**Part 2 FRCOphth Oral Examination Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

PART 2 FRCOPHTH ORAL

1. I am a doctor practising overseas, can I sit the College’s examinations or do I need to have completed a period of training in the UK?

Eligibility to sit the College’s examinations is not restricted to UK trainees. There is no minimum ophthalmic training requirement to sit the College exams. However, candidates are unlikely to pass the Refraction Certificate without extensive practise and experience of refracting patients.

2. I am a doctor practising overseas, does achieving the FRCOphth give me an automatic right to work in the UK?

Having FRCOphth does not mean an automatic right to come and work in the UK. However, the GMC recognises the FRCOphth for GMC registration purposes, which can lead to the possibility of working in the UK.

3. Would you be able to advise me on the format of the Part 2 FRCOphth Oral exam?

The Part 2 FRCOphth Oral examination consists of two assessment formats:  
Structured Viva and  
Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE)

The Part 2 FRCOphth Written and Oral examinations are synoptic examinations that cover all areas of RCOphth Ophthalmic Specialist Training (OST) Curriculum. Those areas of the curriculum where workplace based assessment has been used as continuous assessment throughout training are less likely to feature in the written parts of the examination but may be assessed in the structured viva and objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE).

4. What happens if I do not pass an exam within the specified time of my training programme?

If a trainee does not pass an examination within the required time frame, it will be a matter for the local Deanery and ARCP panel to determine whether it is appropriate to offer the trainee additional training time, and a further re-sit, before progression through specialty training can proceed. In some cases, this may unfortunately mean the trainee being counselled out of the specialty.

5. I am a new trainee and just about to start year 1 of specialty training (ST1). Do I need to pass my Part 2 Oral examination by a certain point in training?

This examination is open to candidates who have passed the Part 2 FRCOphth Written Examination after August 2014 and is an exit level assessment. There is no specific training requirement but candidates are unlikely to successfully complete this examination without a significant period of training in ophthalmology.

For candidates in OST, success in this examination reflects an ophthalmologist who is suitable for recommendation for a CCT when taken with other evidence, such as completion of training (RITA G/ARCP 6). It is therefore taken towards the end of training and trainees are required to pass this examination by the end of year **seven**of ophthalmic specialist training. If these deadlines are not met then it will not be possible to progress with training and the individual will, almost certainly, leave the training programme.

The Part 2 FRCOphth must be passed before the General Medical Council will award a CCT. In order to be considered for a CCT, the exam must be passed while still in a training post and candidates should not leave training or give up a training number before passing the exam. If the exam is passed when not in a recognised training post, the candidate must apply for a Certificate of Equivalence for the Specialist Register (CESR), under Article 14.

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7. Is there a limit of the number of times I can sit each exam?

From August 2014, candidates are permitted a maximum of **four**attempts to pass the Part 2 FRCOphth Oral Examination.

8. If I pass College examinations outside a training post, can these then be counted towards the requirements for my CCT? Regarding the GMC statement on taking exams whilst in a “training post”, does this include being on an OOPE?

An examination can be taken before the candidate enters the relevant GMC approved training programme or when they are on a break in the programme. The pass will be considered current as long as the candidate enters or re-enters the programme within seven years of passing the examination and satisfies any other currency requirements. A pass in an examination taken after completing a run-through or higher training programme will not be acceptable for a certificate of completion of training. In that situation, doctors may be able to demonstrate equivalence via the CESR or CEGPR process.

With regard to being on an OOPE, a training post is considered to be a post that has been approved by the GMC for training. In order for this post to be valid for YOUR training then you must have approval from the College and Deanery to undertake this as part of your training. Some OOPEs may not fulfil these criteria eg post CCT Fellowships, research OOPEs, educational OOPEs – and it is important that you ensure that you have confirmed that when you apply for a post that you confirm that it is a valid training post recognised for YOUR training. This also applies to those who are in a LAT post. Applications for training approval must be prospective.

9. Does success in the exams exempt me from any work-based assessments?

No, the assessment system for those in OST is mapped to the curriculum and this consists of both WpBAs and examinations which complement each other.

10. I am in a LAT post at the moment, what routes to Fellowship (FRCOphth) are open to me?

Doctors who do not hold a substantive training post, but have successfully passed the Part 1 FRCOphth and Refraction Certificate remain eligible to sit the Part 2 FRCOphth as a route to obtaining Fellowship of the College.

11. I am a specialty doctor wanting to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) via Article 14. Can I sit the FRCOphth Part 2? And will this help my application?

In order to sit the Part 2 FRCOphth Written Examination you must have passed Part 1 FRCOphth and the Refraction Certificate. If you fulfil these criteria then you are allowed to sit the Part 2 FRCOphth Written Examination from a specialty doctor post. Candidates must pass the Part 2 FRCOphth Written Examination after August 2014 in order to be eligible to sit the Part 2 FRCOphth Oral Examination.  Success in Part 2 FRCOphth Oral examination confers the award of Fellowship (FRCOphth).  This will provide valuable evidence of competency against the OST curriculum which will count towards your CESR application.

12. When did the Royal College of Ophthalmologists cease running the old style MRCOphth examinations and start the new style FRCOphth examinations?

The last Part 1 MRCOphth was sat in October 2006, the last Part 2 MRCOphth was held in November 2008 and the last Part 3 MRCOphth was held in September 2008.  
The new Part 1 FRCOphth commenced in October 2006. The Refraction Certificate commenced in July 2007 and the first Part 2 FRCOphth was held in October 2008.

13. I have passed the Part 2 MRCOphth, which examinations can I now take?

As of 31 August 2017, Part 2 MRCOphth no longer grants eligibility for the Part 2 FRCOphth Written examination.

14. Is the MRCOphth equivalent to FRCOphth? And if not, where does the MRCOphth stand?

The Part 2 FRCOphth is an exit level qualification for Ophthalmic Specialist Training and as such assesses knowledge and competencies at a high level. It is recommended that candidates have completed a minimum of 4 years training in ophthalmology before sitting this examination (whereas candidates for the Part 3 MRCOphth needed to have completed 18 months).  
These are therefore not equivalent examinations of ophthalmic knowledge. However, the assessment of clinical skills in the both OSCEs assesses the ability of candidates to reliably elicit clinical signs at a competent level.

15. I have MRCOphth but I am not currently employed as I am still trying to get a number after being a LAT. Am I required to complete another examination?

MRCOphth is no longer an acceptable qualification for entry to OST3 (as of 2016).  If you wish to apply for specialty training at ST3 level you will need to pass the Part 1 FRCOphth.

16. I have passed the International Council of Ophthalmology examinations. Am I exempt from any part of the FRCOphth examinations?

The College does not offer exemptions to candidates who hold ICO examinations.

17. I am a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, am I eligible to sit the Part 2 FRCOphth examination?

The College does not offer exemptions to candidates who hold FRCS (Glasgow). In order to obtain FRCOphth, you must pass all the College’s Fellowship examinations (Part 1 FRCOphth, the Refraction Certificate and the Part 2 FRCOphth).

18. I possess examinations or qualifications from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, am I eligible to sit College examinations?

Candidates possessing any qualification from the RCSEd are no longer eligible for the Part 2 FRCOphth.   Any candidates holding RCSEd qualifications will need to pass the Part 1 FRCOphth and Refraction Certificate in order to progress to the Part 2 FRCOphth.

19. What should I bring to the exams?

You must bring Government-issued photographic identification for verification to all College examinations.

Candidates may bring their own clinical equipment to an examination, if desired, however all items must be contained within a clear plastic pencil case or plastic bag.