

THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF HONG KONG
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE SPECIALTY OF VASCULAR SURGERY

1. What is the Vascular Surgery Specialty?

Vascular Surgery is officially recognized as the 7th Specialty under the College of Surgery (Currently Cardiothoracic Surgery, General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Paediatric Surgery, Plastic Surgery and Urology). The Vascular Surgery Board will be formed to develop a training curriculum and exit examination.

2. Who qualifies to be First Fellows under the Vascular Surgery Board?

The minimal requirements for practicing vascular surgeons to be admitted as a First Fellow under the Vascular Surgery Board are possession of a FHKAM (or equivalent certification), with an active practice of at least 50% or more in Vascular Surgery, and have at least six years of proven good practice in Vascular Surgery with operational requirements, details can be found in Annex 2.

There is a mechanism for existing Fellows practising Vascular Surgery to become a Fellow under the Vascular Surgery Board. For those who do not meet the above criteria for First Fellows, they can apply for Transition Fellows/Transition Candidates. It would require an additional supervised period of training and an assessment to be determined on a case by case basis. Registration with the College is mandatory and must be done before 30 June 2022.

3. How do I apply to be a First Fellow/Transition Fellow/Transition Candidate in Vascular Surgery? Is there a deadline?

The College will call for application and an assessment process will be conducted by a selection committee. This is a **one-off arrangement** only, all admissions will cease after 30 June 2022.

4. When does the new Vascular Surgery Higher Training commence?

The target of admission of new Vascular Surgery Higher Surgical Trainee (HST) is 1 July 2022. With the exception of admission under (2) and (3) above, all new Fellows will have to pass an exit examination in Vascular Surgery after completion of higher surgical training.

5. Will there be a change of my Specialist Status?

Fellows can only register with the Medical Council under one Specialty. Current Fellows under General Surgery who are admitted into the Vascular Surgery Board as First Fellows will have their names transferred to “Vascular Surgery” (S62) in the Medical Council Specialist Register and can use the designation “Specialist in Vascular Surgery”. They will cease to be a “Specialist in General Surgery”.

6. Can I change back to the General Surgery Specialist Register later?

It is possible to apply to the Medical Council for a change a specialty, provided there is good evidence and endorsement from the HKAM.

7. Is there a change in my quotable qualifications in the College / Academy if I become a First Fellow in Vascular Surgery?

No. The College of Surgeons and Academy of Medicine does not have separate qualifications for its Specialties/Subspecialties at this time. It has always been FCSHK, and FHKAM (Surgery). The only change is in the Specialty Register. This is not an “additional” Fellowship at the College or Academy.

8. I am a Fellow in General Surgery and already possess a post-fellowship subspecialty training certificate in Vascular Surgery. Do I automatically qualify?

No. Application is still required. If you choose not to apply to be a First Fellow/Transition Fellow/Transition Candidate in Vascular Surgery, or are not successful, you will remain a specialist in General Surgery. The post-fellowship subspecialty training certificate is always valid.

9. Will there be any restrictions in my practice if I become a Specialist in Vascular Surgery or choose to remain a Specialist in General Surgery?

In line with other Specialties, there is no restriction on practice imposed by the College based on your Specialist status. Individual hospitals or organizations may grant/limit operating privileges based on the surgeon’s qualifications and experience / credentialing from time to time.