



# AHCS

Academy for Healthcare Science

## STP Equivalence – The Portfolio

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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

# Reference points



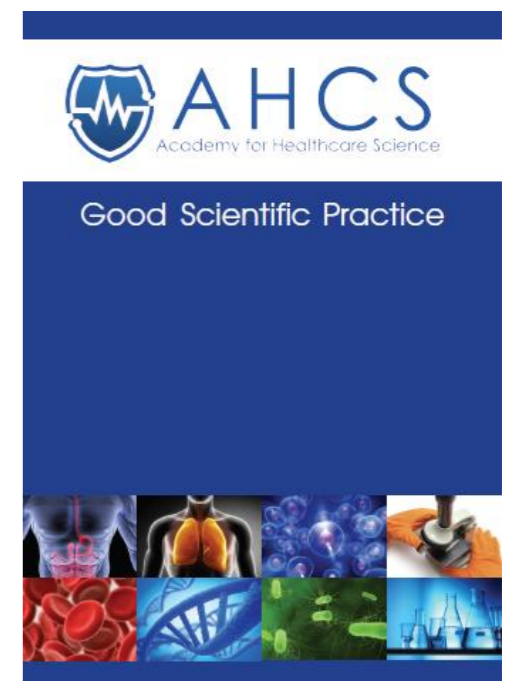
Applicants must provide evidence that they meet :

- 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>



# GSP Domains

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



Good Scientific Practice





[Programmes](#) / Scientist Training Programme

## Scientist Training Programme - Specialties

Enter your specialty to filter the list

↕ Title	Choose your start year
Applied Epidemiology	<input type="button" value="2017"/> <input type="button" value="2018"/>
Audiology	<input type="button" value="2017"/> <input type="button" value="2018"/>
Cancer Genomics - Draft	<input type="button" value="2018"/>
Cardiac Sciences	<input type="button" value="2017"/> <input type="button" value="2018"/>
Clinical Biochemistry	<input type="button" value="2017"/> <input type="button" value="2018"/>



## 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/>

# STP 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
- Panel decision, outcome judgement, feedback
- Certificate issued to successful candidates



## Three assessors

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



# Portfolio – size and scope



- Overall portfolio size

Level	Maximum size	Normally about
STP	150	80 - 100

- Portfolios less than 60 pages are unlikely to contain sufficient evidence. Portfolios over 150 pages will be returned to the applicant
- Summary of training and experience (<5000 words)
- Individual documentary evidence
- Completed GSP mapping template

# Portfolio – purpose



Allows the applicant to demonstrate that they:

- have had a sufficient period of training and experience
- are working at the clinical scientist level
- have a thorough understanding of the subject matter
- have the sufficient knowledge, skills and competence to meet the Good Scientific Practice standards
- can be considered to have the equivalent knowledge, skills and competence as some one completing the Scientist Training Programme
- are professional, competence, reflective

# Portfolio – requirements



- must be your own work, or the input from others acknowledged
- must not be longer than 150 pages in total
- must use a font size for text of 12 point.
- must include page numbers
- must not include any confidential data such as a patient's name. If such data is included the portfolio will be rejected
- do not photo-reduce or resize certificates/evidence to fit more than one to a page
- if any part of the evidence is not in English, certified translations must be provided

# Portfolio – requirements (cont')



Do not include

- full texts of papers/reports/case studies (abstracts or summaries only)
- detailed training logs (summaries only)
- certificates of attendance for every meeting – only those demonstrating contribution to achieving the standard

Ideally

- upload the portfolio as a single pdf document.
- AHCS' system allows for a maximum of three documents to be uploaded if required

# Mapping document



## An extract from GSP used for mapping in STP Equivalence

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]
3.1.4 Demonstrate expertise in the wider clinical situation that applies to patients who present in your discipline	Doc 10 [name of document] Doc 28 [name of document] Doc 35 [name of document] Doc 36 [name of document]
3.1.5 Maintain up to date knowledge of the clinical evidence base that underpins the services that you provide and/or supervise and ensure that these services are in line with the best clinical evidence	Doc 9 [name of document] Doc 19 [name of document]
3.1.6 Plan and agree investigative strategies and clinical protocols for the optimal diagnosis, monitoring and therapy of patients with a range of disorders	Doc 22 [name of document] Doc 23 [name of document]

## Activity: What is good evidence



- On your table there are set of standards from across Good Scientific Practice Domains
- In groups, discuss what evidence you could use to demonstrate you meet those standards
- Identify any sources of evidence which you think are particularly strong and why

# How do assessors review the portfolio



- is it complete?
- does the evidence support the claims made in the summary?
- is there sufficient reflection about the evidence submitted to clearly show how the evidence meets the standards?
- does it demonstrate achievement of the standards set out in Good Scientific Practice?

# How do assessors review the portfolio (cont')



- does it demonstrate that the applicant has the equivalent skills, knowledge and experience as someone completing the Scientist Training Programme?
- are they able to apply clinical knowledge and experience
- can they lead and innovate



# Portfolio assessment outcomes



There are three possible outcomes:

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

# Panel Assessment Form - Assessor



## ACADEMY FOR HEALTHCARE SCIENCE STP Equivalence PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT FORM

Full Name of candidate: Mr Alun Williams  
AHCS Reference Number: 5  
Specialism: Genetics  
Assessor Name: Mr Alun Williams  
Is the portfolio satisfactory?  Yes  No

### Indicate any areas of deficiencies by domain below: (confidential notes for the AHCS use only)

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

### Recommendation: (Please fill in the text box and press the appropriate button)

Suggested comments to be sent to candidate:

Date: 17/10/2014

Proceed for Interview

Reject

Further Information Needed

# Getting onto the AHCS system



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## Contact details



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WHAT'S NEXT?

