



Modular programme to ECVP specialisation

1. Introduction

The modular programme enables applicants to gain eligibility to sit the ECVP examination to become an ECVP Diplomate.

Application to follow a modular programme shall be submitted to the ECVP Applications Committee before the start of the programme.

2. Definitions

Diagnostic case: a case submitted to the pathology department in order to obtain expert pathology diagnosis and resulting in a signed pathology report which the resident has taken responsibility of (the resident performs necropsy, reads biopsies and writes the report). To be included in the case log, there is no need for reports to be signed by the resident, but reports must be signed by an ECVP Diplomate supervising the resident.

The supervisor of the programme is the ECVP Diplomate responsible for the modular programme overall. This Diplomate is identified from the beginning of the programme and will sign candidate's application to the exam.

Each component of the modular programme must be signed by an ECVP Diplomate who has supervised the component. This Diplomate may be different from the supervisor.

3. General principles of the modular programme

The modular programme is based on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The candidate must obtain 240 ECTS post DVM (Level 8 EQF) in order to be eligible to sit the ECVP Examination. Defined educative training components entitle the resident to credits. A minimum of 180 credits must be obtained over the modular programme. The addition of 60 credits gained from the one-year internship prior to the modular programme bring the candidate the total of 240 credits required.

Credits are acquired through mandatory and optional components. For mandatory components, all required credits from all components must be obtained to a total of 150 credits. Optional components enable to reach 180 credits by adding a minimum of 30 credits from one or more of those optional components.

Each component is defined by a unit and a number of credits per unit. Units are taken as a whole (no partial credits for partial units).

Where applicable, minimum and/or maximum credits to be obtained for a given component over the credit collection period are defined.

Components are split into theoretical (T) and practical (P). The mandatory components enable a candidate to reach the required ECTS minimum of 50% of practical credits (90/180).

4. Timelines

The total time spent on the modular programme shall not be less than 3 years and shall not exceed 6 years. Credit collection may be paused in blocks no shorter than 6 months for up to 4 years in total. The period of active credit collection including pauses cannot exceed 8 years.

A resident cannot start to collect credits from any activities performed prior to one-year post graduation from veterinary school.

Retrospective credits may be gained for a maximum of 12 months before the resident is registered as an ECVP resident. The acceptance date of resident registration is the reference date for the commencement of the programme and the retrieval of retrospective credits.

Credits of different components may be validated over the same time period. For instance, necropsy and biopsy credits may be obtained over the same time period, provided the minimum case log number is met.

5. Supervision

A programme supervisor is identified at the time of submission of the modular programme to the Applications Committee. This supervisor is in charge of supervising the programme overall.

Within the programme, credit generating activities must be under the supervision of ECVP Diplomates who individually approve, in the logbook, the credits gained for a given component.

Supervision of activities may be on-site or remote:

- For necropsy components, supervision by an ECVP Diplomat may be remote provided a minimum number of credits has first been gained by on-site supervision. When under remote supervision, two units of those practical components are required for the same number of credits as that obtained with one unit with on-site supervision.
- For biopsy duty component, supervision by an ECVP Diplomat may be entirely remote (except for the compulsory 5 credits for trimming). Units under remote supervision gains the same amount of credits as that obtained with one unit with on-site supervision.
- For theoretical parts, direct supervision by an ECVP Diplomat is not mandatory for the entire credit collection. This is further detailed, for the relevant components, in the text below and within the logbook notes section. Whether activity supervision is on-site or remote, the signature of the supervising ECVP Diplomat is required in the logbook against each activity.

Activities may be performed at ECVP-Registered Residency Training Centres or at institutions under on-site or remote supervision by an ECVP Diplomat. Any specific rules to activity environment requirements are described in the corresponding components.

