MRCPUK
JRCPTB
CPD

Global leaders in physician education

ROYAL COLLEGE of PHYSICIANS of EDINBURGH

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

Royal College of Physicians

Medical Care Unit
Comfort Room

About the Federation

The Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians, based in the UK and with international reach, is a collaboration between the:

- **Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh**
- **Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow**
- **Royal College of Physicians.**

Collectively, the Colleges represent more than 60,000 members worldwide. For physicians in the UK and globally, the Colleges provide an invaluable professional network, opportunities to share best practice and ongoing educational opportunities.

Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCPE)

The RCPE supports over 15,000 physicians worldwide. Founded in 1681, the College is a professional membership organisation and registered charity working with a global community of physicians to improve public health for the long-term benefit of society by providing the highest standards of education and training. They contribute to the development of medical care standards and advocate for evidence-based health policies, striving to ensure that physicians' perspectives and clinical experiences are considered by policymakers. The RCPE has a vast education programme of specialty, general medical and non-clinical education, with free and discounted events for members. Events can be watched online, in person or on demand. Members also have free access to a digital education portal where learning can be recorded as personal CPD.

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (RCPSG)

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow is a global community of over 15,000 members across 100 countries, working together to develop skills, knowledge and leadership to drive the highest standards in healthcare. Established in 1599, it is the UK's only multidisciplinary royal college representing physicians, surgeons, dental surgery, podiatric and travel medicine professionals. For over 425 years, the College has been working across healthcare to deliver progress and innovation – first in Scotland and now around the world. Together, we're a force for good.

Royal College of Physicians (RCP)

The RCP is an independent professional membership organisation and registered charity, with over 40,000 physicians in the UK and internationally. Established in 1518, the RCP remains central in shaping the best medical services by raising clinical standards through guidelines, audits, accreditation programmes and reports; training and supporting physicians at all stages of their careers; setting educational curricula; and providing CPD and assessments. The College's vision is for 'better healthcare for everyone' and focuses on enabling this through its work in influencing decisions about the healthcare workforce, the wellbeing of doctors and others in the NHS workforce alongside its worldwide commitments.

Your UK partners

We have been setting and maintaining the highest standards for physicians' training and assessment in the UK for over 40 years and we would welcome the opportunity to put this experience to work for you. We are proud of this heritage and we are always looking forward – and outward – to see how we can learn from colleagues like you, and make continual improvements.

We have developed an extensive understanding of the training requirements for doctors in many countries and work closely with local employers and regulators to refine the support that we can provide.

The Federation delivers its functions via three main divisions: JRCPTB, MRCP(UK) and CPD, coordinated by its International Division.

About JRCPTB

The Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board (JRCPTB) improves patient care by setting and maintaining standards for the highest quality of physician training. This is achieved through excellence in curriculum design and implementation, and certification of trainees, while supporting the General Medical Council (GMC), which regulates the UK profession, in quality management. We aim to provide excellent service and support to our stakeholders and aspire to the highest standards in physician training.

About MRCP(UK)

Our MRCP(UK) examinations are now offered in more than 100 locations around the world and over 25,000 doctors take the examinations each year. We believe that postgraduate medical training must take a holistic approach to include teaching, supervision and assessment, all defined in comprehensive curricula. Our examinations are respected worldwide as benchmarks of medical knowledge and clinical skills. In some countries, our examinations are a mandatory part of training and assessment. In those where they are not mandatory, they are often recognised as indicating a high level of knowledge, skills and attitudes that are best acquired in conjunction with a period of supervised or accredited training. Whether mandatory or not, successful candidates recognise them as a valued qualification and a key driver to their learning.

About Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Engagement in CPD is a core element of supporting information for the UK appraisal and revalidation framework, which assures the profession, patients and the public that a physician is practising to the highest standards. We deliver world-leading services to support lifelong learning for physicians at all stages of their careers through our established and progressive Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme. These services are evidence-based and driven by clear professional values. Our services include a much-valued online CPD diary to record and reflect on educational activities, a smartphone app (iOS and Android) that syncs with the CPD diary to record and reflect 'on the go', and an approval service for educational activities, benchmarked against international CPD standards and principles.

The Federation in numbers

JRCPTB

13,500 UK medical trainees enrolled

20,000+ ePortfolio users

MRCP(UK)

25,400 candidates per year

2,000 clinical examiners

CPD

21,000 CPD diary users

2,000 CPD events approved each year

Dr Mike Jones
Executive medical director

Dr Jane Wallace
International medical director for training and development

Dr Tanzeem Raza
International medical director for PACES

Welcome

Within medicine the prime aim is to provide optimal, safe, efficient and effective care for our patients. The globalised medical community frequently crosses borders to achieve this shared goal and there is the ambition to train excellent physicians to carry our profession into the future.

