

# Assessment criteria

## Clinical Trials

It is envisaged that the majority of students will enter the FORCE through this category. Careful thought and planning should be given to the trial as it is difficult to change once committed. The following criteria will be used to judge the clinical trial:

**Evidence...** that the student has identified a concept, or entity to be proved by clinical trial. Preliminary investigations should adequately demonstrate the need for such a trial and a logical approach should be adopted. Evidence should be given of the trials originality.

**Importance...** the project should be of importance in the consulting room and to the patient. Credit will be given to those students that readily prove that the clinical trial will improve the way they practice. Statistical evidence will be sort to validate the result.

**Quality...** will be achieved by good planning. A study design with the intended trial plan clearly explained, including methodology, results and a logical conclusion will be required. A clear pattern should emerge of what the student is trying to demonstrate.

**Clarity...** will be looked for, so it is clear to the panel, why there was a need for the study, the research into the background, and a clear explanation of the conclusion.

## Clinical Review Paper

This year it has been decided to allow a clinical review paper for those that do not have direct access to patients to actively do a clinical trial. The student will have to justify the reason they have opted for the review paper route. A 3,000 word document will be expected to be submitted.

**Evidence...** a comprehensive review of the literature will be expected covering all aspects of the intended paper, and the reason why the topic was chosen. Credit will be given for the use of evidence found in non-ocular journals.

**Importance...** conclusions should be drawn from the review that can be directly applied to clinical practice, and its degree of clinical importance.

**Quality...** it is expected that clinical conclusions will be drawn from this review, that will be well referenced in the scientific literature. Peer reviewed journals are preferred over non peer reviewed.

**Clarity...** a clear line of argument should be seen going through the review from start to finish concluding in a statement that can be incorporated into clinical practice.

## Case Report

The opportunity exists for those students working in a hospital background to submit a case report. The case report should relate to a patient of the student or supervisor. The judging criteria are similar to the two other categories and are as follows:

**Evidence...** An unusual condition or an an unusual approach to the management of the case is what will be expected. An introduction will be sought that demonstrates the student has thoroughly researched the evidence of the condition or technique they are using.

**Importance...** relevance of the case to modern hospital practice should be demonstrated along with the use of up-to-date technology. If a medical condition is being cited photographic evidence of the condition, both the cornea and contact lenses should be demonstrated.

**Quality...** that the clinical condition/ fitting technique has been approached in a logical manner. Clinical statements are backed up by good and accurate clinical data demonstrating their accuracy and relevance. Logical conclusions and summaries are drawn from the work.

**Clarity...** that the case report follows in an organised, well documented and clear fashion. That management decisions were made in a logical manner based on the evidence presented, and appropriate clinical decisions were made.

