



AHCS

Academy for Healthcare Science

Equivalence – The Applicant View

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What is Equivalence?



Equivalence exists when the outcomes of two processes are directly comparable even though the paths to achieving them are different.



When equivalence is shown to exist between a new qualification and the qualification or experience an individual already has, further education or training becomes unnecessary.

STP Equivalence process costs - £280
Fees are eligible for tax relief

Clinical Scientists (Masters level)



Individuals completing a Scientist Training Programme course **or completing STP Equivalence through the Academy** are eligible to apply for Statutory Regulation as Clinical Scientists

Reference points



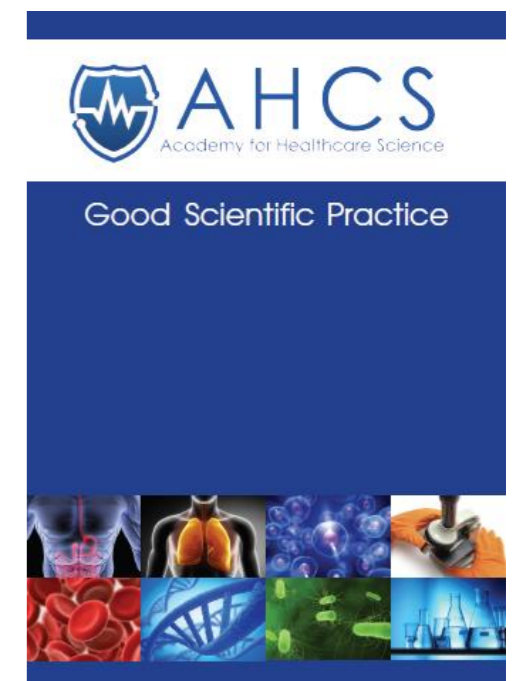
Applicants must provide evidence that they meet :

- Standards within the Good Scientific Practice

Assessors review the evidence against the learning outcomes for the **relevant STP curriculum:**

Available at:

<https://curriculum.nshcs.org.uk/programmes/stp>





Equivalence Guidance

General Guidance

- [Good Scientific Practice](#) ↓
- [AHCS Equality and Diversity Policy](#) ↓
- [AHCS Statement on Health and Disability](#) ↓
- [AHCS Data Protection Policy](#) ↓
- [AHCS Appeals & Complaints for Equivalence Certification POL003](#) ↓

Higher Specialist Scientist (HSST) Equivalence Guidance

- [HSS Flowchart of Equivalence Process](#) ↓
- [HSS Standards of Proficiency](#) ↓
- [HSSR Certificate of Equivalence Programme Handbook](#) ↓
- [HSSE Guidance for Applicants](#) ↓
- [HSSE Templates for Applicants](#) ↓

Scientist Training Programme (STP) Equivalence Guidance

- [STP Certificate of Equivalence Programme Handbook](#) ↓
- [Applicants Guide for STP Equivalence](#) ↓
- [STP Mapping Template](#) ↓

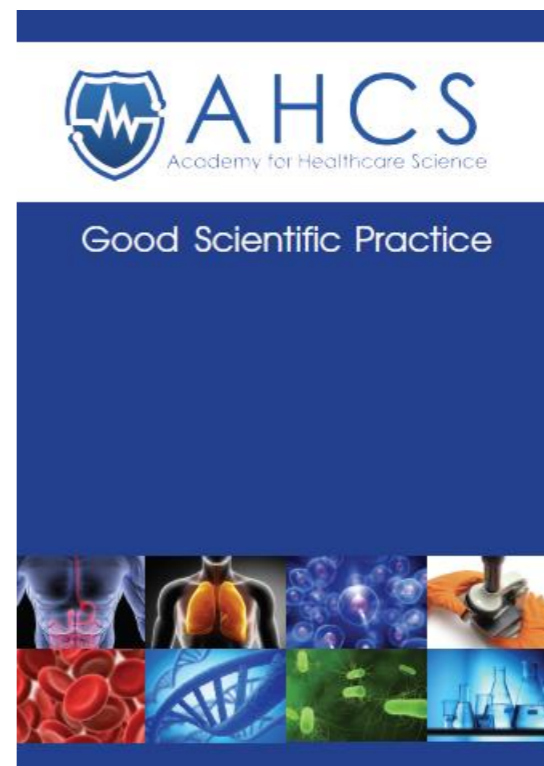
Practitioner Training Programme (PTP) Equivalence Guidance

- [Standards of Proficiency](#) ↓
- [Applicants Guide for PTP equivalence](#) ↓
- [Practitioner Training Programme Equivalence Handbook](#) ↓
- [PTP Mapping Template](#) ↓

