

Specialist Echocardiography Register Briefing Note

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Specialist Echocardiographer Register.

About the Register

The Specialist Echocardiographer Register is a non accredited register and is for people who have successfully completed the Echocardiography Training Programme run by the National School of Healthcare Science (NSHCS).

It was developed in collaboration with the British Society of Echocardiography (BSE) to respond rapidly to the urgent workforce needs for Accredited Echocardiographers. More information can be found on the [echo cardiography section of the NSHCS website](#).

The register is called 'non-accredited' because at the moment we have not applied for accreditation by the [Professional Standards Authority \(PSA\)](#). The register will be run in the same way as our registers that are PSA accredited.

You are expected to work to the standards in our [Good Scientific Practice](#) document and our relevant **Standards of Proficiency**. Your title, name, specialty, and geographic location will be listed on the **Specialist Echocardiographer Register** which is available to the public on our website. Unless for safety reasons it is better not to.

Entry Requirements

To be eligible for the Echocardiography Training Programme (ETP), all applicants must meet the following requirements:

- 1st or 2:1 in either an undergraduate honours degree (including an integrated master's degree) in Cardiac Physiology (PTP) or a relevant scientific subject (examples include Pure or Applied Physics, Biology or Human Biology, or Sports Science (if significant scientific content)).
- 2:2 undergraduate honours degree in Cardiac Physiology (PTP) or a relevant scientific subject plus cardiology experience and approval from the relevant HEI.
- Alternative/vocational qualification plus sufficient and relevant experience and appropriate underpinning knowledge and skills in cardiology – as evidenced for example by appropriate Voluntary Registration with the Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists or Academy for Healthcare Science and approval from the relevant HEI.

The ETP is not intended for people who already have an MSc in Echocardiography or who have already completed/currently training under the Scientist Training Programme (STP).

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. Why should I apply to join the Academy's non-accredited register?

A. Registration shows that an individual is committed to upholding high professional standards and to keeping their knowledge, skills and experience up-to-date through ongoing professional development.

Q. What does being on the register actually mean?

A. Being on the register means you have been assessed as proficient and agree to comply with the requirements of Good Scientific Practice, including keeping your Continuing Professional Development up-to-date.

Good Scientific Practice represents standards and values that apply throughout an individual's career in healthcare science at any level of practice. The standards will be contextualised by the role within healthcare science that an individual undertakes and are used to approve education and training programmes.

The Standards of Proficiency cover three areas:

1. Professional autonomy and accountability
2. Skills required for practice as a Clinical Physiologist
3. Knowledge of Healthcare Science

These standards are not the same as a person's 'scope of practice' which is defined as the area or areas of a registrant's profession in which they have the knowledge, skills and experience to practise lawfully, safely and effectively, in a way that meets our standards and does not pose any danger to the public or to themselves.

We recognise that the practice of experienced registrants often becomes more focused and specialised over time. This might be because of specialisation in a particular area of practice or with a particular group, or a movement into roles in management, education or research.

As a registrant's scope of practice changes, they may not be able to demonstrate that they meet each and every standard required in the Standards of Proficiency. This is not a problem, as long as they make sure that they are practising safely and effectively within their given scope of practice and do not practise in the areas where they are not proficient.

Q. Does being on the AHCS Register prevent me from belonging to other registers or professional bodies?

A. No. The Academy has good links with all relevant professional bodies and encourages professional body membership to complement your voluntary registration.

Q. How much will it cost me to register with the Academy?

A. If your application is submitted and accepted by the 2nd November 2024, the fee will be £30. If your application is submitted and accepted after the 2nd November 2024, the fee will be £40.

Q. What are the benefits of joining the register?

A. The benefits of joining the register are:

- It recognises the significant contribution that Specialist Echocardiographers make to the wider professional and public community
- It demonstrates your commitment to maintaining competency and high standards of conduct
- It provides assurance for employers, patients and the public about your practice
- It gives you confidence that you are working to the nationally agreed Healthcare Science Specialist Echocardiographer standards of Proficiency and Good Scientific Practice.
- It strengthens the profession, helping the us to raise the profile of all healthcare science professionals and their significant contribution to patient care, clinical excellence and healthcare advances.
- It enables you to access certain benefits, for example, the Registrants' Newsletter, training opportunities, and our Leadership Journal (although you may not be at that stage in your career, the journal makes for an interesting read and could offer a different perspective and inspire ideas for the future)