a minimum of 6 cycles at any UK PACES centre within the three examination diets prior to the recruitment diet and a minimum of 6 cycles within the last six examination diets at RCPE UK PACES centres.**
- Have examined at least 30 cycles of PACES in the UK overall.
- Be working with resident doctors in the UK or have been retired from UK clinical practice for not longer than two years.
- Have expressed a note of interest with availability to examine internationally for RCPE

** Those with an examiner number from RCPL or RCPSCG will also be considered if most of their examining activity is at RCPE PACES centres and they have not represented RCPL or RCPSCG internationally as an examiner within the last 12 months.*

***Recognition will also be given where additional activity is carried out, including hosting, chairing, senior College roles, office bearer, vetting committee member, CEB or CCOE representative, within the period of three examination diets prior to allocation.*

Examiner Activity Credits

To create a robust system with clarity and fair rotation of international examiner allocation, a credit system is used to rank all examiner involvement in supporting UK PACES exam delivery. Credits for examiner activity are calculated using ONLY UK PACES examining activity data during the period of up to six examination diets prior to the exam diet being considered for allocating international examiners. Previous international activity will not be included in the credits, as this will limit opportunities in promoting fair allocation, diversity and new recruitment. The number of examiners who will be contacted with international examining opportunities will be capped each diet, subject to the number of examiner allocations required for that diet. All submitted examiner availability will be carefully considered, but due to high demand and limited spaces available, allocation cannot be guaranteed for

every diet.

Credits are allocated in recognition of the following examiner activities within the period of up to six examination diets prior to recruitment for the international PACES diet:

Examining	10 credits for each day of PACES examining in the UK, based on two exam cycles per day.
Hosting	20 credits for each day of PACES exam hosting in the UK, based on two exam cycles per day.
Co-Hosting	15 credits for each day of PACES exam co-hosted in the UK, based on two exam cycles per day.
Chairing	20 credits for each day of PACES exam chaired in the UK, based on two exam cycles per day.
Federation or RCPE College senior roles, PACES board & committee representatives	30 credits in recognition of an active appointed role or representative membership to a PACES board, committee or vetting group*. Please Note: You do not get awarded 30 credits for each individual appointment and membership.

**Credits are included for the following roles and PACES board and committee representation: Clinical Examining Board, Scenario Writing Group, Scenario Editorial Committee and Station 5 Vetting group, RCPE College Committee of Examinations, RCPE Consultation Scenarios, Examiner Application or Enhanced Feedback Vetting Groups, RCPE elected or appointed Office Bearer.*

International Chairs

The International Chairs are allocated by the Federation International Team, and the College are notified of the RCPE allocated chairs, prior to commencing the recruitment for international examiner allocations.

Nominations for the RCPE International chair examiner list will be annually reviewed by the Dean of Examinations to ensure that they remain appropriate and in line with examiner compliance and eligibility criteria for international examining.

Honorary Eligibility

The RCPE will allocate honorary eligibility to examine internationally to a very small number of examiners who have a particular case for international activity owing to College business need and a senior role held within the RCPE. Selection on this basis will be at the discretion of the Dean of Examinations. *(It is recognised that some Elected / Appointed Office Bearers and senior roles may have difficulty maintaining levels of UK PACES examining activity due to additional senior College role commitments. They will continue to be considered if they are an active examiner and continue to remain a fully compliant PACES examiner.)*

Allocation

After submission of the availability form, examiners will be allocated cascading through the following groups until all available examiner spaces are allocated. The RCPE Examination Team will liaise with the Dean of Examinations where assistance is required.

Group 1: Honorary Eligibility: These roles will be given priority, taking into consideration the strategic College business need for office bearers in international locations where a scheduled PACES examination is taking place during the examination diet.

Group 2: College Office Bearers, PACES boards and committee representatives: Examiners who meet the eligibility criteria and have not been allocated to examine internationally within the three examination diets prior to the current recruitment diet and are currently in an elected or appointed office bearer role or active member of an examination board, committee or vetting group.

Note: International examiner allocations from groups 1 and 2 should not take up more than 20% of the total spaces available to RCPE in each examination diet.

Group 3: Examiners who meet eligibility and have not had previous experience of international examining will be allocated, where possible, alongside an experienced international examiner (*where RCPE has two examiner spaces available for allocation in the same examination centre*).

Group 4: Examiners who meet the eligibility criteria and have not been allocated to examine internationally within the three examination diets prior to the current recruitment diet, subject to examiner availability and demand for limited available space at each centre.

Group 5: All other examiners who meet the eligibility criteria and have been allocated to examine internationally within one of the three examination diets prior to the current recruitment diet, will be allocated, where possible, subject to examiner availability and demand for limited available space at each centre.

Behaviours

As an ambassadorial role, it is important that examiners representing the RCPE internationally adhere to the Federation's International Examiners' Code of Conduct.

Requests to examine internationally in a specific country or examination centre cannot be taken into consideration for circumstances unrelated to college business, including personal circumstances.

Any communication received by the Examinations Team and deemed by the Dean of Examinations to be unprofessional will result in the examiner being removed from the International Examiners' list and referred for consideration of disciplinary action.