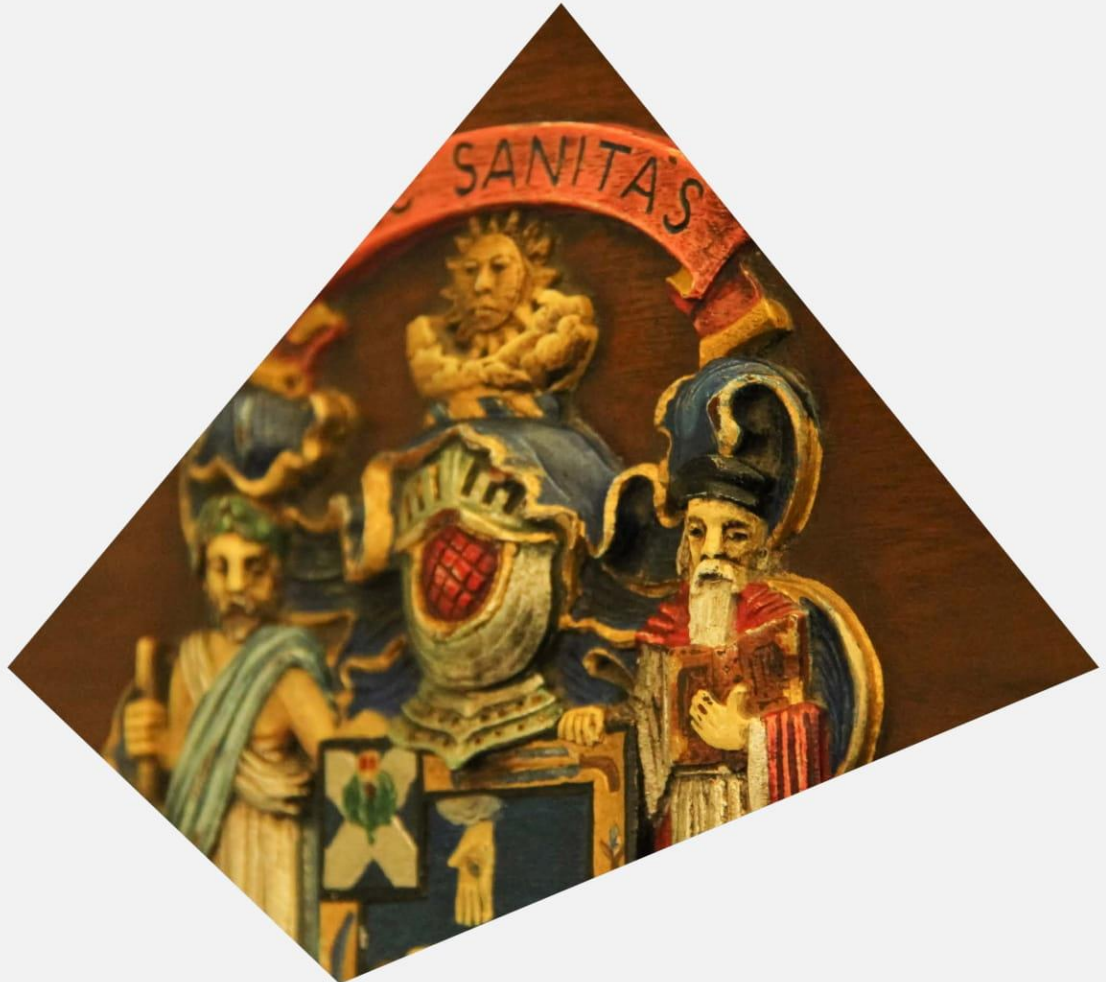




FACULTY OF  
REMOTE, RURAL  
& HUMANITARIAN  
HEALTHCARE



# Applicant Guidance

Membership and Fellowship

# Membership & Fellowship Application Guidance

## 1 Summary

The Faculty's first professional standards offering provides the ability to confer the prestigious post-nominal awards of Membership and Fellowship. This is a significant achievement not only for the Faculty, but also for the remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare profession worldwide. The Membership and Fellowship awards represent a critical move towards the professional recognition of the unique skills, knowledge, and experience present in this diverse and vibrant healthcare community.

