



FRCS Ophthalmology - Additional Attempt Policy

Introduction

With effect from January 2014, candidates are permitted a maximum of six attempts for each part of the examination. Candidates who have had the maximum number of attempts will not be eligible to enter the examination again unless evidence of additional educational experience is provided.

- Candidates who have had the maximum number of attempts at either Part 1, Part 2 or Part 3 will not be eligible to attempt the examination again unless an application is made and evidence of additional educational experience is provided.
- Candidates can apply for a maximum of one additional attempt at each part of the examination.
- To be considered for an additional attempt, the candidate's Educational Supervisor and Training Programme Director, or equivalents, will be required to confirm that the candidate has demonstrated an improvement in knowledge and skill so that a pass result is highly likely at the next attempt before a further attempt is allowed.

How to apply for the additional attempt

- Discuss your training with your Educational Supervisor (or equivalent) to locate areas of weakness and discuss an educational plan designed to target these weak areas.
- Once additional educational experience has been undertaken, discuss with your educational supervisor (or equivalent) when you should attempt the examination again.
- Download and complete the additional attempt application form from our website.
- Your Educational Supervisor and Training Programme Director (or equivalents) must sign the additional attempt form and provide an official stamp for the hospital/institution of their workplace confirming that you have demonstrated an improvement in knowledge and skill so that a pass result is highly likely at the additional attempt. Your Educational Supervisor must then scan a copy of the form and email it to the College. Please note the form must be emailed from your Educational Supervisor's email address. For more information on this refer to the application form Appendix 1 - guidance notes for Educational Supervisor/Training Programme Director.
 - The definition of an Educational Supervisor is 'A trainer who is selected and appropriately trained to be responsible for the overall supervision and management of a specified trainee's educational progress during a training placement or series of placements.' This person, together with the candidate, should review the candidate's training. If the candidate is not attached to any such trainer, their application can be supported by a consultant (or equivalent) as long as the consultant was part of the process of review and agreement for additional learning.



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- A Training Programme Director may be a UK-specific term and the following definition is provided to help international candidates find a suitable equivalent: 'A Training Programme Director has responsibility for managing specialty training programmes. They take into account the collective needs of the trainees in the programme and provide support for educational supervisors. They contribute to the annual assessment outcome process in the Specialty and ensure that there is a policy for careers management which covers the needs of all trainees in their specialty programmes and posts'. In the absence of an official Training Programme Director it could be a senior medic within the employing hospital who has a role in training and, therefore, would have an understanding of FRCS Ophthalmology and the standards required. This is likely, in the UK, to be someone with the role of Director of Medical Education/Director of Postgraduate Education/Postgraduate Tutor or similar.
- Once the additional attempt form has been received, it will be acknowledged and then processed and verified by the College; this will normally take one calendar month. You will be notified of the outcome once this process is complete.
- Candidates can apply for an exam only once their additional attempt application has been processed and an additional attempt has been granted.
- It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure they have confirmation that the additional attempt is granted **before** they submit their examination application form by the application closing date.
- Candidates who are unsuccessful in passing the examination on their additional attempt will have no further opportunity to sit any part of the examination.