Available at: <https://www.ahcs.ac.uk/equivalence/equivalence-guidance/>

GSP Domains

1. Professional Practice
2. Scientific Practice
3. Clinical Practice
4. Research and Development
5. Clinical Leadership

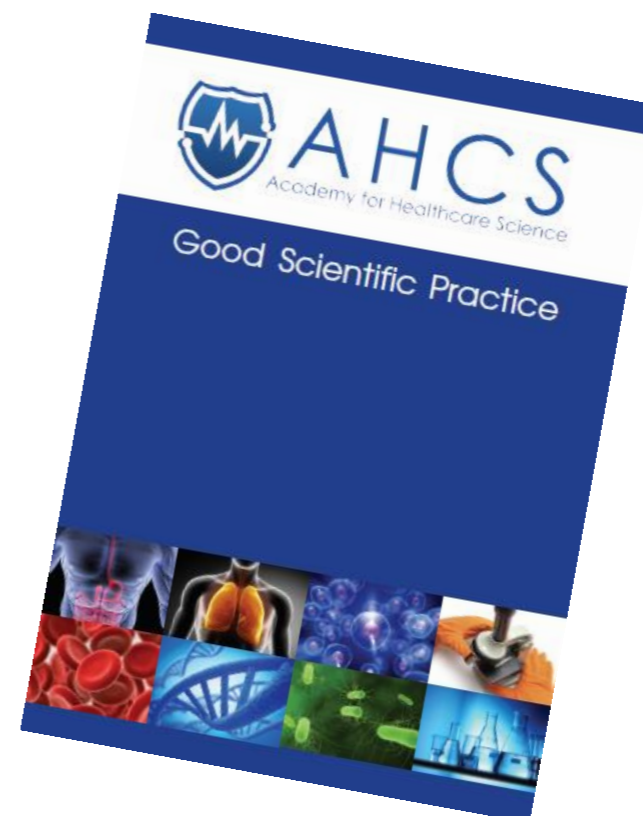


Equivalence Process



- Initial application
- Administrative checks and approval to continue
- Portfolio submission (within 6 months)
- Assessment of portfolio
- Panel decision to progress to interview
- Interview (STP only)
- Panel decision, outcome judgement, feedback
- Ratification
- HCPC notified of outcome
- Certificates available to download by successful candidates

Guidance and Templates




**Applicants Guide:
 Certificate of Equivalence
 Scientist Training
 Programme
 (Clinical Scientist)**

Version Control	V13	Doc ref # 024
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Revision date		

Domain 3 Clinical Practice

Location of evidence

3.1.1 Ensure that you and the staff you supervise understand the need for and obtain relevant consent before undertaking any investigation, examination, provision of treatment, or involvement of patients and carers in teaching or research

Doc 21 [name of document]
 Doc 23 [name of document]
 Doc 29 [name of document]

3.1.2 Ensure that you and the staff you supervise maintain confidentiality of patient information and records in line with published guidance

Doc 4 [name of document]
 Doc 17 [name of document]
 Doc 33 [name of document]

3.1.3 Ensure that you and your staff understand the wider clinical consequences of decisions made on your actions or advice

Doc 5 [name of document]
 Doc 6 [name of document]
 Doc 33 [name of document]

Administrative checks



Registration administrator checks initial application to confirm:

- Identity of applicant
- Current Disclosure and Barring Service check at the basic level or above
- Sufficient language skills
- Size of portfolio
- Appropriate length of professional experience
- Certificates of qualifications submitted

The administrator does not review scientific content

– If rejected at initial application - fees are refundable less an admin fee

Assessment Panel



Three assessors

- One specialist
- One clinical (from same Division)
- One lay - chairs the interview

Portfolio assessment outcomes



There are three possible outcomes:

- Progress to interview
- Further evidence is required
- Reject application

Interview assessment



- Ensures the integrity of the portfolio
- Normally via video-conferencing using GoToMeeting
- Three assessors (2 professional, 1 lay chair), 1 from specialism
- Structured questions designed around GSP domains
- Normally two questions per domain
- Usually lasts between 30 minutes to one hour.