Membership and Fellowship awards are amongst the highest accolades awarded by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd), providing international recognition for healthcare professionals working in remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare. Such awards acknowledge an individual's dedication to and development of remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare, assessed by peers against agreed-upon evaluation criteria set by the Faculty. It's important to note that such awards are not an assessment of competence, but a recognition of a healthcare professional's achievements in their field.

## 2 Defining Remote, Rural and Humanitarian Healthcare

Drawing on a literature review by Robert Gordon University<sup>1</sup>, the Faculty defines remote, rural, and humanitarian healthcare as:

***Healthcare delivered outside fully resourced health systems, where practitioners and teams must adapt to environmental, geographical, and systemic constraints, and account for diverse social, cultural, and developmental contexts.***

Such practice is characterised by isolation – geographical, professional, and/or infrastructural – and shaped by limited resources, variable access to referral care, and often complex cultural or socio-economic contexts. Healthcare in humanitarian emergency settings brings the additional constraint where health needs exceed the capacity of existing systems, requiring the mobilisation of additional health resources at short notice.

This definition affirms that while the principles of medical and professional best practice are universal, their application in remote, rural, and humanitarian contexts is influenced by environmental and systemic constraints. Practitioners working in these settings therefore require specific capabilities to manage constraint, exercise judgement, and maintain care quality and safety.

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Gordon University, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedic Practice (2021), FRRHH Capabilities Framework Development: A scoping review of literature

### 3 Vision and Mission

Applicants are asked to demonstrate how they have supported the development of remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare and to evidence their alignment to the vision and mission of the Faculty.

#### **Vision**

*From Anywhere, Health*

#### **Mission**

*To create a diverse global network delivering excellence and advancement in remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare through standards, education, leadership, professional development and support for research and innovation*

### 4 Capabilities Framework

Published in May 2026, the Faculty’s Capabilities Framework defines the behaviours, knowledge and skills expected of practitioners working in remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare contexts, organised across three domains and four progressive tiers of practice.

Applicants are encouraged to use the Framework as a reference when preparing their application, particularly to reflect on and articulate the level at which they are currently operating.

The Framework is available to download from the Faculty’s website: [Capabilities Framework](#).

### 5 Who can apply?

The Faculty strives to be diverse and inclusive. We particularly welcome applications from suitably qualified individuals from protected characteristic groups.

Applications are welcome from anyone working in roles that support remote, rural or humanitarian healthcare, clinical OR non-clinical. This encompasses a very broad spectrum including the list below **which is not exhaustive**:

<b>Any individual working in a remote, rural and or humanitarian healthcare setting</b>	
Nurses	Surgeons, Physicians & General Practitioners
Midwives	Dentists
Physiotherapists	Clinical Officers
Pharmacists	Physicians Associates
Paramedics	Software engineers
Engineers	Operations and logistics
Human Resources	Biomedical Engineers

## 6 Membership Categories

The sections below provide an overview of the two assessed membership categories.

### 6.1 Member

Membership of the Faculty entails demonstrating a clear interest and participation in remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare. Through supporting evidence, Members will demonstrate experience operating at the levels of Self and Team as noted in **Section 8 Evaluation Criteria** of this document. Two structured references regarding the individual's commitment to and participation in the development of remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare will also be provided.

### 6.2 Fellow

Fellowship of the Faculty requires a clear and demonstrable commitment to the development of remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare. Through supporting evidence, Fellows will demonstrate experience operating at the levels of Self, Team, Organisation, and System, as noted in **Section 8 Evaluation Criteria** of this document. To be eligible for Fellowship, applicants must be at least five years post undergraduate qualification prior to application. Two structured references regarding the individual's commitment to and participation in the development of remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare will be provided. Successful applicants to the Fellowship will be invited to participate in a wide range of Faculty activities that help to shape and drive forward the Faculty's development.

