



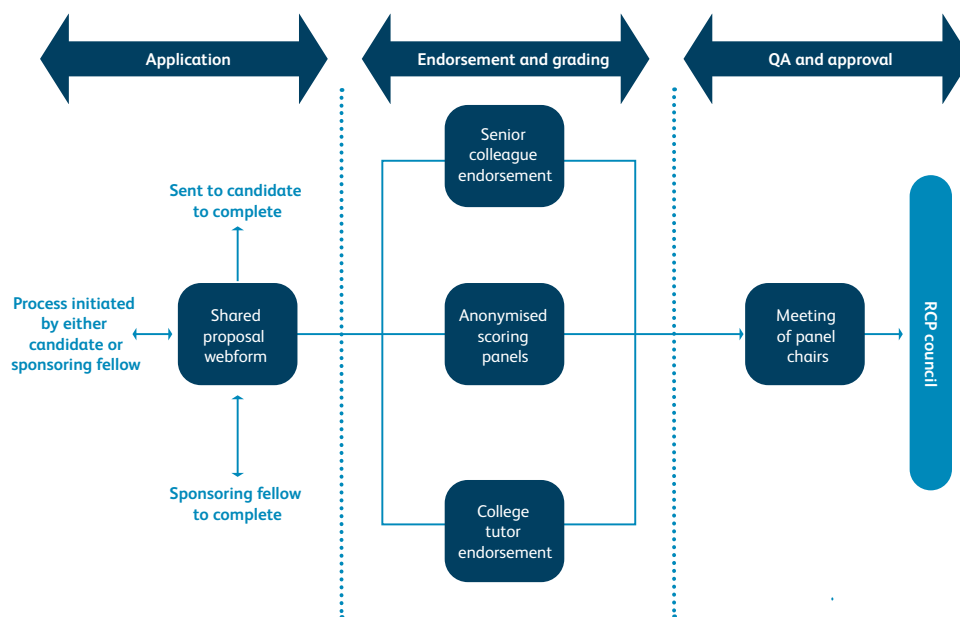
## Background

Successful election to the fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) requires eligible candidates to demonstrate the values expected of a fellow, which go beyond standard contractual obligations and support and deliver clinical excellence. Fellows of the RCP are established clinicians and will usually have been in substantive employment at consultant or equivalent level for several years. Eligibility for fellowship of the RCP is not, however, dependent on length of time served. It is rather a marker of impact and achievement.

Candidates must:

- > be licensed to practise
- > be participating in annual appraisal and revalidation
- > make a [declaration of good standing](#).

The process is now an *open process*, with candidates being aware of and contributing to your proposal. This proposal is therefore a joint application. Conversely, *self-proposed candidates* will actively seek fellows out to be their supporting sponsor.



## How do I sponsor/propose (nominate) a candidate?

- > Go to the [RCP proposal webform](#) (basic information only is required to initiate the process): this is not onerous or time-consuming!
- > Complete the form and share it with the candidate you are proposing, before submitting it to the RCP.
- > Or, if you are being asked to act as a sponsor by a candidate who has self-proposed, complete the form at the request of the candidate.

- > Submit the jointly completed form via the automated process, which will trigger candidate endorsement requests from local hospital colleagues and college tutors.
- > The automated process will also assign the anonymised proposal to a scoring panel.

## FAQs

### **How long will it take to initiate the process?**

It is very simple to initiate the process with the agreement of your candidate. Basic information will include name, place of work and GMC number of the candidate if working the UK: a doctor's GMC number is publicly available at [www.gmc-uk.org](http://www.gmc-uk.org).

You will then be asked to support your candidate's proposal by completing some supporting information. Please read the [Supporting information guidance](#) document for more details.

### **What do I do if the candidate has already filled in the proposal webform and I am acting as the sponsoring fellow?**

The process is the same as that for proposal (nomination) but in reverse: read and check your candidate's form for accuracy and provide additional information based on the criteria in the proposal guidance document. Ensure that you are comfortable with the validity of all the statements.

### **Why should I tell a candidate that I am proposing/nominating them?**

This is a decision of RCP Council, which wants to make the proposal/nomination process more transparent. The RCP will be actively encouraging existing fellows to propose a colleague for fellowship: to be proposed by a peer or near-peer colleague is a mark of the prestige of the accolade of fellowship. To make the process more transparent, the RCP has created an 'Advice to candidates' guide, which explains the criteria for fellowship in more detail.

