

Examinations Development & Assurance Group Independent Chair

The Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA), Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine and the Faculty of Pain Medicine seek an independent Chair for the joint Examinations Development and Assurance Group (EDAG) to provide leadership for the development of exams across our specialties.

The independent Chair will lead the group, working alongside a team of multi-professional experts and examiners to deliver recommendations from our examination review and implement improvements to College and faculty examinations. The EDAG will report to the College and Faculties on developments and changes to the following examinations:

[Fellowship of the Royal College of Anaesthetists \(FRCA\)](#)

[Fellowship of the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine \(FFICM\)](#)

[Fellowship of the Faculty of Pain Medicine \(FFPMRCA\)](#)

All three examinations are managed and supported by the Examinations Department within the RCoA.

Background

The examinations delivered by the RCoA are approved by the General Medical Council for delivery in the UK as part of the wider curricula and training programmes in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine.

Since 2021, two reviews of our examinations have been undertaken, an internal review of the FRCA examination and an independent review of all RCoA delivered exams. Links to these reports are included below.

Like many organisations the College and faculties needed to rapidly change the delivery methods of its examinations during the pandemic. During 2021, two issues occurred with the examinations which pointed to the need to improve processes, technology and suppliers, communication, data, and human factors. From our investigations at the time and the reviews of our examinations, we found other contributing factors that could be adding to the pressure on examination deliveries, and which may impact the utility of the examinations as defined in [Designing and maintaining postgraduate assessment programmes - GMC \(gmc-uk.org\)](#)

Internal Review of FRCA Examinations (2020-2022)

Over the past 18 months, the College conducted a review of the FRCA examination; a summative, nationally standardised assessment in the [training programme](#), integral to patient safety. Focusing on best practice, the review examined the underlying principles, structure and mode of the examination, which had not been fundamentally reviewed in the College for over 10 years.

The report on the [FRCA Internal Examinations Review](#) was published on 11 January 2023.

Independent review of RCoA delivered examinations (2021-2022)

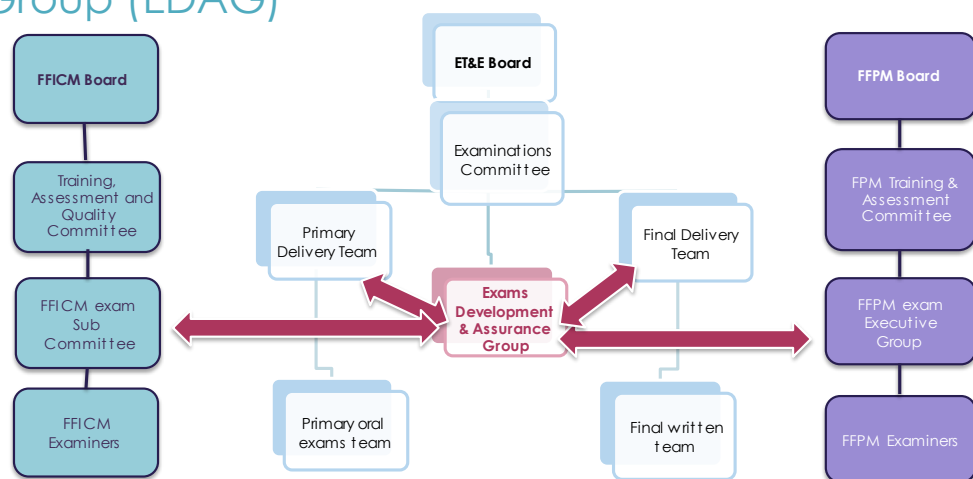
The College commissioned an independent review of the FRCA, FFICM and FPMRCA examinations and the delivery infrastructure for the improved long-term utility and sustainability of the examinations. The review produced a report and a set of recommendations for the three examinations that will need to be prioritised and actioned.

[This report](#) was published on the 16 February 2023 with an executive summary linking both internal and independent reports.

Examinations Development and Assurance Group

The Examinations Development and Assurance Group (EDAG) is a new group within the College and faculties that will oversee the development of the exams and the implementation of recommendations from the two reports. We anticipate that the EDAG will meet on a monthly basis for the first 6-8 months in 2023, and then on a less frequent basis such as quarterly. The governance of the EDAG is illustrated below:

Examinations Development and Assurance Group (EDAG)



*Education, Training and Examinations (ET&E) board

Role of the Chair

The scope of work for the role sought is broad and will cover a range of responsibilities including:

Overall role

- To chair the Examinations Development and Assurance Group (EDAG) and oversee the development of Examinations aligned to the examination reviews and best practice in medical education and assessment. Most of these meetings will be held on MS Teams, however, for any face-to-face meetings, expenses will be reimbursed.

Specific duties and responsibilities

- Chair the EDAG and ensure the effective running of the Group activities and governance
- Ensure collaborative working and learning from across examinations and specialties to achieve best practice in examination/assessment practice
- Act as Education, Training and Examinations (ET&E) Board representative on the College Finance and Resources Board
- Maintain regular contact with the Director of Education, Training and Examinations and the Head of Examinations, including regular briefing meetings with senior officers in the College/ faculties
- Ensure that the voice of doctors in training, candidates, patients, examiners and staff are included within the debates, discussions and decisions around examination development and piloting.

Application process

To apply for this role, please send a CV and supporting statement, which is no more than 2 sides of A4 and addresses the points below, to Fiona Daniels, Head of Examinations, at fdaniels@rcoa.ac.uk

Your supporting statement should make reference to:

1. Relevant knowledge, skills and experience (experience of postgraduate medical assessment in core and higher training level is desirable).
2. Any projects, initiatives and activities associated to improving medical education and assessment.
3. How you will ensure best practice is maintained across our examinations whilst capturing the views of examiners, candidates and Doctors in Training as an integral part of this work.
4. How you will ensure commitment to the role.
5. Leadership capabilities.
6. Availability throughout the course of the year.

The deadline for application is 5pm, Friday, 2 June 2023.

For further information on this role, please email Fiona Daniels, Head of Examinations at fdaniels@rcoa.ac.uk