



The College of Clinical Perfusion Scientists of Great Britain and Ireland

The College possesses powers designed to maintain the high standards the public have a right to expect of Clinical Perfusion Scientists (CPS).

The public trusts CPS to set and monitor their own professional standards. Patients undergoing major surgery have a right to expect treatment from competent and appropriately qualified staff. In return Clinical Perfusion Scientists must give their patients high-quality care. Where any Clinical Perfusion Scientist fails to meet those standards, we act to protect patients from harm - if necessary, by striking the clinical perfusion scientist off the voluntary register and notifying their employer.

We are a charity, registration number 293754, whose purpose is the protection, promotion and maintenance of the health and safety of patients undergoing a wide range of cardiac and related procedures.

The full Council meets 4-6 times a year, but the majority of our work is done in sub-committees meeting throughout the year.

How are we made up?

- Up to eight members nominated by the Society of Clinical Perfusion Scientists (SCPS).
- The Registrar of the SCPS.
- Two surgeons nominated by the Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery in Great Britain and Ireland.
- Two anaesthetists nominated by the Association of Anaesthetists and the Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthetists.
- An Academic representative co-opted by the Council.

CPS must be registered with the College to practise in Great Britain and Ireland. To register with us, they must have a recognised perfusion qualification. All Clinical Perfusion Scientists must demonstrate their continuing fitness to practise in order to remain registered - we call this process re-registration.

The College register shows CPS who are properly qualified to practise in GB and Ireland. Containing 100% of the over 500 qualified and trainee clinical perfusion scientists, it is at the heart of our work. We hold it on computer and update it regularly.

Registration – General Instructions for Clinical Perfusion Scientists

This document provides general information about registration with the College. This document was most recently updated in February 2023. The information contained in it will change from time to time, and it is intended for guidance only. Please note it does not carry legal force.

Contents

1. Why register?
2. Who can register?
3. Types of registration
 - Trainee registration
 - Full registration
 - Provisional registration
 - Limited registration
4. Requirements for obtaining limited registration
5. Application process for perfusionists wishing to gain limited registration
6. Postgraduate Certificate
7. English language testing
8. Approval for limited registration
9. Moving from limited to full registration
10. Timescale for processing applications
11. Registration fees
12. College reference number
13. Checking a CPS's registration details
14. Contacting us

1. Why register?

Clinical Perfusion Scientists need to be registered with the College if they wish to practise in GB and Ireland. In its document, *Guidance on Employment of Perfusionists in the NHS*, Ref. No. HRD ER4 dated 20th December 1999, regarding good practice in the employment of Clinical Perfusionists in the NHS, the Department of Health recommended that employment of clinical perfusion scientists for clinical practice in the NHS be limited to those accredited by the SCPS and / or holding current full registration with the College.

The type of work that requires CPS to be registered with the College includes:

- working in the National Health Service (NHS)
- working in Health Service Eire
- working in private practice in Great Britain and Ireland

Patients rely on CPS for their well-being during the course of many cardiac procedures when their entire organ systems are dependent upon them for blood supply, gas exchange and protection. They need to have confidence that CPSs are competent and abide by high ethical standards. The College's duty is to protect this public interest. By keeping up-to-date registers of qualified and training CPS, we aim to ensure that all registered CPS maintain a standard of service which the public and the profession expect of them. The standards of service are set out in the College's Standards of Practice document.

2. Who Can Register?

The process for obtaining registration generally depends on the country where a CPS has obtained their primary perfusion qualification. In Great Britain & Ireland, CPS are required to have a Masters in Clinical Perfusion Science. Trainee CPS will already have a relevant science degree.

The College recognises that several countries outside of Great Britain & Ireland have highly educated and trained CPS; however, many applications are received from countries without formal training programmes where perfusion is not accredited at post-graduate diploma level. In all cases, the College will require applicants to undergo an assessment via a combination of clinical assessment, written, practical and viva examination. This process is called Limited Registration and is detailed below.

3. Types of Registration

Trainee registration

Trainee registration allows trainee CPS to undertake the general clinical training required for full registration. A CPS on the trainee register is entitled to work only under supervision from a fully registered CPS in hospitals or institutions that are approved for the purpose of training CPS. CPS on the trainee register are not allowed to perform on-call duties without supervision.

Full registration

CPS need full registration for unsupervised practice in the NHS or private practice in Great Britain & Ireland.

Provisional Registration

Accredited CPS who are unable to re-register due to an extended absence can be granted provisional registration. In certain instances, depending on the length of absence, they would need to follow the limited registration route to regain full registration. (See the Annual Registration Document for further information).

Limited Registration

Limited registration can be granted only for **supervised** employment in Great Britain and Ireland to overseas-trained CPS and to CPS with provisional registration. CPS holding limited registration are not allowed to undertake senior CPS posts, or posts which would require unsupervised on-call duties.

4. Requirements for Obtaining Limited Registration

In order to obtain limited registration a CPS must first gain a position of employment in an accredited perfusion centre. The Chief Perfusionist will inform the applicant of the requirements for registration. Applicants must hold a primary perfusion qualification accepted for the purpose of limited registration.

Applicants with a perfusion qualification from overseas must supply evidence of at least 75 unsupervised clinical cases (not including off pump surgery cases) from their overseas practice. Evidence of perfusions must be registered in the CPS logbook. It is essential that clinical evidence submitted has an audit trail that can be traced and verified. The evidence for each case should include:

- Name of Hospital
- Date of procedure
- Type of procedure
- Name of surgeon
- Name of anaesthetist
- Name of perfusionist

All limited registrations need to join the Society of Clinical Perfusion Scientists of Great Britain and Ireland (SCPS).