6. Component definition and credits

a. Mandatory components

150 credits must be gained as follows:

- **Necropsy duty (practical)**

The resident is in charge of necropsy cases ensuring significant exposure to diagnostic cases including necropsy, appropriate ancillary tests (bacteriology/virology) and/or histopathology evaluation and reporting results. In terms of case distribution, a minimum of 25 cases of each of the following species categories must be included: small domestic animals (dogs and cats), large domestic animals (large and small ruminants, equids, swine) and other species (one or more of laboratory animals, exotic animals, zoo and wildlife animals, fish, poultry). It is expected that cases cover varied pathologic processes; this is approved by the Diplomat signing the case log.

- Minimum case log per unit: 15 cases. 1 unit gains 5 credits
- A maximum of 6 units i.e. 90 cases* (30 credits) can be collected over 1 year of the programme

- Total credits required over the programme in order to validate component: 45 (9 units i.e. 135 cases*)
- Units may be supervised remotely by an ECVP Diplomate after the first 15 credits (3 units/45 cases) have been gained under on-site supervision. Under remote supervision, 5 credits are gained with 30 cases.
- A maximum of 15 credits (3 units i.e. 90 cases) can be obtained under remote supervision. Please note, in such case of 15 credits gained under remote supervision, that the total number of cases required is 180).

**Case numbers given as i.e. are calculated based on 100% on-site supervision for the listed credits. In the case of remote supervision, twice the number of cases are required in order to gain as much credits as those obtained under on-site supervision.*

- **Biopsy duty (practical)**

The resident is in charge of biopsy cases ensuring significant exposure to the broadest range possible of diagnostic cases including collection of case history, trimming, histopathologic slide reading, special stains/IHC, reporting results including comment (prognosis, recommendation to vet...). Cases must include a minimum of 30 cases from species such as large domestic animals (large and small ruminants, equids, swine) or other species than small animals. It is expected that cases cover varied pathologic processes; this is approved by the Diplomate signing the case log.

- Minimum case log per unit: 50 cases. 1 unit gains 5 credits.
- A maximum of 6 units (30 credits) can be collected over 1 year of the residency.
- Total credits required over the programme in order to validate component: 45 (9 units)
- Units may be supervised remotely by an ECVP Diplomate.
- The whole component may be supervised remotely by an ECVP Diplomate (except for trimming)
- 5 of the required credits must be gained in this category by being exposed to biopsy trimming for 1 month (20 days) under on-site supervision at whatever time in the programme

- **Histology seminars (theoretical)**

Attendance to recurring histology seminars defined as any group seminar of at least 1 hour aiming at developing skills in histopathology (typically includes weekly seminars, histology rounds based on case review...):

- Minimum of 15 rounds to validate 1 unit.
- 1 unit gains 5 credits.
- Total credits required over the programme in order to validate component: 15 (3 units).
- At least one unit (15 rounds) must be directly supervised by an ECVP Diplomate (remote supervision possible).

- **Gross pathology seminars (theoretical)**

Attendance to recurring gross pathology seminars defined as any group seminars of at least 1 hour aiming at developing skills in gross pathology (includes necropsy show and tell, weekly seminars...):

- Minimum of 15 rounds validate 1 unit.
- 1 unit gets 5 credits.
- Total credits required over the programme in order to validate component: 15 (3 units).
- At least one unit (15 rounds) must be directly supervised by an ECVP Diplomate (remote supervision possible).

- **Journal clubs (theoretical)**

Attendance to a recurring journal club defined as any group seminar of at least 1 hour aiming at developing literature-based pathology knowledge:

- Minimum of 15 rounds validate 1 unit.
- 1 unit gains 5 credits.
- Total credits required over the programme in order to validate component: 15 (3 units).
- At least one unit (15 rounds) must be directly supervised by an ECVF Diplomat (remote supervision possible).

- **Mandatory publications (theoretical)**

Those publications are those required as credentials to sit the examination (please refer to ECVF By-laws). Acceptance of the publications will be approved by the ECVF Applications Committee.

- 5 credits per paper
- Total credits required over the programme in order to validate component: 10

- **Mock Exam (theoretical)**

Attendance to an exam organized in exam conditions under on-site supervision of an ECVF Diplomat and including at least 7 hours of continuous or split examination with at least one practical component (gross pathology or histology).

