

The Royal College of Anaesthetists – Primary FRCA OSCE /SOE Examination

APPLICATION INFORMATION SHEET

Completing your form:

- Eligibility:** The detailed rules for eligibility can be found in the College's **Examination Regulations** <http://www.rcoa.ac.uk/document-store/primary-and-final-frca-examinations-regulations> Applicants must read the regulations before completing the application form. A pass in the Primary FRCA MCQ must have been within the last three years. The Irish Primary MCQ does not give exemption from the FRCA Primary MCQ. All applicants must have been awarded the Initial Assessment of Competency in Anaesthesia or equivalent.
- Examination centres:** The Primary OSCE and/or SOE is only held in the Royal College of Anaesthetists.
- Day Preferences:** The exam normally runs from Monday to Friday from the date indicated on the current exams calendar. However, the College reserves the right to shorten or extend this period as necessary. Days are allocated to candidates shortly after the closing date. An applicant's choice cannot be guaranteed. You must give preference for all five days. **Failure to supply more than one choice could result in receiving a non-preference day.**
- Number of attempts/validity:** The number of attempts allowed at the Primary OSCE and/or SOE is limited to six. A pass in the OSCE or SOE will be valid for three years, after which time if the whole examination has not been passed, the relevant section must be taken again.
- Disclosure of Information:** Under the Data Protection Act 1998, the information provided on this form and your examination result may be processed and passed to examiners, your College Tutor, Postgraduate Dean, employer, etc. for legitimate purposes connected with your training. If you are registered or anticipate being registered with the GMC then your personal data, including data about your exam results, will be passed to the GMC for quality assurance and research purposes and to facilitate the awarding of certificates of completion of training (CCTs).
- Supporting Documents:** All applicants must have been awarded the Initial Assessment of Competence in anaesthesia or equivalent. You only need to provide this to the College once, so if this is not your first attempt at this exam you do not need to provide it again. Do not send originals. Photocopies signed by the College Tutor or a supervising anaesthetic consultant and annotated as 'a true copy of the original' should be sent along with the application form. Doctor's who have not been in an UK anaesthetic training programme must provide proof of competence in anaesthesia to a level of UK initial assessment.
- Partial passes:** At the first attempt, the OSCE and SOE must be taken together. Candidates who pass either the OSCE or the SOE but fail the other component, will only need to apply to sit the failed component. Those who fail both components must retake them together.
- Working through the application:** The correct contact information is important, so that we are able to contact you at anytime during the examination process. Ensure you submit all information that is appropriate to you. All applicants are requested to check their current details and the Equal Opportunities section.
- Your confirmation:** By confirming the declaration you are confirming that you have the support of your CT or anaesthetic consultant to sit the exam you are applying for. See note 10.
- Your College Tutor or Consultant's signature is not required:** However Trainees/MTI (IP) applicants will need to have discussed their application with their College Tutor and have their full support to sit this exam. Non- trainees are required to obtain the support of their supervising anaesthetic consultant. You will now declare that you have done this by confirming the declaration.
- Adequately prepared for this exam:** Applications received by the College will be accepted as an indication that you are adequately prepared for the examination applied for.

12. **Examination fee:** The examination fee is set out on the examinations calendar. The cost of the Primary OSCE and SOE for the 2014 – 2015 is £580, OSCE only is £320 and SOE only is £290.
13. **Confirming receipt:** You will receive emails to notify you when your eligibility has been checked for to the exam, and when payment has been processed by PayPal. If you have not heard from us within five working days of you sending your application or the closing date is getting close and you are anxious about your form being received by us, then call the College and speak to a member of the exams team (020 7092 1524/1525).
14. **Waiting lists:** Subject to eligibility there is no waiting list system for UK anaesthetic trainees, those sponsored under IP and Specialty/SAS grade doctors who have previously been in a UK training programme. However, former UK anaesthetic trainees, ACCS/ICM trainees, Irish trainees and all other eligible categories not mentioned above, will only be examined if the College has the capacity to do so. This can only be confirmed after the closing date of the exam applied for. If waiting list candidates are not given a place on the exam then validity dates and TEE dates will be extended accordingly. Fees and applications will be returned.

Withdrawals

15. **Before the closing date:** You can withdraw before the closing date and receive a refund less a £40 admin fee. You must advise the examination dept of your intention to withdraw via email to exams@rcoa.ac.uk. **After the closing date:** You can withdraw after the closing date. This will not count as an attempt. Refunds are not **normally** given after the closing date unless it is a reason beyond your control such as illness or family bereavement. If this is the case then you must contact the exams dept exams@rcoa.ac.uk give the reason and ask your College Tutor to confirm that they support your withdrawal, again by email. Refunds are not given for lack of preparation.

Receiving advice/documentation from the College about your exam entry and results:

16. **Day Allocations:** Once day preferences have been scheduled they will be published on the College website, this usually happens around 5 working days after the closing date.
17. **Admission notice:** You should receive a letter from the College which confirms you are booked onto the exam; your Admission notice, around 5 working days after the closing date. This will state your 'candidate number' a three figure number that is unique to you for this exam only, the timing of your exam, and the address of your exam venue. Please bring your Admission notice with you when you attend the exam. You will be directed to your exam desk by the use of your 'candidate number'.
18. **Results:** You will be given a date and time on which a pass/fail list will be published on the College website. This will be posted on the Primary OSCE/SOE – Results, Allocations and Statistics page: <http://www.rcoa.ac.uk/primary-frca-oscsoe/results-allocations-and-statistics>.
19. A few days after the pass/fail list is published the College will send you your results letter which will confirm your result and provide your MTF raw score, your SBA raw score, your overall raw score and your overall percentage score. No further break down is available.
20. **Guidance:** Guidance interviews are no longer mandatory. A candidate who has failed the OSCE and/or SOE more than once can request a guidance interview, subject to limitation. Paragraph 34 of the exam regulations refer.