**Spring 2020 deferral FAQs**

The Examinations Department has received a number of queries with regard to this decision and we aim to cover the most frequently asked questions below. If you have a query with regard to your examination that falls outside these, please contact exams@rcpath.org.

**Which examinations does this decision affect?**

This affects **all** FRCPath Part 1 and 2, Certificate and Diploma examinations scheduled for Spring 2020 along with the both sittings of the Stage A examination in Histopathology, the first sitting of the Stage A examination in Chemical Pathology and the June BMS Stage A Reporting Examination.

**Why has this decision been made?**

We have considered a number of alternatives but felt that in the long term a full deferral of all examinations was the most appropriate way forward in order to ensure candidate and examiner wellbeing and to ensure that services to patients are maintained. We were also keen to ensure as much notice as possible of the deferment.

**I am in a UK training programme, how will this affect my progression through training?**

Guidance will be provided with regard to this in due course following consultation with external stakeholders to ensure that all trainees are guided appropriately at this time. For medical trainees, we will also be working closely with the General Medical Council on the guidance.

**When will the new dates for the examinations be released?**

There will be no College examinations taking place before September 2020. Where feasible, the Spring and Autumn sittings of examinations will be combined; in specialties where an examination is normally only run in the Spring session this will be accommodated in Autumn 2020.

The College will aim to give candidates at least 12 weeks’ notice of examination dates – some of these are already available [on our website](https://www.rcpath.org/trainees/examinations/examinations-latest-news-and-calendar/autumn-2020-examination-dates.html) but may be subject to change. In smaller specialties this level of notice may not be possible for logistical reasons but will take place within the advised examination period.

**Do I need to reapply for Autumn 2020?**

No, if you are enrolled in Spring 2020 and have not withdrawn, your exam entry will be automatically rolled over into the Autumn 2020 session. If you do not wish to sit in Autumn 2020, please email exams@rcpath.org to withdraw. You will then need to reapply for the next available exam session.

**What will happen to my examination fee?**

Your examination fee will be retained as we are deferring entries to Autumn 2020. Should the new examination date not be suitable for you, please email exams@rcpath.org to withdraw and receive a refund. You will then need to reapply for the next available exam session.

**Will any expenses I have incurred, such as travel, be reimbursed?**

In line with guidance issued by other Colleges, unfortunately travel, accommodation and any other expenses incurred by candidates cannot be reimbursed. It is worth checking to see if your expenses can be refunded by the provider.

**Why were examinations with very small numbers of candidates postponed?**

Whilst we explored the possibility of still being able to hold some examinations, it was felt that in the interests of candidate and examiner wellbeing, patient and public safety and parity to all candidates that a deferment should involve all specialties.

**My examination is only held in the Spring session, will this still go ahead in the deferred session?**

We will endeavour to ensure that those examinations only held in a single session will still be able to go ahead this year.

**I have to submit a written option towards my Part 2, can I still do this?**

Yes, we are still accepting submissions for written options by e-mail. For the time being, please do not send hard copies of your written option by post. Please note that we are currently experiencing longer than usual assessment times for both projects and project proposals, due to our examiners' increased workloads.

**I was granted an extension to the 7 year limit between Part 1 and Part 2 and was advised that I would need to sit the examination in 2020. If I cannot do that, how will this affect me?**

Candidates who were granted an extension and told to sit in Spring 2020 will be allowed to carry this extension over into the 2021 sittings, if they cannot take the examination on the revised dates. Affected candidates should advise the College of their intention.

**How do I make a complaint about this decision?**

Please follow our complaints procedure.