

2023-24 *Clinical Scientist* equivalence: application fee support

If you're considering applying for Clinical Scientist equivalence, NES Healthcare Science can offer advice and funding to meet the relevant body's application fee cost, which typically ranges from £250 to £500.

Equivalence routes are offered by:

- [Academy for Healthcare Science \(AHCS\)](#): Certificate of Equivalence (STP)
- [Association of Clinical Scientists \(ACS\)](#): Certificate of Attainment Route Two
- [Institute of Biomedical Science \(IBMS\)](#): Clinical Scientist Certificate of Attainment (Experiential Route)

What is the advantage of applying for Clinical Scientist equivalence?

- Recognition of your training and experience
- Open career possibilities and prepare for future roles
- Accountability / public protection / professionalism: Clinical Scientist registration is a shared statutory registration for professions across all branches/specialty within Healthcare Science

Who is this scheme aimed at?

This scheme is for any Healthcare Science practitioner interested in achieving Clinical Scientist registration, and who has sufficient post-qualification experience that covers the standards described in one of the three equivalence routes above.

Encouragement is given to established practitioners in the Clinical Physiology specialties including those who may have recently joined the accredited register. If you are unsure, please contact us to discuss further.

What is involved in applying?

For the three routes, the general approach is similar with applicants submitting a portfolio of evidence that demonstrates how they meet the required standard. This is reviewed by assessors before a *viva voce* interview with a panel of peers completes the process. The AHCS and the IBMS require applicants to complete an initial application before submitting the portfolio within six / twelve months respectively. However, the ACS simply require the portfolio of evidence to be submitted with the initial application.

Please see Appendices 1-3 for more specific information regarding the process, eligibility and requirements for each of the three distinct routes.

How do I apply for the funding?

Please complete our MS Forms application form available at the following [LINK](#). You will be expected to include a summary (approximately 500 words) of your relevant training and experience to demonstrate you meet the required standard for Clinical Scientist equivalence.

Applicants must agree to engage with the relevant body (AHCS, ACS or IBMS) to complete their Clinical Scientist equivalence process within the appropriate timescale. This will largely involve preparing the necessary portfolio with sufficient evidence to satisfy the standard.

Applicants must also agree to comply with NES Healthcare Science [Quality Assurance](#) processes, by initially submitting a [training plan](#) (during the funding application process) and returning our exit survey at a later date so we can assess the success of allocated funding.

Is there a deadline?

This support fund is currently open for the financial year 2023-24. Financial support must be drawn down by 31st March 2024, so you should initiate your application and submit your portfolio as soon as you are in a position to do so. NES Healthcare Science will organise payment to the relevant body, but applicants must commence the application with the body and keep us notified of progress.

Please note funding is allocated on a first come, first served basis and may close before 31st March 2024.

Further questions?

Please contact us to discuss any further queries by e-mailing HCS@nes.scot.nhs.uk.

Appendix 1: Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS): Certificate of Equivalence (STP)

Process

The AHCS STP Equivalence process goes through five stages:

1. You submit your initial application to demonstrate your eligibility (and pay fee)
2. You upload your portfolio of evidence (must be submitted within 6 months)
3. Your portfolio is assessed (and quality assured by a professional assessor/moderator)
4. You are interviewed (*viva voce* normally conducted via video-conferencing)
5. The outcome of your interview is ratified, with a successful outcome giving you eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC as a Clinical Scientist

Your progression from one stage to the next depends on achieving a successful outcome at each stage. The process normally takes around 6 months, with each stage taking approximately 28 days.

Eligibility/Requirements

You do not need to possess a Master's level qualification but you must demonstrate a comparable level of professional knowledge, skills and behaviours to a trainee who completes the STP. The AHCS does not prescribe a specific amount or length of experience you must have accrued to demonstrate equivalence. However, graduates of the STP have completed three years of Master's level education that includes a minimum of 90 weeks of integrated workplace training. It is unlikely that periods of experience that are substantially less than this will provide opportunity to develop the required knowledge, skills and behaviours to demonstrate equivalence.

