

Mandatory Research Requirement Introduced for AVS Accreditation

At the 2024 Vascular Society ASM, it was announced that a mandatory research component will be introduced into the Accredited Vascular Scientist (AVS) pathway.

This development is designed to strengthen the academic and professional foundation of AVS accreditation and, importantly, to provide the research evidence required to support AHCS/HPCPC equivalence applications. In practical terms, completion of the research component will become an essential step for those wishing to obtain AVS accreditation.

When Will This Take Effect?

The mandatory research requirement will apply from **1st September 2026**.

Candidates applying to sit the AVS Practical Examination after this date will need to have completed a research component before they are able to sit the AVS exam.

What Will Be Required?

Pass the CSVS Technology & Physics Theory Examinations

The CSVS Technology examination already includes research-related questions, and there is no change to current practice. Candidates should refer to the Technology Examination syllabus available on the CSVS website (Education pages).

Demonstrate Research Competence

To demonstrate research competence for AVS accreditation candidates must provide evidence of undertaking a research project, audit or service evaluation. Accepted evidence may be in the form of:

- a. Submission of an abstract to a vascular-related conference (*e.g. Vascular Societies ASM, Charing Cross Symposium, BMUS*), or
- b. Submission of a manuscript to a relevant peer-reviewed journal (*e.g. Journal of the Vascular Societies of Great Britain & Ireland*), or
- c. Master's or higher-level research thesis and evidence of submission to a Higher Education Institute

We recommend comparing your evidence of research to the AHCS Equivalence Guidance.

If you are unsure if your research evidence is suitable, please submit a query with your evidence to the CSVS Research Committee (research@csvs.org.uk) who will review and advise.

Please note:

- Successful journal publication or acceptance for presentation at a conference is not required.
 - Evidence of submission to a conference / journal (such as a confirmation email or degree certificate and thesis) must be provided to the CSVS Practical Examination Team when applying to sit the AVS Practical Examination.
 - Where the CSVS Practical Examination Team are uncertain of suitability, evidence will be forwarded to the CSVS Research Committee for review.
-

Research Support

To support candidates who may be new to research, an optional online research support element will be introduced (format and release schedule to be confirmed).

This will be open to all members, including those not currently undertaking the AVS pathway.

Completion of the online research tool is not required for AVS accreditation or HCPC equivalence. It is intended purely as supportive guidance.

Further details will be shared in due course. Members planning to sit the AVS Practical Examination from September 2026 onwards are encouraged to begin considering how they will meet the research requirement.

FAQs

Is there an expiry date on when the research or service evaluation was completed to be valid for AVS accreditation?

No, there is no expiry date on when the research or service evaluation was completed.

For Master's or higher-level post-graduate research, you must provide evidence of both thesis submission and award of the degree (e.g. a degree certificate).

For local service evaluations, audits, or unpublished research – you must provide evidence that the work has been *submitted* for publication, presentation, or other form of dissemination. If you do not already have this evidence, we recommend checking the eligibility requirements of your chosen conference or journal, as these may have their own submission criteria or time limits.

What qualifies as research / service evaluation?

We recommend looking through the CSVS Research [Article](#) & [Webinar](#) Series to get started. The HRA '[Is my study research?](#)' [tool](#) may also be useful. The NIHR also provides guidance on how to determine if your project is [research, a service evaluation, or audit](#).

Is a published or presented case study or case report suitable evidence of research?

No, a case study or report would not be considered sufficient evidence of research. Please see the HRA '[Is my study research?](#)' [tool](#).

Is my service evaluation/audit suitable evidence of research?

Basic audit and service evaluations will not be considered suitable evidence. Audits and service evaluations must follow your Trust level guidance and be registered with your employer. Evidence of submission for publication, presentation, or other form of dissemination is also required. Audits are expected to follow the typical audit cycle stages which include:

- Identifying a topic
- Setting standards: establish a benchmark for best practice

- Measuring performance: Collect data to assess current practice against established standards
- Implementing changes based on findings
- Re-evaluating: conduct follow up audit to measure the impact of suggested changes