

EUROPEAN VETERINARY PARASITOLOGY COLLEGE (EVPC)

GUIDELINES FOR STANDARD RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAMME DIRECTORS

The EVPC defines a Standard Residency Training Programme (SRTP) as a predetermined course offered by a department or an institution which allows graduate veterinarians to acquire an appropriate level of knowledge of Veterinary Parasitology and its supporting disciplines under the supervision and guidance of a Diplomat(e) of the EVPC. Acceptable is such a level of competence that allows the candidates to enter the board examination, subject to the final approval of the Credential Committee. The following guidelines are aimed at assisting those EVPC Diplomates interested in developing and applying for EVPC approval of an SRTP.

1. General information

- 1.1. visit the EVPC Website (www.eurovetpar.org). Here¹ you will find all the general information on the objectives of an EVPC Training Programme and the minimum requirements for programme approval.
- 1.2. if you wish to apply for recognition of an SRTP at your institution, fill out the Application for SRTP Approval form² and submit it electronically to evpc@rvc.ac.uk with a copy to laurahelen.kramer@unipr.it
- 1.3. important – with all e-mail or other correspondence, if you have not received an acknowledgment within a reasonable time (~14 days for routine matters), then please make enquiries – e-mails do sometimes get lost!
- 1.4. please note that veterinary graduates in institutions not offering an SRTP may also obtain training through an individual, pre-approved alternative training programme (ATP) supervised by a EVPC diplomate. This is based on submission of the Application for ATP Approval form³. The SRTP is however the preferred route and potential course directors are encouraged to develop such programmes wherever possible.

2. Basic requirements of a SRTP (filling out the application form and annex²). *The approval of an SRTP will depend on whether the described programme meets the requirements set by the EVPC Education Committee. Below is an outline of basic requirements and a guideline for the application that may be helpful.*

- 2.1 Location. Ideally, the SRTP should take place in one host institution (e.g a Veterinary School). However, it is possible to indicate short training periods in other facilities, preferably under the guidance of an EVPC Diplomat, and to complement the programme by inclusion of affiliated institutions. Other options will be considered if adequate justification is provided.
- 2.2 The programme must be headed by an EVPC Diplomat as the Director (name, contacts details and qualifications). The Director must indicate what role he/she has in the host institution (Head of Department, Institute director, etc). The Director is responsible for the continuous fulfilment of the requirements stipulated by the EVPC. The Director can be assisted by other

EVPC diplomates and associate members as supervisors of residents, please list. It is also possible to include “mentors” (i.e. diplomates of sister colleges or other appropriately qualified colleagues) for supervision during training. In this case, the Director must include their CVs. Special interim provision has been made to assist the establishment of SRTPs in countries that currently have no EVPC diplomates – please contact the Education Committee for further guidance.

- 2.3 The Director and host institution(-s) are approved for undertaking of SRTPs for a period of 5 years. Changes with regard to director or host institution should be communicated in a yearly report to the Education Committee. Major changes (e.g. retirements) should be communicated immediately and approval may be re-considered.
- 2.4 The Director is formally responsible for the whole programme, including activities in affiliated institutions.
- 2.5 The duration of a SRTP for a resident is a minimum of 3 years. The 3 years of training should be finalised within 6 consecutive years. Upon start of an SRTP the resident and supervisor should apply for approval of time plan with the Education Committee using appropriate form⁴. Each year a report is submitted by the resident (co-signed by the supervisor and the Director) to the Education Committee informing about the progress of the resident (see details in EVPC Information Brochure⁵).
- 2.6 Description of institution. This part of the application is extremely important and must include a brief description under each of the following headings – see example below (item 3.4) for further reference:
 - a. **Physical facilities.** It is essential to demonstrate that the host institution has the necessary facilities to ensure that the resident obtains adequate specialization in basic veterinary parasitology
 - b. **Accreditation.** Indicate accreditation status of the laboratory
 - c. **Case load.** It is important to demonstrate that the host institution is able to guarantee an adequate case load for specialization in clinical and laboratory veterinary parasitology.
 - d. **Research profile.** Describe briefly the research activities of the host institution
- 2.7 Indicate formal or established links with other institutions that will complement your training programme (affiliated institutions). If so, name the Institute(s) and the key professional contact, responsible for the residents. Describe the affiliated institutions in a format similar to above (2.6 a-d) and the particular complementary training that they can offer your Resident (type of activities, periods and responsibilities).