## 7 Completing the Online Application Form

- Applicants should read this guidance document carefully and ensure that all supporting evidence and information required (e.g. completed references) to complete the online application is gathered prior to commencing the application.
- Applicants will require an online RCSEd account to access and complete the application, register [here](#). If applicants already have an RCSEd online account, log in and [click here](#) to begin the online application;
- The application process is online. Paper copies of the application will not be accepted. If applicants experience difficulty in making an online application, please contact the Faculty team by email to [frrhh@rcsed.ac.uk](mailto:frrhh@rcsed.ac.uk) for assistance;
- Applicants should initially self-assess the membership level to which to apply for, (Membership or Fellowship) and then select the relevant online application prompt. Please note, applicants may not be awarded at the level they apply for. For example, applications made for Fellowship may be awarded with Membership or no award made if the application criteria are not met. In this instance, feedback will be given to support future applications.
- Any unsuccessful first attempts will be eligible to apply for future application rounds.
- Applicants will be able to save details entered on the online application portal during the process. Applicants should take care to save their application before exiting.
- Applicants will have the opportunity to upload a supporting statement to the online application portal using the form provided. This supporting statement should clearly outline the applicant's contribution to the development of remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare, and demonstrate the level at which the applicant is operating. Applicants are encouraged to use the Faculty's Capabilities Framework as a reference when preparing their statement.
- Ensure all mandatory fields are completed.
- Ensure that all acronyms are defined upon first appearance in the application form and all attached supporting evidence.

## 8 Additional Evidence and Documents

The **completed online application form** should be accompanied by the following additional evidence for review:

- A brief (**two page maximum**) CV highlighting experience that relates to remote, rural, and/or humanitarian healthcare;
- A complete Supporting Statement outlining the applicant's contribution to the development of remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare.
- Two professional references which speak to the applicant's experience and activities that contribute to the development of remote, rural and/or humanitarian healthcare. Reference forms and guidance are provided;
- Additional evidence may also be submitted in support of applications made. Please see the ***table examples of evidence***.

## 9 Evaluation Criteria

Consider how you will use your own unique body of evidence to demonstrate at which level noted below you are operating at and how you have contributed to the development of remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare.

- Those operating at levels Self and Team will be awarded **Membership**.
- Those operating at Organisation and System will be awarded **Fellowship**.

When evaluating applications, assessors will evaluate evidence submitted in the application and consider how applicants have demonstrated their contribution and commitment to the development of remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare and at which level they are operating.

### Self

- Shows understanding of remote, rural and or humanitarian healthcare, demonstrates awareness and evidence of working with other teams and professions within remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare.

### Team

- Supports leadership / development of teams that support the development of remote, rural and or humanitarian healthcare. Demonstrates knowledge of establishing and leading remote, rural and or humanitarian teams. Can demonstrate impact at the team level.

### Organisation

- Supports leadership / development of an organisation that supports the development of remote, rural and or humanitarian healthcare. Can demonstrate impact at the organisation level and contributes to an organisation at a senior level, and
- Demonstrates experience of affecting and influencing policy development at organisation level.

### System

- Demonstrates and evidences knowledge of wider remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare systems in which they work, including consideration of impact on local, regional, national and international populations;
- Demonstrates impact on remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare across a range of organisational stakeholders and perhaps even healthcare systems;
- Contributes to international healthcare systems at a senior level and;
- Demonstrates experience of affecting / influencing policy development at organisation level or healthcare system level.

## 9.1 Examples of Evidence

This table gives examples as a guide to evidence that can be submitted. It is important to note that not all applicants will be able to submit evidence for each of the evidence categories listed, and it is not expected that applicants will cover every category. It is essential to consider how you can provide evidence of your expertise and experience that has contributed to the development of remote, rural, and humanitarian healthcare.

Examples provided below will guide applicants when gathering their own unique evidence requirements to support their application.