Portfolio

Applicants are assessed against Good Scientific Practice in relation to the appropriate STP learning outcomes which are found in the STP Specialties Curriculum Library available [here](#).

Your portfolio must comprise the following elements:

- summary of your training and experience
- completed [Good Scientific Practice mapping template](#)
- supporting documents/evidence

The online application portal supports you with the requirements of the assessment process, including preparing and uploading your portfolio for assessment.

Should you want further advice, please contact equivalence@ahcs.ac.uk.

Appendix 2: Association of Clinical Scientists (ACS): Certificate of Attainment Route Two

Process

The ACS Certificate of Attainment Route Two process goes through four stages:

1. You submit your application and portfolio of evidence (and pay fee)
2. Your application and portfolio are reviewed (usually takes around 12 weeks)
3. You are interviewed (*viva voce* by assessors from relevant specialty)
4. The outcome of your interview is ratified, with a successful outcome giving you eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC as a Clinical Scientist

There is no requirement to “pre-register” in advance your intention of submitting to the ACS. You should simply make your full application at the appropriate time.

Eligibility/Requirements

To be eligible for a Certificate of Attainment Route Two application you must have:

- a 1st or 2nd class Honours degree, or equivalent, in an appropriate science subject
- completed at least 3 years postgraduate experience relevant to the clinical science e.g. as MTO, BMS or PhD
- sufficient experience and further training while practising as a supervised pre-registrant in the clinical science specialty. It is very unlikely applicants will be able to satisfy assessors should they have less than 4 years experience and it is vital that this includes sufficient clinical exposure in a working environment.
- your supervisor of training must be a Clinical Scientist at Agenda for Change Band 8 or above with at least 6 years post-registration experience, or a consultant medical practitioner, in an appropriate specialty to act as signatory.

Portfolio

Your portfolio must contain sufficient evidence of appropriate training and experience to satisfy the assessors and confirm attainment of all the competences required for registration as a Clinical Scientist. Your portfolio should contain the following:

- introductory covering report (summarising your training and experience)
- completed [Competency Document](#) (giving either page or paragraph references) (giving either page or paragraph references)
- supporting evidence

Should you want further advice, please contact info@assclinsci.org.

Appendix 3: Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS): Clinical Scientist Certificate of Attainment (Experiential Route)

Process

The IBMS Clinical Scientist Certificate of Attainment is an experiential programme offered for those working in the UK in four specialist areas of Healthcare Science:

- Clinical Biochemistry
- Clinical Immunology
- Haematology
- Clinical Microbiology

The process goes through five stages:

1. You submit your initial application to demonstrate eligibility (and pay initial fee)
2. You submit your portfolio of evidence and pay further fee (must be submitted within 12 months and before 31st March 2024 to ensure funding is available)
3. Your portfolio is assessed (within 6 weeks)
4. You are interviewed (*viva voce* by assessors from relevant specialty)
5. The outcome of your interview is ratified, with a successful outcome giving you eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC as a Clinical Scientist

Eligibility/Requirements

To be eligible for a Clinical Scientist Certificate of Attainment application you must:

- have an MSc degree, or an equivalent-level qualification
- be in a role where you are making clinical decisions and providing scientific advice to clinicians and other healthcare professionals that affect patients' diagnoses and treatment
- be able to demonstrate sufficient education, training and professional experience to meet the minimum level of practice required for registration as a Clinical Scientist with the HCPC
- have access to a named mentor who is a registered Clinical Scientist and is able to guide you on the appropriateness of your selected evidence to the HCPC standards of proficiency

Portfolio

The portfolio of evidence should contain the following:

- covering statement (summarising your training and experience)
- completed [evidence-mapping document](#) (cross-referenced to standards) (cross-referenced to standards)
- supporting evidence for each HCPC Clinical Scientist standard of proficiency

Should you want further advice, please contact equivalence@ibms.org.