3. Description of Training Programme.

This section must outline general and specific activities for the three-year period of the training programme. The description should be annexed to the application form². Each page should be clearly labelled with name of host institution and numbered consecutively. Below is an example that may be helpful.

3.1 General description

Programme Director: contact details

Finance: indicate if there is any financial support for this residency position (this will not affect approval but is useful for potential residents).

Requirements for entry into the programme. The candidate must be licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the countries of the European Union or be relieved of this obligation by the EVPC Board.

Aims of Residency Training

To train the resident to a specialist level in Veterinary Parasitology over a three-year full time study period. The programme is intended to allow the resident to apply for examination by the European Veterinary Parasitology College for Diplomate status.

Details of the Training Programme

- The programme is supervised by XX EVPC diplomates and XX non-members of EVPC according to list on application form and annex
- The programme will be structured so that the resident obtains training in all aspects of Veterinary Parasitology.
- The annual timetable for the programme is (note: *under the EVPC regulations, applicants for the EVPC exam must demonstrate at least 24 hours/week of activity in Veterinary Parasitology and at least 20% of time during training spent in the preparation of manuscripts, graduate degree studies or externships to other institutions*) :

of weeks working in the Teaching Hospital/mobile clinics, etc

of weeks working in the Diagnostic Laboratory.

of weeks of study

of weeks dedicated to research (note: *candidates for examination must be the first author of at least three original scientific articles*)

of weekly seminars/journal clubs/slide sessions, etc to be attended

The resident will be expected to apply/sit for the European Veterinary Parasitology College Diploma examination and should register their interest with the EVPC secretariate at the start of SRTP⁴.

The variety of species and wealth of knowledge available among the many European Specialists based at the host and affiliated institutions will ensure that the resident should have a challenging, stimulating and successful three-year programme of study. The colleges represented are:.....

3.2 Specific activities

In this section, the Director should describe the various activities and responsibilities of the resident for each year. An emphasis on the increase in clinical capacity, diagnostic responsibility and research skills should be a priority. The Education Committee will adopt a flexible approach in its assessment, but here is an example that may be useful. Please indicate when activity is mainly performed at affiliated institutions.

Year 1.

- The resident will strengthen his/her knowledge of parasite systematics, morphology, biology and recognition of main parasites through personal study.
- The resident will be trained in the application, use and maintenance of all the diagnostic equipment in the Parasitology Diagnostic Laboratory.
- The Resident will be required to attend clinical rotations and to begin keeping a Case Log of animals visited, diagnosed with and treated for parasitic diseases.

- The resident will attend courses in Epidemiology, Immunology and Pathology as applied to Veterinary Parasitology that will be arranged as part of the first year training support programme.
- The resident will choose a research topic of his/her interest and develop a research project: evaluation of the Resident's critical analysis and verbal/written description of scientific knowledge will be a priority.
- The resident will spend a brief training period at XXXX to acquire knowledge and skills in
- Active supervision by the supervisor(s) will be provided with gradual increase in diagnostic responsibility as confidence and ability improves throughout the year.
- The Resident will be required to submit at least one scientific manuscript (e.g. a case story) as first author in a peer-reviewed international journal by the end of the year.

Year 2.

- The resident will strengthen his/her knowledge of clinical parasitology, parasitic zoonoses and vector-borne parasitic diseases through personal study.
- An increase in responsibility for diagnostic parasitology will be required.
- Participation in clinical trials, if applicable, will be expected.
- Participation in scientific meetings of national/international societies for parasitology and other continuing education meetings will be expected.
- The resident will provide tutorials to undergraduate and post-graduate students.
- Brief training period at XXXX to acquire knowledge and skills in
- Submission of at least one scientific manuscript as first author for publication in a peer-reviewed international journal by the end of the year is required

Year 3.

- Completion of research project
- Publication of results
- Attendance of scientific meetings to present results
- Participation in scientific meetings of national/international societies for parasitology and other continuing education meetings
- Clinical case log completed
- Brief training period at XXXX to acquire knowledge and skills in
- Submission of at least one scientific manuscript as first author for publication in a peer-reviewed international journal by the end of the year is required

Expected outcomes

- Publication (accepted, in press or published) of at least three first-author articles in international peer-reviewed journals before application is made to sit the exams.
- Scientific presentations at local, European and international meetings.
- Approval to sit the EVPC Diploma examination

3.3. List and qualifications of staff involved in the Programme.

In this section please indicate all those staff members (and their qualifications, i.e. PhD, European diplomate, etc) that will be involved in the daily activities of the resident at the host institution.

