

Requirements for Registration of Residents and Residency Training Programmes

(based on the AoA and By-laws accepted by the College in 2022, see also AoA Art. 2, By-laws Art. 2)

General

ECVP-approved training programmes: programmes that fulfil requirements as stated in the By-laws (Art. 2.2)

ECVP-registered training centres: the criteria are stated in the By-laws (Art.2.1) and in more detail in the SOP (005-ECVP-SOP).

Programme directors: criteria are stated in the By-laws (Art. 2.1)

Residents: criteria for residents are stated in the By-laws (Art 2.3)

Sponsor: this is the person responsible for the resident's application to the examination and can be either the programme director or a supervisor.

Supervisors: criteria are stated in the By-laws (Art. 2.1).

Objectives of an ECVP-approved training programme

The objective of a residency training programme is to provide a broad-based theoretical and practical experience in veterinary pathology and to prepare residents for the ECVP certifying examination. The training is orientated towards anatomic veterinary pathology of domestic, exotic and/or laboratory animals and/or poultry; and complemented by an introduction to cytology.

The emphasis is on independent learning and development of skills in descriptive and diagnostic areas of anatomic pathology, in understanding the concepts of general pathology, as well as in the identification and evaluation of pathological processes leading to disease. Residents are expected to become competent at correlating tissue alterations with clinical and functional parameters of diseases. Furthermore, they are expected to develop some experience in specific techniques routinely used in diagnostic and research pathology as well as in the interpretation and critical appraisal of scientific data.

Residents should be encouraged to perform a defined research project or scientific investigations of specific cases leading to scientific publications and presentation(s) at (inter)national scientific meetings (e.g. annual ESVG/ECVP congress). See the Guide for Training Sponsors for further information.

The overall value of the training will depend to a large extent on the initiative of the resident, but close supervision and progress monitoring is also essential.

The outcome of the training shall include the ability to:

- Recognise normal anatomy and histology
- Recognise and describe gross and histological features of pathological changes
- Perform a necropsy and report on necropsy and surgical specimens in such a way as to provide pertinent and relevant information to submitting individuals and institutions

- Identify or suggest likely causes of disease (aetiological diagnosis)
- Understand the mechanisms involved in disease processes (pathogenesis),
- Understand the principles of established and emerging diagnostic procedures and their applications to pathology
- Think independently and be critical about the interpretation of morphological observations
- Present scientific data at (inter)national meetings and prepare data for publication in peer-reviewed journals
- Be familiar with the principles of experimental design and data interpretation

Total time requirements for training and possible extensions are those as stated in the By-laws (Art. 2.2).

Requirements for facilities

Adequate space and equipment must be available to ensure an effective programme. In particular, a necropsy room for the performance of post-mortem examinations on small and large animals, histology laboratories, and laboratories performing specific diagnostic techniques must be available.

Registration, evaluation, and approval of a residency training centre is as stated in By-laws (Art. 2.1) and in the SOP (005-ECVP-SOP).

Alternative training programmes are defined in By-laws (Art. 2.2). For information on the modular credit system please follow this link <https://www.ecvpath.org/training-centres>

Formal course work

The individual study plan should allow for the successful preparation for the ECV certifying examination. Residents are expected to undergo formal course work dedicated to specific skills in aspects of veterinary pathology. Formal course work can be on a regional, national, or international level.

Veterinary pathology training

The training must be a directed educational process. Unsupervised diagnostic work alone is not suitable. However, the level of responsibility placed on residents for their own education is high and demands extensive independent study of specimens for diagnosis and interpretation, texts, journals and consultation with qualified pathologists, clinicians, and other specialists.

The resident should be given sufficient time off-duty for research, independent study, and revision. In general, time should be dedicated to a) diagnostic duty, b) research and c) independent study (including extramural attendance of formal courses). Self-assessment opportunities for the resident need to be available.

The ECV certifying examination is the culmination of years of intensive preparation involving a wide range of animal species. It is therefore strongly advised that the resident be granted a final phase of concentrated study, for a minimum of at least 1 month, without other specific duties, to allow for extensive revision.

Research activities

Institutions organising a residency training programme must provide an opportunity for original or collaborative research, so that the resident can fulfil requirements as stated in By-laws (Art. 2.4)

Examinations

Credentials to sit the certifying examination are defined in By-laws (Art. 2.4).

Appeals against decisions should be communicated to the ECVP Secretary and will be considered by a special Appeals Committee.