



Physician Associate National Examination

Vacancies: Member of the Physician Associate National Examination Question and Scenario Writing Groups

Background

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) and the Faculty of Physician Associates (FPA) is seeking to appoint individuals to the Physician Associate National Examination Question and Scenarios Writing Groups for its written, clinical and recertification examinations.

The Physician Associate National Certification and Recertification (PANE) examinations are developed and delivered by the Assessment Unit on behalf of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP), of which the FPA is part. The PANE written examination currently takes place in three assessment periods annually and consists of a 200 single best answer written examination, held online. The PANE clinical examination is a 14-station OSCE, which takes place in three assessment periods annually and is held at our recently opened, purpose-built assessment centre in Liverpool.

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

The objectives of the groups

The Question Writing Group (QWG) has the responsibility for generating new questions and reviewing current content for the online written examination for both the certification and recertification examinations. Content should focus on areas within the current [SBA blueprint](#), which is derived from the [Competence and Curriculum Framework for the Physician Assistant](#).

The Scenario Writing Group (SWG) has the responsibility for generating new scenarios and reviewing current content for the PANE OSCE. Content should focus on areas within the current [OSCE blueprint](#), which is also derived from the [Competence and Curriculum Framework for the Physician Assistant](#).

Responsibilities

- Generating new content that is appropriate for the written and clinical examinations¹, in line with the relevant examination blueprint and style guide
- Generating content that include a good mixture of primary and secondary care settings
- Ensuring content flagged for review by the PANE board or PANE Question Paper Review Group remains clinically relevant, amending questions or scenarios as appropriate
- Ensuring questions test knowledge in line with current guidelines across all four nations of the United Kingdom

¹ After observing their first meeting, members would then be expected to submit 10 written questions or one OSCE scenario ahead of each subsequent meeting

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.

By getting involved you can shape the future of the Physician Associate written, clinical and recertification 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. CPD points are available via your membership organisation for each meeting attended.

Appointments will be for a term of three years, subject to satisfactory performance, and renewable after review by the PANE Written Examination Lead and/or PANE Clinical Examination Lead and (in respect of continuing eligibility) by the RCP Assessment Unit².

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

The group currently meet regularly via half-day meetings, conducted virtually. These will revert to face-to-face meetings in Liverpool when possible. Each group meets regularly throughout the year, and members would be expected to attend a minimum of four full days³ over a rolling two-year period.

Criteria

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

- be in active practise as a Physician Associate, or be able to demonstrate substantial experience in working with, training, or supervising the Physician Associate role
- have at least 2 years post-qualification experience
- be registered and in good standing on the Physician Associate Managed Voluntary Register, or equivalent
- be up-to-date as appropriate with relevant national guidelines, CPD requirements, employer's equality and diversity training and appraisal process

Previous experience of writing and reviewing examination content (either written questions or clinical scenarios as appropriate) would also be desirable but is not a mandatory requirement.

How to apply

Individuals are welcome to apply for the QWG, the SWG, or both groups. Applicants should note the anticipated time commitment in terms of attendance before applying.

Applications for the post, including a CV and short statement outlining your suitability for the post should be submitted for the attention of Steven Ansty via Assessment.Unit@RCP.ac.uk. This is an ongoing recruitment process which will be reviewed regularly and may close without prior notice. Those interested in the advertised role(s) are advised to apply 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.

² Decisions on the renewal of membership may be referred to the PANE Senior Examiner where appropriate

³ Via half day virtual meetings, full day in-person meetings or a combination of the two

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.