About the RCOG

Founded in 1929, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists exists to champion the best in women’s health care and to support doctors to achieve excellence in the practice of obstetrics and gynaecology.

With 12,500 members, with around half practicing in over 100 countries around the world, our focus is the development and sharing of standards in postgraduate medical education and clinical practice. We also provide a wide range of support services to help our clinicians deliver the very best in women’s health care, including:

• clinical standards development and advice
• curriculum development tailored to local needs
• professional membership including Fellows, Members, Associates and registered Trainees
• qualifications and training to increase knowledge, skills and assure competence
• evidence-based guidelines which support professional development
• top-class events and networking opportunities
• access to a wealth of resources, insights, commentary and analysis.

Share our vision and become a recognised beacon of excellence across the world for women’s health care. Within only five to ten years you could have a new group of highly qualified MRCOG doctors and a faculty of RCOG accredited senior trainers and examiners working closely with the RCOG as Associate members. Together lets be celebrated for providing excellent health care for women and world-class curriculum for your specialist O&G trainees.

Dr David Richmond FRCOG
RCOG President
2013-2016
MRCOG Examination

The RCOG’s membership examination is the gold standard qualification for obstetricians and gynaecologists, which is recognised internationally.

Our competency-based curriculum is the approved pathway for doctors on their journey to independent O&G practice in the UK and is highly regarded and popular globally.

- Over 5000 candidates sit our Part 1 and Part 2 MRCOG examinations each year
- Over two-thirds of candidates sit the examination outside the UK
- We run 31 examination centres across the rest of the world
- More than 1600 UK GP candidates sit the DRCOG (Diploma) examination each year

Our market leading examinations are in high demand around the world and RCOG is a global player and highly experienced partner in the advancement of excellence in O&G practice.

We have the knowledge and commitment to develop new centres, and the College appreciates the opportunity of working with our O&G colleagues to share expertise for the benefit of women’s health care and the growth of the O&G profession.

Proposal for You

This proposal represents a sustainable, long-term commitment to developing the MRCOG examination, known as the RCOG Educational Excellence Programme (REEP), the College has prepared a three stage programme to support candidates sitting the exam and senior doctors teaching, training and coaching prospective candidates to achieve Membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Stage One: Preparing candidates for Part 1 MRCOG exam

Part 1 MRCOG Preparation Course, October 2013
Part 1 MRCOG Revision Course, January 2014
Part 1 MRCOG Examination, March 2014

Part 1 MRCOG Preparation Course, year 1

This 4-day course is an introduction to the Part 1 MRCOG exam; our comprehensive programme of lectures covers all components of the exam. Delivered by experienced lecturers the talks are tailored to address the exam syllabus. There is coverage of typical exam questions with daily practice papers plus general advice about preparing for and taking the exam.

Who should attend:
Minimum 20 candidates sitting the Part 1 MRCOG examination
Up to 10 senior doctors who would like to be involved in teaching using the RCOG’s proven approach

Requirements and benefits

The RCOG’s contribution:
- 3 RCOG experienced examiners to conduct the course
- Prepare course programme and mock examination papers
- Prepare course material for candidates
- RCOG certification of attendance for delegates and teaching faculty
- Provide electronic marketing material

During this course we invite up to 10 local senior doctors to learn about the Part 1 MRCOG exam syllabus and how to support and coach candidates preparing for their exam. Prior to the course, the RCOG would hold a ‘Training the Trainers’ workshop, on how to organise an RCOG Part 1 MRCOG Revision Course.
Part 1 MRCOG Revision Course, commence from years 1-2

This 3-day course is the final preparation before candidates sit the Part 1 MRCOG exam. This programme refreshes candidates on all components of the exam syllabus, which were delivered in the preparatory course. There is extensive, daily, exposure to typical exam questions with practice multiple choice question (MCQ) sessions plus top tips and techniques for taking the exam.

Who should attend:
Minimum 20 candidates sitting the Part 1 MRCOG examination

Requirements and benefits

The RCOG’s contribution:
• Provide 2 RCOG experienced examiners to conduct the course
• Prepare course programme and course material for candidates
• RCOG certification of attendance for delegates and teaching faculty
• Provide electronic marketing material

Your contribution:
• Marketing and publicity for the course
• Recruitment of 20 candidates
• Local administration (enrollment of candidates, course registration, course preparation)
• Venue (lecture hall, AV equipment and catering)
• Identify local faculty to teach on the course
• Cover cost of flights, visa and accommodation for 2 UK faculty
• Accommodation for 2 UK faculty for 4 nights
• Cover all local expenses for UK faculty
• Agree to the financial arrangements of the RCOG franchising policy (see appendix A)

