

Part 2 FRCOphth Eligibility Updated January 2016

Introduction

To date candidates who have passed MRCOphth Part 2 or Part 3 and MRCSEd Part 2 or Part 3 within defined dates have been eligible to sit the Part 2 FRCOphth, specifically:

“b) has passed the Part 2 Membership of The Royal College of Ophthalmologists (MRCOphth) by examination at a date later than 1 January 1997;

or

c) obtained Membership of The Royal College of Ophthalmologists (MRCOphth) by examination at a date between 1 January 1997 and 30 September 2008;

or

d) has passed the Part 2 Membership of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (MRCSEd) by examination at a date between 1 January 1997 and 31 August 2008;*

or

e) obtained Membership of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (MRCSEd) by examination at a date between 1 January 1997 and 31 August 2008;*”

The GMC’s direction of travel with regard to professional qualifications is towards only accepting qualifications which are part of the current GMC approved curriculum and assessment system for the purposes of CCT.

The Examinations Committee reviewed the examinations history of trainees in Ophthalmic Specialist Training in order to identify how many could be affected by a change in eligibility. Less than ten trainees were found to just have MRCOphth Part 2 or 3 or MRCSEd Part 2 or 3.

Changes to eligibility and transitional period

In order to bring the FRCOphth Part 2 eligibility in line with GMC expectations, the Examinations Committee has agreed the following:

1. From 31 August 2017, eligibility to sit the Part 2 FRCOphth will be restricted to a pass in both the Part 1 FRCOphth and the Refraction Certificate. All other eligibility routes will cease.
2. Candidates who hold MRCOphth Part 2 or 3 or MRCSEd Part 2 or 3 must make at least one attempt at the Part 2 FRCOphth Written examination BEFORE 31 August 2017. Candidates who have made an attempt at the Part 2 Written will maintain eligibility to sit both parts of the Part 2 FRCOphth.
3. Candidates who hold MRCOphth Part 2 or 3 or MRCSEd Part 2 or 3 who do not attempt Part 2 before 31 August 2017 will no longer be eligible to do so, unless they pass the Part 1 FRCOphth and the Refraction Certificate.