- 5 credits per mock exam
- Total credits required over the programme in order to validate component: 5

Mock exams at Summer School entitle to credits in addition to those obtained by attending the Summer School.

Summary of mandatory components and corresponding credit scheme

MANDATORY COMPONENTS	Type	Unit*	Credits per unit	Total ECTS required over programme
Necropsy duty	P	15 cases	5	45 ECTS (=9 units =135 cases [§]) Max collection of 30 ECTS (=6 units =90 cases [§]) over 1 year Max collection of 15 ECTS (= 3 units = 90 cases) under remote supervision ^{§§}
Biopsy duty	P	1 month (20 days) on duty	5	45 ECTS (=9 units) 5 must be gained by on-site exposure to trimming Remaining 40 ECTS =8 units =400 cases Max collection of 30 ECTS (=6 units =300 cases) over 1 year
Histo seminar	T	15 rounds	5	15 Can be performed 100% remote with minimum 15 rounds directly supervised by ECVF Dipl.
Gross seminar	T	15 rounds	5	
Journal club	T	15 rounds	5	
Publication	T	1 paper	5	10
Mock exam	T	1 exam	5	5
Total credits to be gained from mandatory components			Practical	90
			Theoretical	60
			Total	150

* P (practical); T (theoretical)

§ Number of cases calculated in case of 100% on-site supervision

§§ Please note, in such case of 15 credits gained under remote supervision, that the total number of cases required is 180 (90 cases to gain 30 credits under on-site supervision and 90 cases to gain 15 credits under remote supervision).

b. Optional components

A minimum of 30 additional credits must be gained from one or more of the following optional components:

- **Pathology course**

Defined as a course of minimum 7 hours held in English. The supervisor approves the course by signing the candidate's records.

- **Summer School**

Attendance to the ECVF Summer School (2 weeks).

- **Mock exam (additional)**

Comes in addition to the mandatory mock exam. In exam condition under on-site supervision by an ECVF Diplomate and including at least 7 hours of examination (continuous or split). Mock exams at Summer School entitle to credits in addition to those obtained by attending the Summer School.

- **Publications (additional)**

Come in addition to the 2 mandatory publications. Resident is listed as an author in an English written publication relevant to the field of pathology.

- **Employment**

Being employed (at least 80% of full working time) for 1 year as a post-graduate DVM with professional pathology duties in an academic or non-academic diagnostic, research, or industrial pathology environment. Employment as a Doctoral or PhD student falls under the Doctoral/PhD credits.

- **Post-graduate PhD or equivalent**

PhD title relevant to the field of pathology. Credits gained in this section include being employed as a post-graduate PhD student. PhD equivalents will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

- **Congresses**

Attendance to congresses of the European College of Veterinary Pathologists, American College of Veterinary Pathologists, European Society of Toxicologic Pathology or Society of Toxicologic Pathology.

- **Related discipline training**

Any post-graduate training in a discipline related to veterinary pathology.

Summary of optional components and corresponding credit scheme

OPTIONAL COMPONENTS	Type*	Unit	Credits per unit	Maximum credits per year	Maximum credits over the residency
Pathology course	T	1 course (7 to 14 hours [§])	1 (on-site) 0.5 (remote)	Max 2	10
Summer School	T	1 attendance	5	N/A	15
Mock exam (additional)	T	1 exam	2	/	6
Publications (additional)	T	1 paper	5 (first or last author) 2 (other)	/	20
Employment	P	1 year employment	5	5	20
Post-graduate PhD (or equivalent)	P	1 PhD title	10	/	10
Congress	T	1 attendance	1	Max 2	5
Related discipline training	P	25 hours of training	1	Max 5	5

[§] If greater than 14 hours, then 2 points (on-site) or 1 point (remote)

* P (practical); T (theoretical)

7. Logbook

Candidates maintain a logbook of their activities as per provided template. For practical components, candidates maintain a case log. Each activity is signed by a supervisor who must be an ECVF Diplomate. The completed and duly signed logbook shall be submitted to the Applications Committee as attachment to the application form.