Assessment outcomes



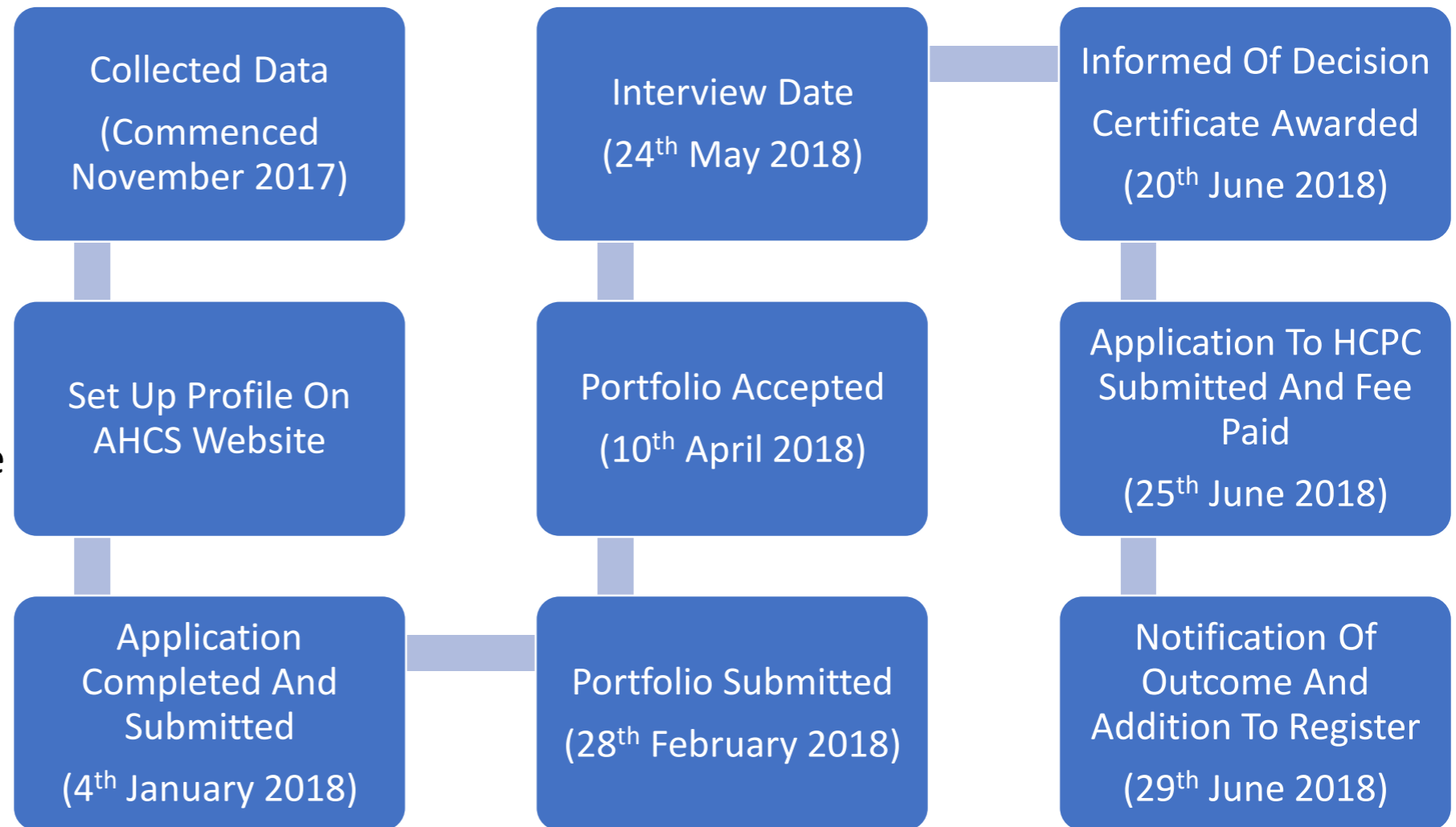
There are three possible outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Applicant has demonstrated equivalence and can be awarded the Certificate of Equivalence
- Outcome 2: Applicant may be able to demonstrate equivalence, but further evidence is required
- Outcome 3: Applicant has not demonstrated equivalence

Sara McArthur Equivalence Journey



- BSc Biological Science
- BSc Hons Clinical Physiology
- 9 Years Clinical Experience
- 5 years Research Experience
- 5 years Leadership Experience



Cat Macleod Clinical Engineering



- Background: Beng (Hons) Electronics with Music, EngD in Medical Devices (Biomedical Engineering)
- Scottish Training Scheme in Medical Physics – 3.5 years (started September 2014)
 - **Year 1:** University of Glasgow MSc in Medical Physics
 - **Year 2:** Work placements (10-11 weeks), NHS GG&C (Med Phys) – Nuclear Medicine, Radiotherapy, Imaging with Non Ionising, Radiation Protection and acquaintanceship in Clinical Measurement
 - Portfolio of placement work and QA assessment by Medical Physics experts**
 - **Year 3+4** – 18 month placement in specialism – switched to Clinical Engineering – Medical Devices and Visual Electrophysiology





Path to Registration

- **20th December 2017** - initial submission to AHCS (Equivalence to STP)
- **11th February 2018** – Submission of Equivalence Portfolio
- **12th March 2018** – Portfolio Accepted
- **26th March 2018** – Viva in Edinburgh (video conference) – Examiner from specialism, Clinical Scientist in other field, Lay Examiner and Representative from AHCS
- **7th April 2018** – Email confirming successful assessment from AHCS – application to HCPC for registration as a Clinical Scientist
- **26th April 2018** – HCPC Registration



Getting onto the AHCS system



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WHAT'S NEXT?