We have worked with many medical colleagues over the years to develop training curricula and assessments that provide an international benchmark of attainment in medical knowledge, clinical judgement and bedside clinical skills. Physicians who pass the MRCP(UK) examinations, as well as who complete training in line with our curricula, benefit from enhanced career prospects and their patients can be assured of the excellent care that they should expect.

The Federation of the Royal College of Physicians works with, and on behalf of, each of the Royal Colleges of Physicians within the UK and these organisations deliver world-leading services to support life-long learning for physicians at all stages of their careers. These are evidence-based and driven by clear professional values. They reflect the best of UK medicine, which combines centuries of distinguished academic tradition and the latest thinking in medical education.

Our goal within the Federation is to work with our international partners to extend these training and education opportunities as widely as possible, for the benefit of the profession, local and national healthcare systems, hospitals, doctors and patients. We are always looking for new ways to collaborate with, learn from and support our international colleagues.

If what you read is of interest, you may choose to adopt a package of training curricula and assessment as a validated, complete system that is ready to use, or you may prefer to adapt it to meet local needs and align with your established programmes. You could, on the other hand, decide that selecting just a few aspects of our offering would suit your situation best. Our senior medical colleagues, and our expert academic and administrative staff within the International Medical Directorate of the Federation, are at hand to assist and advise you. Our standard defining material such as curricula, our technology such as the ePortfolio or the CPD app, and our robust assessments are all on offer to our international partners. We hope you find this information useful, and that it sparks your interest in building a long-lasting and mutually beneficial collaboration.

Dr Mike Jones, executive medical director
Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK

What the Federation can offer

There is a journey that proactively prepares a trainee physician to take on independent practice and continue in their lifelong professional development. All medical educators understand that it is a gradual process, building the physician's competence through many years of teaching, supervision and assessment. We can offer you a complete package that can take your trainees through from the start of physician training (Internal Medicine Training, stage 1 in the UK) to higher specialty training and certification.

Access to world-leading curricula and assessments

We set and review more than 30 specialty and subspecialty curricula in the UK. These curricula are evidence-based and reflect respected clinical guidelines.

We have wide experience in incorporating non-clinical, health service and professional perspectives into our curriculum development. We also work with our UK regulator and with government to develop leadership competencies in the profession, and to address health inequalities.

This wealth of experience and the capabilities to deliver your chosen curricula are all at your disposal.

For more detail, please read about our curricula, and the range of sophisticated workplace assessments that are directly mapped to them, on the following pages.

MRCP(UK) examinations

Passing each of the three parts of the MRCP(UK) Diploma is a significant milestone, providing confirmation of a physician's progress at key stages of their training, and is an achievement in which successful candidates can take great pride.

Our examinations are valuable, either as standalone benchmarks of knowledge and skills or when taken as part of a fully accredited training programme. We therefore actively seek international partners to collaborate in the delivery of the examinations, or as part of a complete training programme.

All our examinations are:

- mandatory for progression through physician training in the UK
- blueprinted to the UK curricula for physician training
- conducted in English
- produced and delivered with a high level of academic and psychometric rigour.

MRCP(UK) examinations can be taken all over the world

Number of exam locations shown in the above infographic are true as of July 2024. Please check our website for the latest updates regarding examination locations: www.thefederation.uk/international/examinations

The MRCP(UK) Diploma

To achieve the full MRCP(UK) Diploma, individuals must pass the Part 1 and Part 2 written examinations, as well as the PACES Clinical Examination. These are rigorous, knowledge-based assessments that have been assembled and academically scrutinised by hundreds of physicians and refined through robust and well-documented academic processes. Part 1 is accessible to doctors with a minimum of 12 months' postgraduate experience in medical employment.

The MRCP(UK) Clinical Examination (PACES) is designed to test acquisition of clinical knowledge, skills and attitudes at completion of stage 1 of training in General Internal Medicine before entering higher specialty training. The examination sets rigorous standards to ensure that trainees are competent across a range of skills and ready to provide a high standard of patient care, working at level 3 of the Internal Medicine curriculum (entrusted to act with indirect supervision). It is the largest clinical postgraduate examination for physician training in the world.