Enhanced Revision Programme, commence from years 3-4

This 15-week programme is mapped to the syllabus of the membership examination. It guides candidates through key themes, which give them an insight into clinical practice in the UK to improve the chance of success in the Part 2 MRCOG examination. The Enhanced Revision Programme includes:

• Series of online lectures for pre, during and post learning
• Weekly 1-hour online classroom session with a UK moderator teaching up to 10 candidates
• Regular ‘homework’ assignments and individual feedback from the UK moderator
• List of other supporting materials including StratOG, booklist and TOG articles
• Concludes with a 3-day Part 2 MRCOG Revision Course at your local centre

Who should attend:
Candidates registered to sit the Part 2 MRCOG examination
Maximum 10 candidates per classroom; number of classrooms subject to demand

Requirements and benefits

The RCOG’s contribution:
• 3 RCOG UK faculty (per classroom) conducting the 15-week online classroom programme
• Prepare course programme, material and homework for candidates
• RCOG certification of attendance for delegates and teaching faculty
• Provide electronic marketing material

Stage Two: Preparing candidates for Part 2 MRCOG Exam

Stage two is preparing successful Part 1 MRCOG candidates for the Part 2 MRCOG exam. The RCOG does not set a minimum required interval for candidates sitting the Part 2 MRCOG exam after having passed the Part 1 MRCOG. Stage two would commence when a minimum of 10 candidates have successfully passed the Part 1 MRCOG.

Part 2 MRCOG Examination

Candidates must pass the Part 2 MRCOG examination within five years of passing the Part 1 MRCOG examination. After this time, candidates will need to be re-examined in Part 1 MRCOG in order to sit Part 2 MRCOG examination again. The RCOG recommends that candidates should allow at least one-year study period towards the Part 2 MRCOG examination and four years clinical experience.
Your contribution:
• Marketing and publicity for the course
• Recruitment of 10 candidates per classroom
• Local administration (enrollment of candidates, course preparation)
• 1 or 2 local consultants (to support the UK faculty during the 15-week online classroom)
• Agree to the financial arrangements of the RCOG franchising policy (see appendix A)

**Part 2 MRCOG Revision Course, commence from years 3-4**

This course focuses on exam techniques, practice papers and offers an insight into the practice of O&G within the UK National Health Service, which is essential knowledge to achieve success in the examination. Candidates going on this course must be “exam-ready” in their knowledge, skills and competencies.

This course covers both elements of the exam; candidates will undertake various practice papers for the written exam in the morning and sit a mock OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) exam in the afternoon. The OSCE circuit comprises of 10 stations, 2 preparatory and 8 active, just like the exam. Candidates will participate in two mock OSCE circuits, once as the candidate and once as an observer. The course is limited to 20 candidates so that all candidates practice OSCE experience and have individual feedback.

Candidates will practice up to:
• 6 short answer questions (SAQs)
• 60 extended matching questions (EMQs)
• 100 multiple choice questions (MCQs)
• 2 OSCE circuits (once as candidate and once as observer)

Who should attend:
Maximum 20 candidates sitting the Part 2 MRCOG examination

Requirements and benefits

The RCOG’s contribution:
• 2 RCOG experienced examiners to conduct the course
• Prepare course programme and course material for candidates
• RCOG certification of attendance for delegates and teaching faculty
• Provide electronic marketing material

Your contribution:
• Marketing and publicity for the course
• Recruitment of 20 candidates
• Local administration (enrollment of candidates, course registration, course preparation)
• Venue (lecture hall, one breakout room, AV equipment and catering)
• Cover cost of flights, visa and accommodation for UK faculty
• Accommodation for 2 faculty for 4 nights
• Cover all local expenses for UK faculty
• Agree to the financial arrangements of the RCOG franchising policy (see appendix A)

Supplementary RCOG resources for candidates

The RCOG provide a host of supplementary material to complement the courses.

**Trainees' Register**

Joining the Trainees’ Register helps you prepare for the final exam hurdle... the Part 2 MRCOG exam. The register includes:

**Free access to StratOG, the RCOG’s online learning resource**
• 95 Core Training eTutorials covering UK specific topics specially developed by the RCOG to aid your preparation for the Part 2 MRCOG examination
• Over 5000 official RCOG practice EMQs and MCQs
• Dynamic resource constantly being updated

**Quarterly mailing of internationally respected The Obstetrician and Gynaecologist (TOG) Journal**
• Regular features: expert reviews, educational articles, clinical governance papers, tips and techniques and UK Obstetric Surveillance System (UKOSS) updates
• Access back issues online

**Revision textbooks**

The RCOG, working in partnership with Cambridge University Press, offers a variety of revision textbooks to help candidates prepare for their exams. The range includes books covering the Part 1 and Part 2 MRCOG curriculum, as well as books of sample questions to allow candidates to test their knowledge and become accustomed to the question formats used in the exams. Registered Trainees get 20% discount on over 30,000 Cambridge Press academic titles.