## 9.2 Table Examples of Evidence

Evidence Categories	Examples of Evidence
<p>1. Job and/or voluntary work description and any extracurricular activities associated with that role given in the application. Please highlight the length, breadth and depth of activity in your evidence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Evidence in application form from supporting statement</li> <li>– Copy of <b>two-page CV</b> detailing any roles current and previous that are relevant to remote, rural and/or humanitarian healthcare</li> <li>– <i>Length of service</i>: The amount of time spent working in or actively supporting remote, rural and/or humanitarian healthcare.</li> <li>– <i>Breadth of service</i>: The variety and diversity of roles, activities, contexts, and locations engaged with in remote, rural and/or humanitarian healthcare.</li> <li>– <i>Depth of service</i>: The extent of responsibilities, expertise, leadership, complexity of roles, and impact on remote, rural and/or humanitarian healthcare practice or policy.</li> </ul>
<p>2. Quality of supportive references</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Two references submitted in the form provided by the Faculty submitted to the online application portal</li> </ul>
<p>3. Qualifications relevant to remote, rural, and humanitarian healthcare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Training or qualification certificates submitted to the online application portal</li> </ul>
<p>4. Membership of and contribution to any organisation or group that is relevant to remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Role within the organisation</li> <li>– Duration of membership</li> <li>– Evidence of the individuals contributions or involvement in/to the organisation</li> </ul>
<p>5. Publication, Research and Innovation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Evidence of participation or leadership in audit or research or evaluation projects</li> <li>– Research Supervisor</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Academic peer reviewed publications relating to or of relevance to remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare. Presentations at academic, educational or professional development conferences, congresses or events</li> <li>– Editor, editorial board member, peer reviewer, for peer reviewed journals relevant to remote, rural and or humanitarian healthcare, book chapters, opinion pieces</li> <li>– Poster and or oral presentations, working paper / guidelines, invited speaker for remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare</li> </ul> <p><b>Development and Innovation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Contribution to policy documents, developments in innovations / initiatives relating to remote, rural and humanitarian healthcare</li> </ul>
<p>6. Education and Development Activity</p>	<p><b>Curriculum development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Local director of teaching / learning, course, director, course lead, course / programme review, involvement with quality assurance processes, national / international roles</li> <li>– Development of curricula or programmes, delivery and design of CPD activities or resources</li> </ul> <p><b>Teaching</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Teaching role e.g. teaching lead, faculty etc, regular course delivery, invited speaker or lecturer</li> <li>– Educational Supervision (e.g. clinical trainer, trainer undergraduate or post graduate supervision, supervision)</li> <li>– Recognition of teaching excellence</li> <li>– Study club lead, conference organiser, guideline development, engagement with local or regional committees, chair of working groups</li> </ul> <p><b>Examination &amp; Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Exams lead, Chair, local or external examiner, external assessor, calibrator, exam development and design</li> </ul>

7. Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Demonstrable awareness and evidence of working with other teams and professionals out with the individuals own profession</li> <li>– Demonstrable knowledge and evidence of establishing, leading and developing remote, rural and/or humanitarian teams</li> <li>– Chair or leadership role, for guidelines development, working groups, parties or taskforces</li> <li>– Recognition of professional excellence through national or international awards</li> </ul>
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**Information supplied in the online application form will be held and used by the Faculty for the purpose of administering this process. We ask for certain personal details to help the faculty better administer this process and ensure equality of access.**

## 10 How We Use Your Data

By submitting an application, you understand that the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh will process your personal data in accordance with the terms of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

We will not share your data with any third party unless there is a statutory requirement for us to do so or unless we require to do so to deliver our services. Such sharing will only be undertaken where the appropriate Data Processing Agreements are in place and for tightly controlled purposes. The College will retain your data for the periods of time described in our privacy statement. Further details may be found on our website at <https://www.rcsed.ac.uk/privacy>

**If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Faculty team at [frrhh@rcsed.ac.uk](mailto:frrhh@rcsed.ac.uk)**



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