Specialty Certificate Examinations (SCEs)

In collaboration with specialist societies in the UK, we offer nine Specialty Certificate Examinations (SCEs) as well as the European Specialty Examination in Gastroenterology and Hepatology for physicians who are about to complete their training and take up practice as independent specialists. The SCE is a computer-based summative assessment of scientific and clinical knowledge, as well as a candidate's problem-solving ability. It covers all areas of knowledge that a doctor will have acquired during their specialty training. The questions in each paper have been scrutinised and checked for the accuracy of content on repeated occasions, by different groups of specialists. They are prepared in a format that adheres to the highest principles of educational assessment.

Continuing Professional Development

We can provide you with the expertise, technology and resources to support your CPD infrastructure requirements. We offer consultancy and supplementary training for the set-up and delivery of a CPD system unique to and appropriate for your local healthcare environment, and can advise on introducing CPD within an appraisal framework. Finally, we will provide the necessary support to set up and deliver a local approval system for quality assurance (CPD points) of educational events in your country/region.

Our services include:

- Access to a tried and tested curriculum, and full support for delivery.
- Support in developing your own training programmes and curricula, delivered to local standards.
- A range of tools for assessment.
- Delivery of an ePortfolio for trainees with user support helpdesk.
- External consultancy and evaluation of programmes of training and assessment.
- Formal accreditation to a UK standard, or to the standard of your own local curriculum.
- Support in the planning and delivery of MRCP(UK) Diploma and SCEs.
- Help with integrating MRCP(UK) examinations into national training systems.
- Access to a network of global examination delivery centres.
- An opportunity to work with global education partners to deliver joint examinations.
- Preparation materials for the MRCP(UK) Diploma and SCEs.
- Access to the online CPD diary and complementary CPD app to support reflective learning and facilitate the production of effective annual CPD reports for appraisal.
- Quality assurance of CPD educational activities.

Accreditation process for training and assessment programmes

Having an external view from suitably qualified experts is critical for the assurance of academic quality. When you are making key decisions about training, the presence of one of our experts as an objective outsider lends significant added authority to the process.

We have extensive experience in this work and it is one of our most important contributions to UK training.

You may also ask us to review your programmes with a view to achieving accreditation in line with your own local curriculum or to a UK standard, confirming that your trainees have an equivalent qualification.

Our accreditation process is divided into three progressive levels. Both Level 1 and Level 2 form part of a local consultancy and assessment package, to help local partners develop and deliver their own local programmes. Level 3 accreditation is for those partners who have implemented a full UK equivalent curriculum.

Level 3: Federation UK IMT International Accreditation

This approves training equivalent to the full UK IMT. Trainees successfully completing this training programme and passing all parts of MRCP(UK) will fulfil the 'experience' criteria required for higher specialty training in the UK*, i.e. that their clinical experience and competencies would be considered the equivalence to someone completing IMT in the UK.

Level 2: Federation International Accreditation

This reflects the provision of a detailed local curriculum for the early years of physician training with a modern competency-based curriculum. All parts of the MRCP(UK) form part of the programme of assessment of the locally determined curricula. The accreditation process will be undertaken using the local curricula, as well as relevant generic standards of postgraduate education derived in part from the UK GMC standards.

Level 1: Federation Preparatory International Accreditation

The provision of an organised local training programme that allows candidates to prepare for all parts of the MRCP(UK) examination as part of that training programme. The programme will be assessed against relevant generic standards based on UK GMC standards, and will have evidence of an active process of developing and implementing a modern competency-based curriculum.

*Entry into medical training in the UK is always dependent on UK immigration regulations and the resident labour market test.

Our international training partners

At the Federation, we have developed an extensive understanding of the training requirements for doctors in various countries. By collaborating closely with local employers and regulators, we continually refine the support we provide, ensuring that our training programmes meet the highest standards.

Our International Programme Development and Accreditation is an ongoing developmental process, aimed at achieving and maintaining excellence in medical training. The ultimate goal of these partnerships is to sustainably develop and maintain the standard of a locally run programme, aspiring to provide training equivalent to full UK Internal Medicine Training.

Comprehensive training programme

Our collaboration with our partners involves several key components designed to provide a robust and comprehensive training experience:

Adoption of the full IMT stage 1 curriculum:

- Implemented the Internal Medicine Training (IMT stage 1) curriculum, the initial stage of specialty training for most physician specialties in the UK.

Access to the ePortfolio:

- Provided trainees with a web-based tool supporting the learning process.
- Accessible via smartphones and tablets, ensuring flexibility and convenience.

