



## EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY PATHOLOGISTS

### ECVP Ambassadorship Initiative 2010

#### 1 Purpose

The ECVP aims to advance veterinary pathology and promote high standards within the specialty in Europe. One of its major goals is to harmonise expertise and training in the field throughout Europe. However, ECVP-registered residency training centres do not yet exist in all European countries, a consequence of which is that pathologists from some European countries face major difficulties in pursuing the necessary training to fulfil the requirements for the ECVP certifying examination. To overcome this, the ECVP initiates the "ECVP Ambassadorship Initiative", a fellowship programme to train an experienced pathologist in an established post at an academic institute in a European country without an ECVP-registered residency training centre, for the ECVP certifying examination.

#### 2 Financing

The ECVP will provide a grant to cover the expenses for a one-year training period in an ECVP-recognised residency training centre (Host Institution) and the participation in the ECVP certifying examination in the year following the training (acceptance of the candidate to the examination based on the alternative training route). The grant will provide a stipend to cover the general living expenses at the Host Institution, travel expenses for two roundtrips to the home country, attendance at the ECVP/ESVP Summer School in Veterinary Pathology in the training year and travel and living expenses to attend the ECVP certifying examination. The exam fees will be waived.

The stipend will match the tax-free stipends of trainees in veterinary pathology at the Host Institution.

#### 3 Eligibility and Requirements

##### A. Fellow

The fellow to be sponsored should fulfil the following requirements:

1. Be qualified to practice veterinary medicine in Europe.
2. Have completed at least four years work experience in veterinary pathology in an established academic veterinary pathology institution in her/his home country.
3. Be an author of at least two peer-reviewed publications in the field of veterinary pathology, to fulfil the requirements for the ECVP certifying examination.
4. Hold a permanent full-time post as a veterinary pathologist in an established academic veterinary pathology institution in a European country that has no ECVP diplomats by exam and no ECVP-registered residency training centre (Home Institution), and hold a citizenship in this country.
5. Be committed to further her/his career in veterinary pathology and establish an ECVP-recognised residency training centre at the home institution.
6. Be proficient in English and preferably also the language of the Host Institution before the start of the fellowship (to be evaluated by the interviewing team).

##### B. Home Institution

The Home Institution should fulfil the following requirements:

1. Be an established academic veterinary pathology institution in a European country that has no ECVP diplomats by exam and no ECVP-registered residency training centre.
2. Undertake diagnostic veterinary pathology and undergraduate veterinary pathology teaching as one of its primary functions.
3. Grant the fellow (see 3A) a 12-month period of leave (sabbatical), keeping her/his status as a member of staff and providing her/him with the necessary insurances (e.g. health insurance) that will allow a) the Host Institution (see 3C) to grant her/him the honorary status of a visiting researcher, and b) the fellow to return to his/her post upon completion of the fellowship.
4. Allow the fellow to return to her/his permanent, full-time post upon completion of the fellowship.
5. Grant the fellow appropriate time off duty to revise and prepare for the ECVP certifying examination should the fellow have returned to her/his Home Institution prior to sitting the ECVP certifying examination after the fellowship and/or should the fellow have to resit (parts of) the examination.
6. Commit itself to practically support the fellow upon her/his return and after her/his successful completion of the ECVP certifying examination in establishing an ECVP-registered residency training centre within one year. It must further support the training of at least two candidates (at least one candidate at a time) to be trained by the fellow in preparation for the ECVP certifying examination.

### **C. Host Institution**

The Host Institution should fulfil the following requirements:

1. Be an ECVP-registered residency training centre that trains veterinary pathologists as one of its primary functions.
2. Be committed to train the fellow (see 4.A) in preparation for the ECVP certifying examination and provide her/him with access to all available training resources, including office and laboratory space, access to the internet, all relevant literature, and access and exposure to an appropriate number of suitable diagnostic cases.
3. Support the fellow with regard to her/his status as an honorary member of staff, accommodation, local social integration and other matters that might arise during her/his stay, such as sponsoring of attendance at additional training courses.

### **4 Conditions of Sponsorship**

The fellowship must be taken up within twelve months after the stipend has been granted, but no later than 01 February 2011, with a planned attempt to sit the ECVP certifying examination in February 2012. Sponsorship is strictly contingent on the return of the fellow to her/his home country after the training period and the subsequent establishment of an ECVP-registered residency training centre at the Home Institution. Should the first requirement not be met in due course and should the second requirement not be met within one year after the candidate became a member of the ECVP (DiplECVP), the funds sponsored by the College will have to be reimbursed. The fellow is expected to be the programme director at the ECVP-registered residency training centre for at least 5 years after its establishment.

### **5 Application and Selection**

Applications are to be submitted in an electronic form to the ECVP Office ([ecvpif@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:ecvpif@liverpool.ac.uk)) by the applicant, comprising all relevant documents from the potential fellow, the potential supervisor at the Host Institution and the line manager at the Home Institution no later than **31 December 2009**. Applications should comprise the following:

- Letter of application from the applicant, including statements to demonstrate the commitment to comply with the conditions of sponsorship (see 4). Please send a signed hard copy to the ECVP Office by mail.
- Curriculum vitae of applicant, providing information on the fulfilment of the requirements listed in 3.A Eligibility and Requirements. Fellow.
- Letter of support from the official representative of the Home Institution, providing information on the fulfilment of the requirements listed in 3.B Eligibility and Requirements. Home Institution. Please send a signed hard copy to the ECVP Office by mail.
- Letter of support from the Director of the ECVP-registered residency training centre at the Host Institution, providing information on the fulfilment of the requirements listed in 3.C Eligibility and Requirements. Host Institution. In addition, a brief study plan should be provided outlining the training programme the fellow will undergo at the Host Institution. Please send a signed hard copy to the ECVP Office by mail.
- Proof of language competence (English and preferably also language of Host Institution), if possible by documentation on passed language tests.
- Budget, comprising the stipend and other expected expenses to be claimed from the grant

Copies of all applications will be forwarded to the Council's Fellowship Committee and candidates will be notified of the receipt and completeness of the application within a reasonable time period to allow amendment by the end of January 2010, should this be necessary. A shortlist will be prepared by the Fellowship Committee and candidates invited for interview on Thursday, 11 February 2010, in Hanover, Germany. A decision upon the fellowship will be made by the ECVP Council in mid February based on the suggestions made by the Fellowship Committee.

## **6 Payment**

On receipt of an invoice from the Finance Office of the Host Institution, payment of the grant will be made by the ECVP during the first month of the grant and every three months, with a final claim one month after the end date of the fellowship. The stipend will be paid in 3-month instalments in advance. For all other expenses, receipts need to be provided. Earlier payment may be requested in writing by the Fellow and the Host Institution with supporting information. The ECVP reserves the right to disallow claims, in full or in part, which it considers to not comply with these regulations.

## **7 Progress Reports**

Concise word-processed reports detailing and commenting on the training and progress must be submitted to the ECVP Office by both the fellow and the supervisor at the Host Institution independently, 3 months and again 9 months after the start of the fellowship.

## **8 Withdrawal of Fellowship**

The ECVP reserves the right at any time and without notice to withdraw the fellowship, either in full or in part, if the fellow/Home Institution/Host Institution fails materially to comply with the above regulations. This includes failure to take up the grant within the time period indicated in the offer and/or failure to sit the ECVP certifying examination.

## **9 Necessity of Conciliation**

Once a fellowship has been granted to an individual and unintended or unforeseen circumstances arise, the ECVP Council is to decide upon required action(s) and on the continuation of the fellowship.