GUIDANCE TO CANDIDATES FOR FAIII APPLICATION

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

Details and Referees

The application form requires you to fill in basic details and provide names of two individuals who have agreed to be your referees. They should be of appropriate professional standing as detailed in the application form, such as a mentor (Please refer to the forensic anthropology practitioner levels document for the definition of a "Mentor"), an academic supervisor, or an employer (such as a line manager). 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.

Eligibility Criteria.

You should prepare a portfolio which presents evidence supporting your eligibility for Forensic Anthropology Level III. To be eligible you must have:

- An Honours degree (and preferably a Masters degree) in forensic, physical or biological anthropology, anatomy or a related discipline, with supporting transcripts providing evidence of osteology training.
- Attendance at a minimum of two professionally relevant conferences post-graduation.
- Fellow (or Student Fellow as appropriate) of the RAI
- Demonstrable professional experience gained over a period of 2 years post-graduation.

Relevant experience must include at least **two** of the following types of activities from section **A)** and **two** from section **B)** and must be evidenced:

Section A

- Conducting triage to decide whether skeletal elements are animal or human. This can either be within the framework of a forensic case (supervised by a mentor) or working with archaeological material (supervised by a biological anthropologist, an osteoarchaeologist etc.).

- Collecting basic data (which should include measurements) within a laboratory or a mortuary setting and can either be done within the framework of a forensic case (supervised by a mentor) or working with archaeological human remains (supervised by a biological anthropologist, an osteoarchaeologist etc.).

- Additional experience working with bone; for example, through volunteer work in museums, or on archaeological sites excavating or analysing human remains, or

assisting in the post excavation processing of bone from a site where both human and animal remains were being recovered (the latter example may also allow the applicant to undertake human/non-human bone identification and therefore satisfy another of the eligibility criteria). These activities can be undertaken in the UK or abroad and be supervised by a biological anthropologist, an osteoarchaeologist etc.

Section B

- Keeping appropriate professional laboratory notes or appropriate professional field notes if undertaking archaeological excavation of human remains.

- Developing an understanding of forensic anthropological practice in a professional and criminal justice setting.

- Developing an understanding of health and safety for both scene and laboratory/mortuary investigations.

You must have gained this experience after your honours degree and you may have gained it as part of your Masters or PhD studies, or through voluntary or paid work.

And at least **one** of the following:

- Certificates of attendance at least one CPD activity relevant to forensic anthropology.
- Evidence of enrolment in a taught postgraduate (Masters Level) or research degree programme (PhD or Masters by research) in Forensic Anthropology.

Your portfolio should contain the various certificates and documentary evidence that demonstrates that you meet the eligibility criteria. Documentary evidence can include:

- Certificates of attendance/completion
- Letters of reference from head of project/excavation/line manager (these should include dates/responsibilities/role, etc.)
- Reports from mentor in relation to the work and responsibilities undertaken in each instance
- Other evidence of attendance and responsibilities

General principles to consider when preparing your FAIII application

The heart of the application is the completion of a summary account of your professional learning and development in forensic anthropology since graduation.

Your application should include a narrative detailing how your learning and development in Forensic Anthropology has been augmented post your degree qualification. This narrative should include for example:

- Your experience working with other forensic anthropologists
- Your experience in observing or assisting in casework
- Your experience in the identification of animal and human remains

- Your experience in collecting basic data within a laboratory or mortuary setting

Submission:

You should submit your application form answering the questions, your portfolio containing your certificates and other evidence to support your application and a comprehensive CV. These should all be submitted electronically as a secured PDF. **Please password-protect your documents and send the passwords separately by email.**

Assessment process:

Your application form, CV and portfolio will be assessed independently by two Level I Certified Forensic Anthropologists. They will notify the Forensic Anthropology Examination board of the RAI who will collate their views and ratify their decisions. You will then be contacted by the Chair of the Examination Board with the results of the assessment.