**Examination SBAs**

The Single Best Answer (SBA) online resource gives candidates the opportunity to practice tackling SBAs for the Part 1 MRCOG. The resource contains 218 SBA questions, and is proving to be an invaluable revision tool for the Part 1 MRCOG examination.

**RCOG Guidelines**

RCOG produces a range of world-famous clinical guidelines, Scientific Impact Papers, Consent documents, Reports and Clinical Governance Advice. They:
• are systematically developed
• form the basis for many RCOG exam questions
• provide clear recommendations assisting both clinicians and patients in making decisions about appropriate treatment for specific conditions
• over 100 guidelines in total
• can be adapted for local needs and practice
• are widely used all over the world
• can be downloaded for free at www.rcog.org.uk/guidelines
Stage Three: Training the Trainers

Our Training the Trainers programme is designed for senior doctors who would like to be RCOG Accredited Examiners. This programme includes attending courses, teaching on revision courses and coaching prospective candidates to obtain Membership of the RCOG.

Key Contacts at the RCOG

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Training the Trainers Course, commence from year 2

This 3-day interactive, small group course is essential for all clinical trainers. The course will equip senior doctors with the skills to enhance your teaching sessions and you will gain:

- Understanding of modern methods of teaching and assessment
- What is in the RCOG core curriculum
- How to carry out workplace-based assessments

Who should attend:
Minimum 18 local consultant who would like to be involved in teaching MRCOG examination

Requirements and benefits

The RCOG’s contribution:
- 3 RCOG faculty to conduct the Training the Trainers Course
- Prepare course programme and course material for consultants
- RCOG certification of training for delegates
- Provide electronic marketing material

Your contribution:
- Marketing and publicity of the course
- Recruitment of 18 consultants
- Local administration (enrollment of consultants, on day registration, course preparation)
- Venue (lecture hall, one breakout room, AV equipment and catering)
- Accommodation for 3 faculty for 4 nights
- Fund the flights and visa for RCOG faculty (funding opportunities may be available subject to local circumstances. For further details contact the RCOG)
- Cover all local expenses for UK faculty
- Agree to the financial arrangements of the RCOG franchising policy (see appendix A)

Training the Examiners Course

This programme is delivered by senior Fellows and Members and includes topical presentations regarding specialty training and the curriculum. Practical training is provided by means of question-writing workshops and attendees will also participate in standard-setting exercises, essay marking and a series of exercises and discussions relative to the oral assessment.

Who should attend:
5 consultants to travel to the UK who have completed Training the Trainers course and conducted both Part 1 and Part 2 MRCOG Revision Courses

Requirements and benefits

The RCOG’s contribution:
- Training the Examiners course at the RCOG, London
- Prepare course programme and course material for senior doctors
- RCOG provides complimentary accommodation at the Domus (our own in house hotel) for 5 senior doctors for 3 nights
- RCOG certification of examiners training
- We would encourage the senior doctors who attend our Training the Examiners programme to become Associate members of the College for an annual fee of only £50 per annum

Your contribution:
- Arrange own flights to UK

Key Contacts at the RCOG

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Appendix A:
Policy for franchising RCOG educational courses

Individuals and organisations wishing to hold RCOG-branded courses will now be able to apply to the RCOG for permission to do so. The necessary information to run these courses will be included in an Application Pack, which will be supplied on request to the RCOG Meetings team.

Once completed, the application to hold an RCOG-approved course will be assessed by the Meetings team, with appropriate input from other RCOG departments as necessary. The Honorary Treasurer is the Officer of the RCOG with overall responsibility for franchising courses.

Principles

• All courses must be based on the relevant RCOG Curriculum at the appropriate level.
• The franchised organisation, course content and method of delivery must be approved in advance by the RCOG.
• The course faculty must consist of RCOG Fellows/Members or Trainers approved by the RCOG.
• The RCOG will supply course certificates to the delegates who have attended and all delegates will be required to complete the RCOG feedback questionnaire, which will be sent directly back to the RCOG.
• All course materials and documentation to run the course will be provided by the RCOG.
• The franchised organisation will be entitled to use RCOG ‘branding’ for the course.
• The RCOG will initially inspect courses to ensure adherence to the required standard.
• RCOG franchised courses may advertise free of charge in specific RCOG marketing resources, both online and in print.
• It is suggested that twenty percent of the delegate fee will be paid to the RCOG by the Course Convenor, to support the quality assurance process. Alternative funding arrangements may be possible, depending on circumstances and requirements. Applicants should contact the Meetings team or the Honorary Treasurer.

