



Who is eligible to apply?

Senior paediatricians and clinicians, who have been performing Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) examinations on a regular basis for some years and would wish to have a qualification which reflects their forensic competence. If the examinations relate only to historic allegations of CSA, where forensic sampling is not appropriate, the candidate should demonstrate their knowledge of current sampling guidelines and techniques. See Compendium of Validated Evidence (COVE) below.

What elements of the LFFLM (SOM) [c] examination are required to be completed?

COVE and a modified Case Portfolio please look at the following documents:

- *LFFLM (SOM) COVE;*
- *Role of the Education Supervisor;*
- *Role of the Clinical Validator.*

What elements are not required but recognised as covered by equivalent/prescribed experience?

The Part 1 Single Best Answer Examination (150 questions) and the Part 2 OSCE examination (11 practical stations).

How long does this route remain open?

The closing date for application is **31 December 2022**.

Both COVE and Portfolio must be submitted by 31 March 2023.

If either the COVE or Portfolio is assessed as requiring amendment, the resubmission is required by 30 June 2023.

If the applicant is not in clinical practice in 2021, his/her application must be put in by 31 December 2021, so that the requirement for clinical experience in two of the last three years can be met.

Who can act as Clinical Validator (CV) and Educational Supervisor (ES)?

See the FFLM documents. A CV is an experienced colleague who can observe the examinations specified in the COVE and discuss cases to illustrate the COVE competencies.

Your ES need not be on the FFLM List of approved ESs but should submit their CV with the candidate's application so that appropriate ES training, updating and forensic experience can be confirmed.

The FFLM maintains a list of appropriately qualified forensic physicians for those candidates who cannot source an appropriate ES within their own service.

If you are having difficulty finding an appropriate ES, contact Jay Costa, FFLM Examinations Manager at jay.costa@fflm.ac.uk.

The ES may charge a fee and this needs to be negotiated individually.

What is the process?

Submit the application form by email (jay.costa@fflm.ac.uk): this should show your membership number of an appropriate College (RCPCH, RCOG, RCGP, etc.) (original documentation need not be submitted).

Attendance at an appropriate training course (required elements are detailed in the senior clinicians document) and if you attended more than 3 years previously, evidence of appropriate CPD within the last 3 years.

Forensic training courses run by the RCPCH, St Mary's (including FMERSA) and The Havens have all been accepted as appropriate. Please submit the learning objectives and course programme/content for other courses.

The CV should show evidence of working within the field of CSA forensic examinations in at least two of the last three years and a working knowledge of child safeguarding referrals. The forensic assessment, description and documentation of injuries in child physical abuse examinations is obviously relevant but competence to perform acute CSA examinations, which include forensic sampling, must also be demonstrated.

CV of your ES. As mentioned above, this will confirm their suitability to act as your ES for completion of the COVE and Portfolio.



How are the submissions assessed?

These initial submissions will be scrutinised by the Chief Examiner and senior FFLM colleagues and, if appropriate, the application will be accepted. The fee, £450.00, must be paid upon application.

The COVE should be downloaded from the FFLM website, completed and submitted electronically, to the email address above. There is a mixture of observed elements (particularly for sampling techniques) and competencies confirmed by case discussion with a CV or ES. It is important that the Comments box is completed for each competence element to allow the FFLM examiner to assess whether the requirements have been met.

The Portfolio will be assessed by two FFLM examiners and feedback provided.

The five core topics are: Capacity, Consent & Confidentiality, Child Safeguarding, Aftercare, Documentation of Injuries and Mental Health Issues.

Please note: the Statements and Court Reports used in the Portfolio must be anonymised.

These are used to illustrate each topic and there should be a 500-word reflection on the subject.

If either the COVE or Portfolio is marked as unsatisfactory, the candidate will be given feedback so that the document can be revised and re-submitted: the latest date for this resubmission is 30 June 2023.

What documents are useful to access from the examinations page of the FFLM website?

LFFLM (SOM) [c] Route for Experienced Doctors via Prescribed/Equivalent Experience;

LFFLM (SOM) Regulations, guidelines and syllabus (this has the COVE document appended);

LFFLM (SOM) COVE;

LFFLM (SOM) Portfolio template;

LFFLM (SOM) [c] Route for Experienced Doctors via Prescribed/Equivalent Experience Application Form;

Role of the Education Supervisor;

Mark sheet and Assessment Criteria for LFFLM Portfolio;

Role of the Clinical Validator.