Workplace-based assessment tools:

- Offered tools for both formative and summative assessments of various competencies in the curriculum.

External support for trainee reviews:

- Provided external support for the annual review of all trainees to ensure consistent and high-quality feedback.

Full accreditation process to level 3:

- Ensured that the programme met UK GMC standards through a comprehensive accreditation process.

These collaborations reflect our commitment to advancing medical education globally.

Our accreditation process

Our accreditation process is designed to be flexible and adaptable, meeting the specific needs and readiness of our partner institutions.

To date, we have 11 international programmes that are accredited to Level 3 and deliver full UK equivalent Internal Medicine Training (stage 1). Successful graduates can currently apply directly for higher medical training in the UK.

Here are some examples of our established partnerships that have decided to adopt our International Programme Development and Level 3 Accreditation programme. For more information on locations where accredited programmes are delivered, please visit our website: www.thefederation.uk/international/training-locations.

Landspítali, University Hospital of Iceland

We have partnered with Landspítali, University Hospital of Iceland, and the Icelandic authorities since 2015 to deliver postgraduate physician training in Iceland. This collaboration marks a significant milestone in medical education in Iceland, setting new standards for training and development. By working closely with Landspítali and the Icelandic authorities, we have set a new precedent for medical training in Iceland, paving the way for future advancements and improvements in healthcare.

Aster DM Healthcare India and UAE

Aster DM Healthcare Limited is a multinational private hospital network that has its corporate headquarters in Dubai, UAE. Aster DM Healthcare operates a chain of hospitals/medical centres in the Middle East and India. Aster decided to adopt the full UK IMT programme, including the ePortfolio programme, since 2017 across five of their hospitals in Dubai, UAE and India.

- Aster Medcity Kochi, India
- Aster MIMS Kannur, India
- Aster MIMS Kottakkal, India
- Aster DM WIMS (Wayanad), India
- Aster DM Healthcare, Dubai, UAE

Max Healthcare

Max Healthcare is an Indian private healthcare provider headquartered in New Delhi, operating a chain of hospitals primarily in north India. Max Healthcare decided that implementing the full UK Internal Medicine Training (IMT) programme across five sites in New Delhi was the most appropriate way forward. The New Delhi programme went live in October 2018, marking a significant milestone in Max Healthcare's journey towards excellence in medical training.

Building on the success of the initial implementation, Max Healthcare expanded the programme to their site in Mumbai in 2024, further solidifying their commitment to high-quality medical education

- Max Smart Super Speciality Hospital, Saket New Delhi
- Nanavati Max Super Speciality Hospital, Mumbai

KIMSHEALTH

KIMS (Kerala Institute of Medical Sciences) Global is a healthcare organisation headquartered in Trivandrum with multi-specialty hospitals and healthcare centres in south India and the Middle East. KIMS decided to adopt the full UK Internal Medicine Training (IMT) programme across two sites, starting with Trivandrum in 2018 and expanding to their site KIMS Al Shifa in Perintalmanna.

- KIMS Trivandrum, Kerala
- KIMS Alshifa hospital, Perintalmanna, Kerala

Rajagiri Hospital

Rajagiri Hospital is a large, multi-specialty hospital based in Kerala, South India. Established under the Rajagiri Group of Institutions, the hospital is managed by the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI), a renowned charitable and educational organisation. Rajagiri launched its full UK Internal Medicine Training (IMT) programme in 2025.

Using technology

The ePortfolio

The ePortfolio is a web-based tool, developed for JRCPTB by NHS Education for Scotland, which supports trainees in the learning process and the full curriculum. It also enables trainees to log all evidence of their experience, capabilities in practice and courses for their entire medical training period. The ePortfolio can also be used on mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets. We have a continuing programme of enhancement to ensure that the ePortfolio makes the best use of digital technology and continues to be a tool to support learning and assessment in all our curricula. Our partners get continuous access in real time in all settings.

The CPD diary and supporting app

The CPD diary scheme is primarily aimed at consultant and SAS physicians but also routinely used by trainees. The complementary CPD app, launched in 2018, synchronises with the web-based CPD diary and offers another method to capture and reflect upon professional development. Educational activities can be documented 'on the go', at the point of learning, with the app's offline capability.

A list of about 2,000 approved activities, which have been reviewed by our network of consultant physicians against published criteria, is easily accessible and a time-saver for clinicians. There are 21,000 users of the scheme. The CPD app has a voice transcription feature, in addition to typing text, to capture development needs and reflections instantly.