Organisation of UK and International courses

The following is applicable to all courses, including Basic Practical Skills, Theoretical Courses for Advanced Training Skills Modules and Part 1 and 2 MRCOG Revision Courses.

Convenor

• The Convenor is the person who organises the course and is responsible for its running. He/She will choose the course leads and advise on faculty.
• The Convenor bears the ultimate responsibility to ensure RCOG policies are met, guidelines are followed and revenue is collected and sent to the RCOG.
• The Convenor will be chosen primarily from UK Fellows and Members, though Fellows and Members outside the UK should be encouraged to become course leads and ultimately convenors.
Course Leads

- The Course Lead should be an experienced teacher/trainer who has taught on several teaching/training courses. CVs may be required.
- Each Course Lead would be responsible for organising and teaching on at least one course held at the RCOG and a minimum of one other course held in their local area.

Trainers

- The Trainers will be recruited by course leads and will be required to teach a minimum of one course held in their local area and participate at course held at the RCOG if required.

**RCOG Courses Held Internationally**

- International courses should follow UK programmes.
- One or occasionally two Convenors/Course Leads should initially attend each international course to establish a group of Trainers and offer advice on preferred methods for course delivery.

International Faculty and convenors will be ‘created’ by:

- Running international courses under supervision/assessment by the appropriate UK Convenor/Course Lead.
- It may be possible in certain circumstances for the RCOG to partially fund travel expenses of UK Convenors/ Course Leads who will initially run the international course.
- Alternatively international Course Leads will have the opportunity to apply for funding, in the form of travel expenses, to attend a “Training the Trainers” course to be held at the RCOG.

In time, local people, Fellows and Members, will run local RCOG courses.

Where there are concerns about a course, its organiser may be asked to participate in an RCOG course in the UK.

**Guidelines for running courses**

Curriculum

Courses must be based on the current RCOG curricula and examinations syllabi, as detailed on the RCOG website.

Host organisation and venue

Organisations wishing to run RCOG franchised courses should complete the RCOG course application pack giving full details of the proposed course, venue, faculty and contacts.

Trainers

The convenor and course lead must approve all trainers for RCOG franchised courses. A full list of teachers and trainers running the course should be submitted with the application.

It is important that UK convenors and course leads should teach at least one course per year which is held at the RCOG, to keep up to date with any developments.

An RCOG inspector may attend a course periodically to ensure that standards are maintained. If feedback indicates that a course is not delivered to standard, the College is eligible to attend and evaluate the course in question.

**The Course Package**

Once an organisation/hospital has been approved a course pack will be provided with the following information:

**Branding**

Branding includes use of all RCOG templates and the words ‘RCOG’ in the course title. Course certificates will be issued by the RCOG.

**Course materials**

Course materials, such as participant manuals, will be provided by RCOG either in print or as electronic files, so that local printing arrangements can be made, if preferred. The cost of materials will be included in the delegate fee. All material is RCOG copyright protected and should be used only for the duration of the organised course. All convenors will be expected to sign a statement adhering to the RCOG terms and conditions of copyright. Improper use of RCOG course materials without application will be investigated by RCOG.

**Training materials**

Complete CD-ROM with lecture presentations, videos and additional course requirements will be provided.

**Marketing**

RCOG franchised courses will be entitled to use specified College marketing opportunities at no charge. The advert will include date, venue, course leader and administrative contact free of charge on a selection of RCOG marketing resources, both online and in print. Should extra words and display advertisements be required, these maybe charged at an agreed rate.

**Booking arrangements**

The convenors will be expected to inform the RCOG of the minimum number of delegates attending each course. Appropriate payment must be made 8 weeks prior to the course. Payment for additional delegates can be made to the RCOG following the course and all certificates will be issued following full payment for the course. If you do not reach your minimum numbers by the above deadline, then you will need to consider cancelling the course.
Share Our Vision

Within 10 years you can be a beacon across the world for women’s health care. With a new group of highly qualified MRCOG doctors and a local faculty of RCOG Associate members accredited as senior trainers and examiners working closely with the RCOG, you could be celebrated for providing excellent health care for women, while delivering world-class curriculum for your specialist O&G trainees.