



Physician Associate Examination Board

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

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) and the Faculty of Physician Associates (FPA) is seeking to appoint a number of individuals to the Physician Associate National Examination Question Paper Review Group (QPRG).

The Physician Associate national certification and recertification examinations (PANE) are developed and delivered by the Assessment Unit on behalf of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP), of which the Faculty of Physician Associates is part. The PA certification written examination currently takes place in three assessment periods annually and consists of a 200 single best answer written examination.

The PA recertification examination currently takes place in three assessment periods annually and consists of a 200 single best answer written examination only.

The objectives of the group

The PANE Written Examination Question Paper Review Group (QPRG) has the responsibility to ensure that the written examination for both the PANE certification and recertification examinations contain questions that fall within the current [SBA blueprint](#), which is derived from the [Competence and Curriculum Framework for the Physician Assistant](#).

Responsibilities

- Ensuring the overall examination includes a reasonable balance of clinical presentations
- Ensuring questions include a good mixture of primary and secondary care settings
- Reviewing questions within a written examination 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 question¹
- Flag questions that do not meet the required standards for review by the PANE question writing group (QWG)²
- Advising the QWG on future areas for generation of content

¹ Initial review and standard setting to be done individually prior to the group meeting

² 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 Physician Associate written examinations.

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. Subject to the agreement of the RCP Education Board, individual tenure may be extended by up to a maximum of two years to ensure orderly succession planning.

To maintain the security and integrity of the PANE, successful applicants who are physician associates will be expected to declare to the RCP Assessment Unit when they enter the beginning of a recertification window and will have their tenure paused until such time as the Assessment Unit has confirmed to them that they have successfully recertified. Tenures will be amended to take any pause into account.

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 but will revert to face-to-face meetings in Liverpool when possible.

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 for the post, 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 by 23:59 on 1 November 2021.

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.