Curriculum and workplace-based assessment tools

Internal Medicine Training (IMT)

Internal Medicine Training (IMT) is a capability-based curriculum for Internal Medicine Training in the UK. IMT stage 1 is a 3-year programme that prepares doctors to become medical registrars and provides them with the skills needed to manage patients presenting with a wide range of general medical symptoms and conditions. Experience in intensive care medicine, geriatric medicine and outpatients is mandated and trainees receive simulation training in the programme. Holistic decisions on progress are made using 14 high-level Capabilities in Practice (CiPs), which use the professional judgement of appropriately trained, expert assessors.

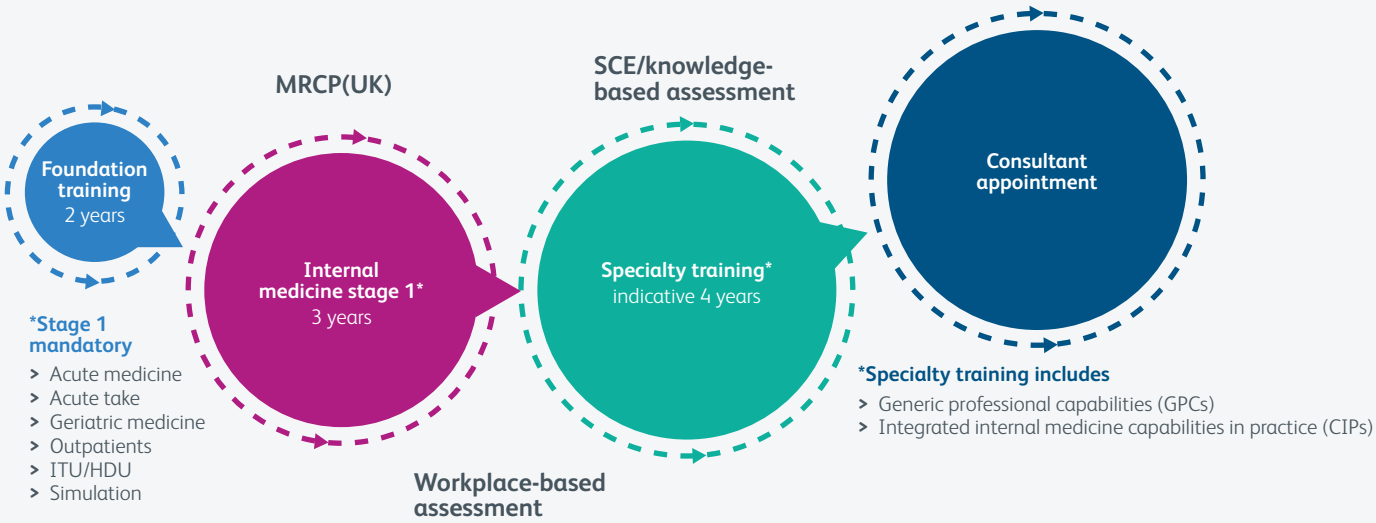
The specialties listed on the diagram on the following page are the main specialties supporting acute hospital care. IMT stage 1 comprises the first 3 years post-foundation training and is followed by competitive entry to a higher specialty training programme, leading to combined accreditation (certificate of completion of training (CCT)) in a specialty plus internal medicine. An indicative further 12 months of internal medicine (stage 2) is integrated with specialty training in the dual programmes. The overall duration of the training programmes will be detailed in each specialty curriculum.

The Foundation Programme is a 2-year, general postgraduate medical training programme that forms the bridge between medical school and specialty training in the UK.

Workplace-based assessment

Examinations are important but they are just one element of assessment, which must be continual and give a fully rounded picture of the trainee's progress and competence as a safe, professional and effective physician.

Other elements of evaluation include workplace-based assessments (WPBAs), which provide information about the trainee's performance in their current clinical setting, and an annual review of competence progression (ARCP).



WPBA tools

There are a number of WPBA tools to offer either formative or summative feedback on competencies in the curriculum. These are also mapped to the curriculum and include:

- Acute care assessment tool (ACAT)
- Case-based discussion (CbD)
- Directly observed procedural skills (DOPS)
- Mini clinical evaluation exercise (MiniCEX)
- Multisource feedback (MSF)
- Multiple consultant report (MCR)
- Audit assessment (AA)
- Quality improvement project assessment tool (QIPAT)
- Teaching observation (TO)
- Outpatient care assessment tool (OPCAT)

All of these tools are fully supported in the ePortfolio and feed into the decision making of the high-level Capabilities in Practice (CiPs).

