# Academy for Healthcare Science STP Equivalence Process – Call for Reviewers

Following the recent funding announcement by Health Education England’s National School of Healthcare Science (NSHCS) and the Academy aimed at increasing the number of statutory registered healthcare scientists[[1]](#footnote-1), we are looking to expand our pool of reviewers for the Scientist Training Programme (STP) Equivalence route.

The STP Equivalence process is a form of accreditation of prior experiential and certificated learning and is made up of two parts: the submission of a portfolio comprising an analysis of their knowledge, skills, competence, values and behaviours gained from their education and working experience and supporting evidence; and an interview. The purpose of the process is to determine whether the applicant has demonstrated that they meet the standards of Good Scientific Practice and that they have a comparable level of knowledge, skills and competence as someone successfully completing an NSHCS accredited Scientist Training Programme.

The portfolio is reviewed by a panel comprising two professional reviewers (one specialist and one clinical). For the interview, the panel is joined by a lay reviewer who acts as Chair.

The assessment of a portfolio will usually take between one and two hours, and the interview process a maximum of two hours, including pre and post interview panel meetings. At the portfolio stage, each reviewer completes an online form and if required participates in a virtual meeting to discuss the outcome, for example if there is a difference of opinion. Reviewers may also be contacted if any queries are raised through the Academy’s internal quality assurance process which takes place prior to applicants being notified of the outcome.

The assessment process is conducted online and support is provided by our Equivalence Administrator.

We normally ask our reviewers to participate in a minimum of three STPE reviews per year, although we may approach you to do more if there is significant demand.

## Eligibility

Reviewers should normally be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council as Clinical Scientist, in good standing with the Regulator and professional body, and currently working at an appropriate level.

Reviewers do not receive a fee or salary, but the Academy does reimburse all reasonable expenses as outlined in our Policy, where applicable. Training is provided ahead of the first assessment currently via a video-call and refresher training is also provided.

## Reviewer roles

A reviewer can be asked to participate in an STP Equivalence assessment as a specialist or as a clinical reviewer, the latter is from a cognate specialty to the applicant and helps us to maintain consistency across the assessment process. Details of each role is in the Guidance document we provide to all reviewers and discuss at training.

## Interested in becoming a reviewer?

If you are interested in becoming a reviewer please contact [equivalence@ahcs.ac.uk](mailto:equivalence@ahcs.ac.uk) and provide a copy of your CV. We will review your CV and contact your professional body or the relevant Academy Professional Group Lead to endorse your appointment as a reviewer. We will then arrange your training and ask you to sign our reviewer Code of Conduct form.

1. https://www.ahcs.ac.uk/2021/02/19/application-for-funded-scientist-training-programme-equivalence/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)