

RCPATH/IBMS Histopathology Reporting Qualification – Change in Assessment Arrangements – July 2023

Introduction

Following feedback from several educational supervisors the RCPATH/IBMS Histopathology Reporting Conjoint Board has agreed to provide greater flexibility in the assessment arrangements of the Reporting qualification to enable candidates to progress through the qualification more easily whilst maintaining its rigour. The following information therefore supersedes that stated in the Guidance to Candidates and Trainers documents that are on the IBMS website.

Revised Arrangements

In total Stages A, B, C and D must continue to last a **minimum of 48 months** but there is no longer the requirement that each stage must last a minimum of 12 months. Candidates can spend longer on some stages than others provided the total training time reaches the minimum of 48 months.

Within each stage the number of cases required within the case log of the portfolio will remain and candidates are reminded that these are minimum numbers, and that they should not stop recording cases in the log and undertaking relevant case reviews just because they have reached the stated minimum. Candidates will need to ensure that their portfolios meet the other minimum requirements in terms of case reviews, case study, MSF, work-based assessments, audit, MDT evidence etc. before the portfolio is submitted for assessment.

At Stages A and C candidates **do not** need to have submitted and passed their portfolio before they enter the exam. This means that if a candidate and their educational supervisor feel that the candidate will be ready for the exam by the proposed exam date (and it is the exam date rather than the exam application window that is important) the candidate can apply to enter the exam. Candidates must apply to sit the exam during the exam application window as the College will not accept any late entries.

The portfolio **must** still be completed but this can be submitted either before or after the exam. The exam result can be included as evidence within the portfolio.

Candidates will not be able to proceed to Stage B until they have passed the Stage A exam **and** portfolio.

Candidates at Stage B will be able to submit their portfolio as soon as they reach the minimum portfolio requirements.

Candidates will not be able to proceed to Stage D until they have passed the Stage C exam **and** portfolio.

If you have any queries regarding these arrangements please contact examinations@ibms.org

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