3.4. Description of institution (-s) and learning environments

3.4.1 Description of physical facilities

The environment should provide the intellectual and physical facilities for the advancement of the knowledge of pathophysiologic mechanisms of parasitic diseases at a molecular, cellular, organ and whole animal level and their consequences. If the institution is deficient in any respect, indicate what external placements or other provisions are proposed and provide details here (if so, please check item 3.4.5). Services and equipment include:

1. Veterinary/Medical library and archives
 - a. A library containing current textbooks and journals relating to Veterinary Parasitology and its supporting disciplines must be readily accessible directly or electronically to the programme participant. Additionally, full electronic access to the websites concerning Veterinary Parasitology must be readily available – list which journals are accessible. Access to retrievable specimen archives should also be listed here.
2. Clinical and necropsy facilities
 - a. Readily access to Clinical Veterinary Parasitology (Large and Small Animal Teaching Hospital, mobile Large Animal Clinic, external practices, etc.) and facilities for necropsy and histology. The facilities must meet the requirements of the European system of evaluation of veterinary training including animal welfare and hygiene
3. Laboratory facilities
 - a. Veterinary parasitology laboratory for routine parasitological analyses (indicate which performed), facilities and equipment for serological diagnosis and/or molecular biology, etc) and research facilities (along with the above, add any facilities/equipment used in your current research activities). List space and number of staff. List parasite species maintained in the institutions. Veterinary Parasitology Laboratory standards that must be met include: compliance with health and safety standards; written operational procedures and policies, current methodologies and technologies; a programme for quality management including quality control and proficiency testing; a laboratory information management system; the documentation of personnel training and development; and a duty parasitologist (Active Diplomate or Associate)

3.4.2 Accreditation

Indicate accreditation status of the laboratory

3.4.3 Case load

It is important to demonstrate that the host institution is able to guarantee an adequate case load for specialization in Clinical and Laboratory Veterinary Parasitology. Give a brief description of the species groups and throughput per annum for last 2 years for the clinical activity of your institution (number of dogs, cats, cattle, sheep, gorillas visited/year) and an indication of the number of diagnostic samples submitted to the Diagnostic laboratory (number of faecal samples/year, serum samples/year, and other biological material).

3.4.4 Research profile of institution(-s)

Describe briefly the research activities of the host institution in previous 5 year (focus areas (e.g. on-going projects) and output (e.g. scientific papers, dissemination and patents).

3.4.5 Professional links

Indicate formal or established links with other institutions that will complement your training programme (affiliated institutions). If so, name the Institute(s) and the key professional contact, responsible for the residents. Describe the affiliated institutions in a format similar to above and the particular complementary training that they can offer your resident (type of activities, periods and responsibilities).

Notes

The documents mentioned above can be found in the following sections of the EVPC web-site www.eurovetpar.org:

1. EVPC residency programmes:

Residency Programmes > Guidelines for Standard Residency Training Programme (this document)

2. Application for Standard Residency Training Programme Approval:

Residency Programmes > Application form for the approval of residency programmes

3. Application for Alternative Training Programme Approval:

Education committee > Application form for the approval of alternative training programme

4. Application for Approval of Residents for Standard Residency Training Programme:

Residency Programmes > Application form for the approval of Residents for SRTP

5. EVPC Information Brochure:

xxx> xxxxx > EVPC Information Brochure

Useful contacts (correct 1st June 2008):

EVPC Secretariat:

Professor D E Jacobs, c/o Lisa Harber, The Royal Veterinary College, North Mymms, Hatfield, Herts., AL9 7TA, UK

E-mail: evpc@rvc.ac.uk please copy correspondence to laurahelen.kramer@unipr.it

Chairman EVPC Education Committee:

Professor S M Thamsborg, Danish Centre for Experimental Parasitology, Dept. Veterinary Pathobiology, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Dyr-laegevej 100, DK-1870 Frederiksberg C, Denmark

E-mail: smt@life.ku.dk