Incorporation of the MRCP(UK) Diploma:

- Utilised as the associated assessment package.
- Parts 1 and 2 written examinations conducted in Iceland/India/UAE.
- Practical Assessment of Clinical Examination Skills (PACES) delivered in India/UAE/UK.

More information on WPBA tools can be found on our website: www.thefederation.uk/wba.

Exams and training support

Perhaps uniquely among the professions, medicine is an art that has always been passed from one generation of practitioners to the next. This one-to-one relationship between a trainee and their supervisor has a lifelong influence.

Integrating MRCP(UK) qualifications into your training system

In the UK, MRCP(UK) qualifications are part of the core training and assessment process for all internal medicine trainees. The standard of knowledge and skills required to pass our qualifications is such that they are often seen as an international benchmark, and a number of international bodies adopt both the MRCP(UK) Diploma and SCEs as their official clinical standards. This is achieved by integrating MRCP(UK) examinations into national training schemes, either alone or in association with local assessments, in a conjoint qualification.

We can support international partners by identifying how MRCP(UK) qualifications alone, or in combination with structured training, can support the provision of high-quality care in each local environment. We recognise the diverse nature of regulatory and employment structures around the world and can tailor our input to match local requirements. Working collaboratively, we provide a means of ensuring that doctors recruited to public or private healthcare facilities achieve their true potential and meet the highest international standards of knowledge and clinical skills.

Getting involved with delivery – could you host the PACES examination?

We work in partnership with many hospitals around the world to deliver the PACES bedside clinical skills examination. At MRCP(UK), we provide a high level of logistical and administrative support for all our international partners delivering these examinations. Our academic team works to ensure that the content and assessment of our examinations are relevant to the needs of different national trainee profiles, while maintaining the high standards that we set in the UK and internationally. Experienced international administrators, and our large team of senior international clinical examiners, provide support in patient selection and the creation of content to test communication skills that are relevant to your own locality.

Many major hospitals around the world regard the opportunity to host PACES as an important sign of their commitment to excellence in assessment. Should your hospital wish to join them, we will guide you carefully through the planning and set-up processes and provide the necessary support. Our input will continue thereafter with the ongoing work of our operational teams, who carry out key tasks and help to ensure that everything runs smoothly from the point of candidates' initial applications right through to the processing of examination results.

To find out more about what is involved in hosting the PACES examination, visit our website: www.thefederation.uk/hosting.

Faculty development

The three Royal Colleges of Physicians also offer outstanding programmes of ongoing development for trainers. As our international partners, your educators can enjoy the benefits of these 'train the trainer' events, either at one of our Royal Colleges or delivered locally.

Support for development and delivery of training internationally

We have built comprehensive packages of training, assessment and curricula, which can be delivered anywhere in the world. Our goal is to work with our international partners to extend opportunities as widely as possible, for the benefit of the profession, local and national healthcare systems, hospitals, doctors and patients.

What we can offer:

- Integrating MRCP(UK) qualifications into a national training system.
- Hosting the PACES examination.
- Developing joint curricula and assessment packages.
- Help in planning education and training.
- Access to a well-tested curriculum, and full support for delivery.
- Support in developing your own training programmes and curricula, delivered to local standards.
- Delivery of an ePortfolio for trainees.
- External evaluation of any aspect of training and assessment.
- Formal accreditation of local training to a UK standard, or to your own local curriculum.

How to get in contact

The services that we can offer are complex and sophisticated, as you would expect. There is much more than can be covered in this brief introduction. If what you have read so far sounds promising, we would be delighted to meet your team, to present our programmes in more detail and hear about your specific requirements. We organise regular development days with prospective partners interested in developing training and assessment programmes and our CPD, approval and education services.

These events provide opportunities for participants to hear from providers and users of our programmes and exams/assessments from across the Federation and to engage directly with our team and other international attendees. Participants will also leave with a much better understanding of the UK process for training and sustaining the highest quality evidence-based reflective practice among physicians.

To learn more about our examinations, development days and opportunities to work with us, please contact internationalenquiries@thefederation.uk

Further information and resources

- Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board (JRCPTB) – www.thefederation.uk/training
- Membership of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom (MRCP(UK)) – www.thefederation.uk/examinations
- Continuing professional development (CPD) – www.thefederation.uk/cpd
- Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCPE) – www.rcpe.ac.uk
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (RCPSG) – rcpsg.ac.uk
- Royal College of Physicians (RCP) – www.rcp.ac.uk

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