5. Application Process for CPS Wishing to Gain Limited Registration

Upon receiving a formal job offer the applicant will then seek limited registration with the College. All applicants for limited registration must provide the College with proof of their qualifications, clinical evidence and a copy of their CV as evidence of their current capability for practice in Great Britain & Ireland. All applications for limited registration will be accompanied with a supporting letter from the Chief Perfusionist, confirming the appointment and a suggested start date.

The Registration sub-committee will review the application. If the application is approved, limited registration is granted valid from the suggested start date. A letter of confirmation is sent to the applicant and the Chief Perfusionist. The letter includes details of the criteria required to attain full registration and expected costs.

During the period of limited registration, the perfusionist will need to take and pass all necessary exams, including the exam for the PG Certificate in Perfusion Science at the University of Bristol, and the SCPS viva (oral) and practical examination, and perform a minimum of 75

supervised CPB cases. The number of cases required will be revised dependent upon: **(a)** suitable evidence of previously attained 75 cases from their previous clinical practice; in cases where insufficient evidence is demonstrated, a minimum of 150 cases will apply; **(b)** the length of time that the applicant has been out of perfusion – 75 supervised cases following an absence of up to two years, 90 cases following an absence of more than two years but less than three years, 105 cases following an absence of more than three years but less than four years, 120 cases following an absence of more than four years but less than five years, 135 cases following an absence of more than five years but less than six years, and 150 cases following an absence of more than six years. The employing chief perfusionist should be aware that in these circumstances an increase in the time required under limited registration should be accounted for and an informed decision should therefore be made on the suitability for employment.

A CPS on the limited register is entitled to work only under supervision from a fully registered CPS. The applicant will be subject to performance review and appraisal in line with local policy.

6. The PG Certificate

To enable limited registrants to achieve acknowledgment of their studies, the SCPS and the University of Bristol have developed a Postgraduate Certificate (PG Certificate) in Perfusion Science which can be achieved within 1 year of training whilst acquiring their case numbers. The PG Certificate allows for a more formal and consistent attainment and assessment of knowledge and understanding of relevant anatomy and perfusion-related topics and aligns with the current MSc Perfusion Science course.

The PG Certificate course runs with the MSc Perfusion Science course with students being required to register with the University for a September start (only) each year. The PG Certificate 70-credit programme is delivered as blended learning, utilising distance and campus-based activities. The programme includes three units taught in Bristol in late-September, mid-December, and mid-January: Anatomy and physiology of organs affected by CPB; Adult CPB principles and practice; Paediatric perfusion and circulatory support, for a sum of 60 credits, with the final 10 credits from the SCPS practical and viva unit once supervised cases have been reached. Coursework assessments are appropriately distributed from October - May and limited registrants sit written exams in August alongside MSc students. The 70 credits achieved in the PG Certificate can be used as recognised prior certified learning should students wish to continue onto the MSc.

Unless there are extenuating circumstances, applicants will not be allowed to take the examination more than two times.

7. English Language Requirements

If English is not an applicant's first language, they will need to meet this profile level to undertake the PG Certificate in Perfusion Science at the University of Bristol:

Profile E. For further information, please follow this link: [English language requirements and profile levels](#).

8. Approval for Limited Registration

We will only grant limited registration to individuals who meet the eligibility criteria and who are appointed to supervised posts, in accredited centres, in Great Britain and Ireland.

9. Moving From Limited to Full Registration

CPS that hold limited registration can apply for full registration when they have satisfied the criteria outlined in sections 4, 5 and 6, demonstrated the knowledge, skills and attitudes equal to those which would be expected of a competent basic grade CPS, and passed all theory, viva and practical exams.

10. Timescale for Processing Applications

We aim to complete the processing work to verify applications as quickly as possible. If we are not able to grant registration within 10 working days of the date we receive the CPS application we will let him or her know what further information we need. It helps us greatly if CPS can submit their application together with all the paperwork as early as possible.

In some instances, we may need to refer a case to the College Council. CPS applying for limited registration, or moving from limited to full registration, should apply well in advance of the date on which they wish to take up/change employment in GB or Ireland. Applications for limited registration must be made within 14 days of notification of receiving a formal job offer.

If a CPS application is not successful, we will give the reasons in writing, together with advice on the next steps he or she can take.

11. Registration Fees

Trainee registration	Free
Trainee to Full registration	Free
Limited to full registration – SCPS's Viva and Practical exam	£450
University of Bristol PgCert fee	Check www.bristol.ac.uk for information
Limited registration (extension of 6 months)	£100
Annual re-registration fee	£90
Restoration fee	£180

CPS with full registration must submit documentary evidence of clinical and academic activity and pay an annual fee in order to maintain their registration (re-registration details and documents are available via the College's website at www.scps.org.uk). Re-registration runs from 1st April – 31st March annually and documents and fee are due annually by the 1st May. If a CPS does not submit their documentation and pay their annual fee we will remove his or her name from the Register unless an extension has been agreed. If this happens and the CPS wishes to restore his or her name to the register, he or she will be required to pay a restoration fee in addition to the registration fee. CPSs who fail to pay are sent up to two reminders to their registered home address or email address.

12. College Reference Number

When CPS first achieve full registration with the College they are given an eight-digit reference number which they keep throughout their professional career. It is always important for employers to check with us whether a CPS is currently registered. Possession of the number does not mean that the CPS is currently on the register.

13. Checking a CPS Registration Details

Information about the current registration status of any CPS can be obtained by telephoning the College 020 7869 6890/1 or by making a search on the Society/College website, www.scps.org.uk.

14. Contacting Us

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