



FRCS Ophthalmology – Parts 1, 2 and 3

Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to frequently-asked questions regarding this examination are given below. We hope this information will provide the details you require. The Regulations for the examination are available on our website at www.rcpsg.ac.uk.

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1. What is the format of the examination?

There are three parts to the FRCS examination – Parts 1, 2 and 3.

Part 1 and **Part 2** are written examinations. The **Part 1** paper has 160 MCQ questions and is 2 hours in duration. The **Part 2** paper has 180 MCQ questions and is 2.5 hours in duration and will contain medical emergency questions.

Part 3 consists of structured oral and clinical examinations. Please refer to the examination **Regulations** document on our website for full details.

2. Am I eligible for this examination?

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria by the closing date for applications of the diet they wish to apply for. No variation to the criteria below will be accepted.

Part 1

Completion of the following:

- Primary medical qualification
- One-year internship
- One-year clinical experience in any field

Part 2

Completion of the following:

- FRCS Part 1 pass or exemption from this examination
- Primary medical qualification
- One-year internship
- 5 years' clinical experience of which 54 months must be in clinical ophthalmology

Part 3

Completion of the following:

- FRCS Part 1 or have an exemption from this examination
- FRCS Part 2 or have an exemption from this examination and meet the clinical experience requirements of the Part 2 examination

Full details of the eligibility criteria can be found in the regulations.

3. What exemptions are available?

The list of exemptions is available on the college website for the Part 1 and Part 2. No other qualifications will be accepted for exemption. There is no exemption from the Part 3.



4. How often will the examinations take place?

The **Part 1** and **Part 2** examinations are normally held twice each year and the **Part 3** examination is normally held seven times each year. As future dates and centres are confirmed they will appear on our website.

Part 3 is currently closed for new applications. When applications open we will publish information on the next available diet

5. Where will the examinations be held?

The **Part 1** and **Part 2** will be delivered online.

The **Part 3** examination will be held both in the UK and at a number of international centres.

6. Can I apply to sit Part 1 and Part 2 at the same time?

No, you must pass **Part 1** or have an exemption from it before applying for **Part 2**.

7. Can I sit the FRCS 2 even if I have an exemption from this examination?

Yes, you can sit the FRCS 2 if you have an exemption from the examination and if successful you would be awarded the MRCS (Ophth)

8. Am I eligible for the award of MRCS (Ophth)?

The award of MRCS (Ophth) will be awarded to candidates who can comply with the following:

- have completed the FRCS Part 1 or have exemption from it
and
- have passed the FRCS Part 2 (MCQ and PS papers) or (PS paper alone if exemption from MCQ) pre-June 2021
or
- have passed the FRCS Part 2 MCQ paper post June 2021

Applicants wishing to apply for MRCS who have already passed the FRCS Part 2 should contact membership@rcpsg.ac.uk

Candidates who pass Part 2 from June 2021 will have their name automatically passed to Membership who will send details of how to join.



9. What are the benefits of membership?

Please see the link below to the membership benefits.

<https://rcpsg.ac.uk/surgeons/membership-benefits>

10. Is the MRCS (Ophth) recognised by the GMC?

MRCS(Ophth) is not recognised by the GMC, however FRCS(Ophth) is recognised by the GMC.

11. Where will I find the syllabus?

This information is available in the Regulations on our website.

12. What are the examination fees?

The current examination fees can be found on our website.

13. Any other questions?

We hope we have answered your questions in this and other documents on our website. However, if you are still in doubt please contact us:

Contact e-mail addresses

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Membership membershp@rcpsg.ac.uk

Examinations Unit

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