



Physician Associate National Examination

Vacancies: Member of the Physician Associate National Examination Question Paper Review Group

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) is seeking to appoint a number of practising physician associates to the Physician Associate National Examination (PANE) Question Paper Review Group (QPRG). The PANE is developed and delivered by the Assessment Unit on behalf of the RCP, of which the Faculty of Physician Associates is part.

The PANE knowledge-based assessment (KBAs) takes place in three assessment periods annually and consist of 200 single best answer questions, delivered over two papers, each two hours in duration. The KBA is delivered online, enabling candidates to take the assessment at home or in the workplace.

The objectives of the group

The QPRG has the responsibility to ensure that the PANE KBA contain questions that fall within the current [SBA blueprint](#), which is derived from the [Competence and Curriculum Framework for the Physician Assistant¹](#).

Responsibilities

- > Ensuring the overall assessment includes a reasonable balance of clinical presentations
- > Ensuring questions include a good mixture of primary and secondary care settings
- > Reviewing questions within a KBA for clinical relevance
- > Ensuring questions test knowledge in line with current guidelines across all four nations of the United Kingdom
- > Generating the standard setting score for each question²
- > Identifying questions that do not meet the required standards, and referring these for review by the PANE question writing group (QWG)³
- > Advising the QWG on future areas for generation of content.

¹ This will transition across to the relevant blueprint and curriculum for the Physician Associate Registration Assessment (PARA) when GMC registration of the PA profession begins in 2025

² Initial review and standard setting to be done individually prior to the group meeting

³ The QWG meets separately to the QPRG and is responsible for generating and reviewing content.

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. Full training will be provided before a successful applicant's first full meeting.

By getting involved you can shape the future of the PANE KBA.

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.

The tenure of the appointment is three years, with the potential for extension as appropriate, particularly in cases of long-term absence (illness or maternity leave, for example), or to ensure orderly succession planning. Any extensions will be at the discretion of the RCP Assessment Unit.

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

The group currently meet via six half-day meetings a year (one clinical review meeting and one standard setting meeting per assessment period). Meetings are currently held virtually via Microsoft Teams but may periodically be held face-to-face in Liverpool where appropriate.

Criteria

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

- > be in active practise as a Physician Associate
- > have at least 3 years post-qualification experience
- > be registered and in good standing on the PAMVR, or equivalent
- > be up-to-date as appropriate with relevant national guidelines, CPD requirements, employer's equality and diversity training and appraisal process
- > interested in, but not necessarily expert in, medical academic assessments.

How to apply

Applications to join the QPRG, including a CV and one-page covering letter outlining your suitability for the post should be submitted for the attention of Steven Ansty via Assessment.Unit@RCP.ac.uk. As we are looking for several new members to join the QPRG, recruitment will stay open until such time as all posts have been recruited to.

The RCP Assessment Unit reserve the right to withdraw the advertised vacancy without prior notice once the required number of new members have been recruited. Those interested in applying are therefore advised to do so 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.