



THE FACULTY OF PATHOLOGY

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

FELLOWSHIP OF THE FACULTY

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO FFPATH, ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

The current criteria for admission to Fellowship of the Faculty of Pathology of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland are as follows:

1. Hold the MRCPATH or be American Board qualified in Anatomic and/or Clinical Pathology.
 - a. or hold a similar qualification from the Australian or Canadian Colleges
 - b. or hold degrees of MD or PhD or have published work of adequate merit, as judged by the Faculty, plus showing evidence of length and breadth of experience in laboratory medicine which is deemed adequate by the Faculty.
2. A period of five years experience in laboratory medicine, four of which should be in a single discipline, to be regarded as a minimum.
3. Evidence in the shape of a curriculum vitae, backed by written confirmation by heads of department, which would confirm the adequacy of the experience outlined above.
4. Candidates must be sponsored by a Fellow of the Faculty of some ten years seniority. A Sponsorship Pro-forma must be completed by this Fellow and attached to application. Candidates who are not known to such a Fellow might produce testimonials of professional capacity and good character from a Fellow in good standing of another College.

Faculty Annual Subscription Rates 2010

Irish Resident: €360. Overseas: €240. Retired: €0

Faculty Subscriptions are tax deductible

Admission to Fellowship - €660

This includes an application fee of €200.

Successful applicants pay the Faculty of Pathology, RCPI Admission to Fellowship Fee: €460

The Faculty of Pathology is the authoritative body for pathology in Ireland. It was established in 1982 as a Faculty within the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and functions as an integral part of the College.

The prime objective of the Faculty is the advancement of pathology. This is achieved through:

- promotion of education and research
- setting standards in training
- promotion of life-long learning through encouraging and recording continuing education
- developing structures to assure the public of the competence of pathologists
- safeguarding the quality of the pathology service
- interacting with national bodies to seek adequate staffing and resources for the practice of pathology



Fellowship of the Faculty of Pathology (FFPath) is recognised by the Medical Council as a registerable qualification.

The Faculty is the legally designated body to assess training of pathologists for entry to the Specialist Register of the Medical Council; it also nominates a member to the Council. National, international and government agencies can consult the Faculty as an authoritative body on pathology matters.

INTERNATIONAL

The Faculty liaises with other pathology bodies. It is represented on UEMS, the Union of European Medical Specialists, in pathology (histopathology) and biopathology (clinical chemistry, haematology, immunology, microbiology). The Dean attends the international liaison committee of pathologists (composed of the heads of the major pathology organisations of the US, UK and Australia) and is an observer at Council of the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPath) and the Northern Ireland Regional Council of RCPath. Representatives from RCPath and the Northern Ireland Council attend the Faculty Board. The Faculty is associated with the World Association of Societies of Pathology.

NATIONAL

In Ireland the Faculty has close links with the Association of Clinical Microbiologists and the Haematology Association of Ireland. It liaises with the Association of Clinical Cytologists, Irish Society of Neuropathology, Association of Clinical Pathology (Irish Branch), Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland (Section of Pathology), Academy of Medical Laboratory Science and Association of Clinical Biochemistry.

RECOGNISED SPECIALITIES

The Faculty includes the recognised specialities of clinical chemistry, haematology, histopathology, immunology, microbiology and neuropathology. It is composed of Fellows from these disciplines who elect a Board and a Dean. The Board (and 2 sub committees - (i) Education and Training, and (ii) Finance and General Purposes) meets 5 times a year. The histopathology sub-committee meets 4 times. The 4-member board executive meets between Board meetings.

ACTIVITIES

- **Training:** developing curricula, appointing Specialist Registrars and inspecting and approving hospitals and training programmes in the national Specialist Registrar training programmes (in conjunction with Irish Committee for Higher Medical Training).
- **Assessment:** assessing training for entry to the Specialist Register, and for Fellowship.
- **Continuing Medical Education:** approval of meetings for credits and recording credits for Fellows (through the Education Committee of RCPI).
- **Competence Assurance Structures:** development of structures in pathology (in conjunction with the Medical Council).
- **Representation:** some of the organisations where the Faculty has representatives:
 - Coroner's Review Committee
 - Comhairle na nOspideal
 - EA Healthcare Committee
 - National Cancer Registry
 - National Cervical Screening Committee
 - National Immunisation Advisory Committee National Standards Association
 - Health Protection Surveillance Centre – various committees
 - Medical Council
 - Medical Stakeholders Group
 - National Task Force on Sudden Cardiac Death
 - Safefood Scientific Advisory Committee
 - UEMS Biopathologies Commission
- **Interaction with National Bodies:** in addition to correspondence with a large number of bodies, the Faculty has had meetings with Department of Health and Children, Health Service Executive (Hospitals Office), Health Service Executive Employer's Agency, Irish National Accreditation Board, Inquiries (Dunne, Madden, Neary), Committees on European Blood Directive, and Tissue Directive, Opposition Health spokespersons, Comhairle na nOspideal, Irish Quality Assurance Scheme (IEQAS), Postgraduate Medical and Dental Board.

The Faculty of Pathology

The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

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