

Clinical Physiology Register

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Q. Why should I apply to join the Academy's Accredited Register?

A. Registration shows that an individual is committed to upholding high professional standards and to keeping their knowledge, skills and experience up-to-date through ongoing professional development.

Being on an Accredited Register is important for the protection of patients and is increasingly viewed as essential by employers, providers, commissioners and patients themselves. Proof of registration on a register accredited by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) is likely to become increasingly expected by these groups. For those not qualified to join the statutory register of the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), voluntary registration through the AHCS register is the only available option.

Q. What does being on the register actually mean?

A. Being on the register means you have been assessed as proficient and agree to comply with the requirements of Good Scientific Practice, including keeping your Continuing Professional Development up-to-date.

Good Scientific Practice represents standards and values that apply throughout an individual's career in healthcare science at any level of practice. The standards will be contextualised by the role within healthcare science that an individual undertakes and are used to approve education and training programmes.

The Standards of Proficiency cover three areas:

1. Professional autonomy and accountability
2. Skills required for practice as a Clinical Physiologist
3. Knowledge of Healthcare Science

These standards are not the same as a person's 'scope of practice' which is defined as the area or areas of a registrant's profession in which they have the knowledge, skills and experience to practise lawfully, safely and effectively, in a way that meets our standards and does not pose any danger to the public or to themselves.

We recognise that the practice of experienced registrants often becomes more focused and specialised over time. This might be because of specialisation in a particular area of practice or with a particular group, or a movement into roles in management, education or research.

As a registrant's scope of practice changes, they may not be able to demonstrate that they meet each and every standard required in the Standards of Proficiency. This is not a problem, as long as they make sure that they are practising safely and effectively within their given scope of practice and do not practise in the areas where they are not proficient.

Q. I am eligible to apply to join the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) statutory register; do I need to apply to be on this register as well?

A. No, because the statutory register already covers you in relation to the 'Fitness to Practise' status that employers recognise as being important. If you trained solely in Clinical Physiology, then the route of statutory registration and regulation is not presently open to you and you are encouraged to register voluntarily with the AHCS.

Q. Does the development of the Accredited Register by the AHCS mean that it is not interested in statutory registration?

A. No. The AHCS remains committed to the goal of statutory regulation across the whole Healthcare Science workforce.

The Government stated in its Command Paper Cm 8008: Enabling Excellence: Autonomy and Accountability for Health and Social Care Staff published in February 2011, that extensions to statutory regulation would only be considered "where there is a compelling case on the basis of a public safety risk and where assured voluntary registers are not considered sufficient to manage this risk".

It remains to be seen what stance the Government takes in the future, but for the time being registration remains voluntary.

Q. I am already on a Practitioner Training Programme (PTP), which part of the AHCS Register should I join?

A. You should apply to join the PTP part of the AHCS Register, because the new Clinical Physiology register has only been established for persons qualified through clinical physiology courses that do not meet the PTP specification.

Q. Does being on the AHCS Register prevent me from belonging to other registers or professional bodies?

A. No. The Academy has good links with all relevant professional bodies and encourages professional body membership to complement your voluntary registration.

Q. If I decide to join this part of the AHCS register, will it be accredited by the PSA?

A. The Practitioner Training Programme and Higher Specialist Scientist parts of the AHCS Register are already accredited by the PSA. The Clinical Physiology part of the register was accredited by the PSA on 22nd September 2017.

Q. How much will it cost me to register with the Academy?

A. If your application is submitted and accepted by the 30th November 2017, your first year's registration will be free. Thereafter the annual fee will be £50.

Q. My qualification is not on the list of Approved Courses, but I have been working as a clinical physiologist for some time and I am interested in applying for Equivalence for this Part of the Academy's Register

A. An Equivalence route for the Clinical Physiology part of the register is currently being developed and is expected to be available in the first quarter of 2018. Meanwhile, please check to see whether your course has been added to the list of approved courses.

Before submitting your online application, please ensure that you:

1. Always check that your qualification certificate matches one of the courses on the approved list.
2. Your ID must always be certified. This means a copy of your photographic ID is verified by someone stating that the document is a true copy of the original. Examples of valid photographic ID are a passport or driving licence, and the person certifying the ID should be of professional standing in the community, preferably GMC or HCPC registered. This person should state *'I certify that this is a true copy of the original document'* and they must sign it and print their name and professional title.
3. Where your name has changed for any reason from that on your certificate, a Proof of Name Change should be supplied, certified as above.
4. Your CRB/DBS certificate should be dated within 3 years of your application for registration. Only employers and licensing bodies can request a Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) check, previously known as a Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check; it is not permitted for an Applicant to do a criminal record check on them self. You can request a basic disclosure from Disclosure Scotland (you don't have to be from Scotland to do this) and it currently costs £25. Applicants who require an enhanced level of DBS check will need to apply through their NHS Employer, who may already retain a valid copy on your behalf. For further information go to: www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check/overview

List of Approved Courses

These sources appear in a drop-down menu when you apply to join the Clinical Physiology Register via the AHCS website.

Establishment	Approved Course
Anglia Ruskin	Cardiology
Anglia Ruskin	Respiratory
Aston University	Audiology
Bristol University	Audiology
City of Westminster College Middlesex University	Cardiology
City of Westminster College Middlesex University	Neurophysiology
City of Westminster College Middlesex University	Respiratory
De Montfort University/Castle College	Audiology
De Montfort University/Castle College	Cardiology
De Montfort University/Castle College	GI Physiology
De Montfort University/Castle College	Neurophysiology
De Montfort University/Castle College	Respiratory
Glasgow Caledonian University	Cardiology
Glasgow Caledonian University	Audiology
Glasgow Caledonian University	Neurophysiology
Glasgow Caledonian University	Respiratory
Manchester Metropolitan University	Cardiology
Newcastle College Sunderland University	Audiology
Newcastle College Sunderland University	Cardiology
Newcastle College Sunderland University	Neurophysiology
Newcastle College Sunderland University	Respiratory
Queen Margaret Edinburgh	Audiology
University College London	Audiology

University of Leeds	Audiology
University of Leeds	Cardiology
University of Manchester	Audiology
University of South Wales	Respiratory
University of Southampton	Audiology
University of Swansea	Audiology
University of Swansea	Cardiology
University of Swansea	Respiratory
University of Ulster	Cardiology
University of Ulster	Neurophysiology
University of Ulster	Respiratory
University of Wolverhampton	Cardiology
University of Wolverhampton	Respiratory