

GUIDANCE TO CANDIDATES FOR FAI APPLICATION

Forensic Anthropology Level I is the highest professional certification offered by the RAI in Forensic Anthropology. Candidates are expected to demonstrate their eligibility through the information that they include on the application form.

Basic details and referees:

The application form requires you to fill in basic details and provide and provide names of two individuals who have agreed to be your referees. They should be a mentor or close working colleague of the same professional standing and a relevant professional from the police, legal or academic arenas. Both referees must be familiar with your work. Your referees will be contacted independently by the RAI by email and you should alert them beforehand that a request for a reference will be made. At least one referee should be external to your current organisation.

Demonstration of eligibility:

Part A (Education) and Part B (Operational experience) are the areas in the application form where you need to demonstrate that you meet the eligibility criteria for FA I

Part A – Education:

Required eligibility component: A Forensic Anthropologist I must have completed at least an MSc, and preferably a PhD, in forensic anthropology or a related discipline (for example, anatomy, human osteology, physical or biological anthropology).

This information should go into the relevant part of the education section in Part A. You should copy and paste the boxes so that there is a separate box for each institution you have attended and you should list all of your university qualifications.

Space is also provided for you to discuss learning beyond formal university where you may have undertaken research related to a case based question, led research projects, supervised intern students or PhD students and/or published peer reviewed literature

You should detail these experiences in the section titled “summary of research experience and recent publication output”. You should list publications up to 5 years previous to the time of submission of the application and these should be relevant to forensic anthropology. Publication is desirable but it is not essential.

If you do not have 5 publications over the time frame then you should clearly demonstrate that you have an understanding of the importance of research to your field and how such research can be applied operationally.

Part B- Operational experience:

Part B of the form is where you should document your operational expertise, This allows you to state how this demonstrates your eligibility in terms of using your knowledge effectively in casework and in court. The first section of part B is the most critical, here you need to articulate your professional knowledge and the range and depth of your experiences as a Forensic Anthropologist. This is the most important part of the application form.

Putting theory into practice:

Required eligibility component : a portfolio of 5 co-authored or sole-authored peer-reviewed forensic cases within 5 years of the application

In this first section you should provide:

- (a) A list of the 5 cases to demonstrate your eligibility. At least three of these cases must have been completed within the UK criminal justice systems (Scotland, England and Wales or Northern Ireland) and must have been completed within 5 years prior to application.
- (b) All submitted cases MUST have been peer reviewed and must be independent stand alone cases.
- (c) The submission should include the operational name of the case (if it has one), the date of the case, the police force or the solicitor that instructed you and what that instruction was in terms of the role(s) you were asked to undertake.
- (d) You should provide a reflective summary for each of the five cases stating why you choose the case as part of your evidence of eligibility, what knowledge and skills you utilised, the outcome of the case, what else could have been done and, for example, what would now be done differently given developments in the field. You are NOT required to submit any case reports at this stage.
- (e) The cases MUST reflect that your expertise is at the level expected (see UK forensic anthropology practitioner levels document) and should demonstrate collectively, a broad range of expertise and complexity at sufficient depth of knowledge required across the forensic anthropology curriculum.

Developing a broader knowledge base:

Required eligibility components:

- *delivery of evidence as an expert witness to the courts and/or completion of expert witness training.*
- *demonstrable understanding of health and safety for both scene and laboratory/mortuary investigations.*

In this section you should discuss your professional interactions with the other practitioners within the criminal justice domain and provide evidence of the eligibility criteria.

Continual professional development:

Required eligibility components:

- *Attendance at a minimum of two professionally relevant conferences in the previous 5 years*
- *Continued Fellowship/Membership of at least one relevant professional body/association including the RAI.*

In this section you should demonstrate participation in relevant continuing education and training in forensic anthropology or related fields through CPD or research activities.

Submission:

For your submission documentation you need also to include a comprehensive CV and copies of degree certificates, certificates of CPD etc. that provide evidence to support your eligibility.

Finally you should tick all of the relevant boxes for submission and the declaration and submit the application electronically.

Please password protect your documents and send the passwords separately by email.

Examination process:

The 3 UK cases you list as part of your eligibility criteria will be used as a basis and context for the questioning by the examiners in the oral examination. You will be invited to submit these as anonymised case reports.

The oral examination will consist of questions pertaining to any of a number of core areas covered by the forensic anthropology curriculum.

This will include aspects of working as a practitioner within the UK criminal justice systems (Scotland, England and Wales, Northern Ireland).