

## GUIDANCE TO CANDIDATES FOR FAII APPLICATION

Forensic Anthropology Level II is the intermediate level of 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 (page 1) and provide names of two individuals who have agreed to be your referees (page 2). They should be of appropriate professional standing and drawn from colleagues from the relevant professions, including police, legal, medical or academic arenas and at least one should be a certified Forensic Anthropologist level I or a mentor. Both referees must be familiar with your work but should not originate from the same institution/organization as each other. 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.

### **Demonstration of eligibility:**

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

#### **Part A – Education:**

*Required eligibility component: A Forensic Anthropologist II must have completed at least an Honours degree 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.

You should describe the curriculum associated with your academic qualifications demonstrating both depth and breadth of knowledge and learning and how this provided the theoretical underpinning for practice as a Forensic Anthropologist at Level II. This should provide a demonstrable knowledge of osteology and/or anatomy, skeletal biology, population variation, statistics and human identification.

Appropriate documentation to demonstrate eligibility of this component would be through your personal narrative corroborated by degree certificates obtained.

#### **Part B – Post educational experience:**

Part B of the form is where you should document your post educational and operational expertise. This allows you to state how this demonstrates your eligibility in terms of using your knowledge effectively.

The first section of part B is the most critical and in this section should 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*

- *Participation in a minimum of 5 instances where for example animal vs. human bone differentiation was required.*

Appropriate documentation to demonstrate eligibility of this component would be a list of cases or incidences where for example animal v human bone differentiation was required corroborated by at least one of the following:

- (i) a reference from a supervisor stating the nature of your involvement in the relevant case,
- (ii) a report that you prepared (anonymised)
- (iii) a set of laboratory or field notes (anonymised) that you prepared

**Developing a broader knowledge base:** *Required eligibility components:*

- *A demonstrable understanding of health and safety for both scene and laboratory/mortuary investigations.*
- *A demonstrable knowledge of osteology and/or anatomy, skeletal biology, population variation, statistics and human identification*
- *Professional interactions with the other practitioners within the criminal justice domain.*

Appropriate documentation to demonstrate eligibility of this component would be through your personal narrative corroborated by references and/or certification of courses attended or proof of classes delivered.

**Continual professional development:** *Required eligibility components:*

- *Participation in relevant continuing education and training in forensic anthropology or related fields, for example, but not limited to, osteology, human identification, craniofacial anthropology, anatomy, biological anthropology, etc. through CPD, for example attendance at a minimum of two professionally relevant conferences over the previous 2 years or research activities including, if applicable, enrolment in a PhD degree programme.*
- *Continued Fellowship/Membership of at least one relevant professional body or association including the RAI.*

Appropriate documentation to demonstrate eligibility of this component would be through your personal narrative corroborated by certification of CPD courses attended, membership number/certificates of professional bodies or proof of matriculation as a PhD researcher.

**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.

**The examination process:**

Eligible candidates will be notified and invited to enter the examination process which is in 2 parts.

**PART 1 DEMONSTRATING THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE**

There are two pathways to demonstrate theoretical understanding at FAIL level.

- (a) The candidate must demonstrate that their existing qualification at undergraduate or postgraduate levels encompasses the knowledge base contained within the RAI forensic anthropology curriculum. This should take the form of a mapping exercise which should be submitted to the examination committee. Alternatively, the candidate should be able to demonstrate from their casework on human remains that they have an appropriate knowledge base.

**OR**

- (b) The candidate completes a written examination of 2 hours duration which covers the RAI forensic anthropology curriculum.

Part 1 (a) is a simple mapping exercise of the curriculum of the candidates MSc topics against the required RAI Forensic anthropology curriculum or a portfolio submission.

Part 1 (b) is the completion of a written examination paper will be in two sections. Section A will assess the candidate's technical knowledge of the discipline according to the published curriculum. Section B will assess the candidate's problem-solving abilities and will include reference to the role of the expert witness and legal matters.

**Marking guideline:**

Mark	Comments for each answer
1	Poor answer which is substantively wrong, demonstrating little understanding of the field
2	Poor answer with significant omissions and errors and/or uncertain understanding
3	Average answer demonstrating a good grounding in the discipline but with room for considerable improvement
4	Good answer with the majority of points covered and answered correctly but lacking in depth
5	Comprehensive answer with all of the correct points provided and well argued, no significant errors or omissions

For the FA II written examination, candidates must answer 3 questions from section A (technical knowledge questions) and one question from section B (problem solving questions involving a legal component) on the examination paper. To pass the FA II written examination candidates must obtain a minimum of 14 points, 4 of which must be from section B. The maximum achievable mark is 20 points.

## PART 2 – THE PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

The practical examination consists of two parts;

- (a) A practical examination of a mixed skeletal assemblage resulting in the preparation of a set of contemporaneous notes and relevant photographs. The examination will run for 3 hours.
- (b) Using the same skeletal material, the candidate will prepare a full case file including a formal report. The case file must be submitted to the Examination Committee within two weeks of the initial skeletal evaluation and should include all contemporaneous notes, examination photographs, a final report and any other relevant documentation.