

Candidate Code of Conduct for RCSEng examinations

As an RCSEng examination candidate, you are required to adhere to recognised ethical principles and practices in the preparation for and taking of your examination. The Intercollegiate Candidate Code of Conduct (“the Code”) outlines the defined standards by which you must abide as an RCSEng examination candidate.

As an RCSEng examination candidate, you must:

1. Adhere to the examination regulations.
2. Act with honesty when obtaining or attempting to obtain entry to the examination.
3. Avoid obtaining or attempting to obtain unfair advantage during an examination, or inciting or assisting other candidates to do the same. Examples of unfair advantage include:
 - 3.1. Having on your person any material that would give advantage in an examination once the examination has commenced (this includes electronic communication devices).
 - 3.2. Communicating, or attempting to communicate, with another candidate or an external third party once the examination has commenced.
 - 3.3. Refusing to follow the instructions given by invigilators, remote proctors, examiners or examinations staff concerning the conduct of, and procedure for, the examination.

This list is not exhaustive.

4. Not remove or attempt to remove from the examination any confidential material relating to the examination (either electronically or on paper, including but not limited to question material).
5. Not obtain or attempt to obtain confidential information concerning the examination from an examiner or examination official.
6. Not pass confidential information on the content of the examination to a third party.
7. Not seek to gain prior knowledge from, or provide knowledge to, other previous, current or future examination candidates on the content of the examination.

The list above is not exhaustive. Examples of what is considered to be misconduct can be found in the **appendix** to this Code.

If you, as an RCSEng examination candidate, are found to have acted improperly, you may be reported to your national authority. The Colleges may also decide that you should not be allowed to proceed further with the examination. If you have passed the examination, Colleges may decide not to admit you to Membership according to their own statutes and

regulations, in cases where serious misconduct not related to the examination is judged to make you unfit to become a Member of any of the four Surgical Royal Colleges of the United Kingdom and in Ireland.

You agree to abide by the Code and relevant exam Regulations when entering for an RCSEng examination. Contravention of the Code will result in investigation under the process outlined in the Suspected Candidate Misconduct for RCSEng Examinations regulations.

Appendix – Examples of misconduct by candidates

The following are examples of misconduct by candidates. The list is not exhaustive and other instances of misconduct may be considered by the Colleges at their discretion:

- introduction of unauthorised material into the examination room, for example: notes, textbooks or study guides; personal organisers; calculators; dictionaries; personal music/MP3 players; mobile phones; or other similar electronic devices;
- obtaining, receiving, exchanging or passing on information which could be examination related (or the attempt to) by means of talking, written papers/notes, social media, telephone or other electronic device;
- attempting to solicit information about the examination from candidates from an earlier examination;
- copying from another candidate;
- collusion;
- wearing of headphones/earphones/earbuds (even if only noise-cancelling);
- disruptive behaviour in the examination room (including the use of offensive language);
- failing to abide by the conditions of supervision designed to maintain the security of the examinations;
- failing to abide by the instructions of an invigilator, supervisor, or the Colleges in relation to the examination rules and regulations. This includes instructions relating to examination timings;
- impersonation: pretending to be someone else, arranging for a third party to take the candidate's place in an examination;
- identification: failure to maintain sufficient identification where an examination is being conducted online, obstructing or disabling the webcam, moving out of view of the camera, positioning camera in such a way that your face is not fully visible;
- the inclusion of inappropriate, offensive or obscene material in answers;
- misuse of examination material, e.g. by passing or attempting to pass original or reproduced material to a third party after the examination, through removal of hard copies of printed material, screengrabs of online material or reproduction of memorised material
- physical or verbal abuse or intimidation of examination candidates; officials; examiners; staff; simulated or clinical patients;
- bribing or attempting to bribe an examination official, examiner, clinical or simulated patient or staff member;
- behaving in such a way as to undermine the integrity of the examination;
- contravention of the instructions on the conduct of the examination and the candidates' responsibilities, contained in documents that have been sent to the candidates; or that are published on the Intercollegiate MRCS website; or that have been conveyed to them by examinations staff or invigilators.