

THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF HONG KONG

**Guidelines for admission of "FIRST FELLOWS",  
"TRANSITION FELLOWS" and "TRANSITION CANDIDATES"  
IN VASCULAR SURGERY**

**1. Name**

The terminology "First Fellow" will be used for the first batch of Fellows admitted in a new specialty.

**2. Admission of First Fellows**

**Note: The admission criteria for First Fellows and Transition Fellows are in accordance with the guidelines laid down by HKAM.**

The minimal requirements for practicing vascular surgeons to be admitted as a First Fellow under the Vascular Surgery Board are as follows:

- i. be a Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, or a specialist certified by the Academy and his / her name currently included in the Specialist Register;
  - ii. has satisfied the College that his training and/or clinical competence is comparable in quality and standard to be required for a Fellow in Vascular Surgery;
  - iii. has satisfied the College that he has an active practice of at least 50% in Vascular Surgery.
  - iv. has satisfied the College that he has **at least six years of proven good practice\*** in Vascular Surgery in which the following operational requirement needed to be fulfilled
    - Perform at least 480 operations in Vascular Surgery with at least 50% in arterial surgery
- \*1 year of supervised training = 2 years of good practice
- v. the standard of such practice or supervision must be assessed as satisfactory by the College for the purpose of accreditation;
  - vi. has passed an assessment by the College. The assessment shall be based on criteria comparable to that required for Fellowship in the new subspecialty obtained via the approved formal training programme.

**3. Fellows having substantial subspecialty experience but not meeting admission criteria as First Fellows**

For those Fellows who have acquired substantial specialty experience but not met the Admission Criteria as stated in item 2 above at the application cut-off date, there is a special one-off arrangement for them to become Fellows in Vascular Surgery. They can apply to become "Transition Fellows" or "Transition Candidates".

**(i) Admission Criteria of Transition Fellows**

The minimal requirements for practicing vascular surgeons to be admitted as a Transition Fellow under the Vascular Surgery Board are as follows:

- a) be a Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, or a specialist certified by the Academy and his / her name currently included in the Specialist Register;
- b) has satisfied the College that his training and/or clinical competence is comparable in quality and standard to be required for a Fellow in Vascular Surgery;
- c) has satisfied the College that he has an active practice of at least 50% in Vascular Surgery.
- d) has satisfied the College that he has at least 4.5 years of proven good practice\* in Vascular Surgery in which the following operational requirement needed to be fulfilled
  - Perform at least 360 operations in Vascular Surgery with at least 50% in arterial surgery

\*1 year of supervised training = 2 years of good practice

**(ii) The arrangements for Transition Fellows are as follows:**

- a) Required to register with the College on or before the cut-off date (30 June 2022) of their intention to follow this special one-off arrangement.
- b) Those with satisfactory training in the CSHK Vascular surgical subspecialty training programme would have their training recognized as supervised training.
- c) Required to **undergo a remedial training programme** to make up for the shortage of experience/operational requirements as stated in 2(iv) above. All make-up programmes must be completed before the first Joint Specialty Fellowship Examination in Vascular Surgery takes place;
- d) Applicants would be required to attend an interview and the Interview Panel would advise the applicant the remedial programme (duration of training, the no. of operations and the % of index operations to be done)
- e) Required to pass an Exit Assessment upon completion of the remedial training programme.

**(iii) Admission Criteria of Transition Candidates**

For Fellows who have an active practice of at least 50% in Vascular Surgery but do not possess the required 4.5 years of good practice or operational requirements listed in item 3(i)(d) above, they can apply as Transition Candidates to undertake training and assessments to become First Fellows.

**(iv) The arrangements for Transition Candidates are as follows:**

- a) have registered with the College on or before the cut-off date of their intention to follow this **special one-off arrangement**;
- b) required to join the Higher Surgical Training Programme in Vascular Surgery;
- c) Training recognition:
  - A maximum of one year of Higher Surgical Training in General Surgery would be recognized
  - Years of post-fellowship good practice in Vascular Surgery will be recognized.

- d) They are required to fulfill all the training requirements stipulated in the Higher Surgical Training Programme in Vascular Surgery, such as OT requirements, workplace-based assessments, half-yearly assessments, etc.

They can be exempted from those training requirements they had already fulfilled during their previous Higher Surgical Training in General Surgery, such as compulsory courses, research, presentation requirements, etc.

- e) They must pass the formal Exit Exam.

#### 4. Cut-off date

- a) Applications for First Fellows, Transition Fellows and Transition Candidates are a **one-off arrangement**. Colleges should cease to admit First Fellows/Transition Fellows/Transition Candidates when the Higher Surgical Training programme in Vascular Surgery has started (i.e. 1 July 2022); and
- b) As required by HKAM, the training programme (i.e. the Higher Surgical Training in Vascular Surgery) should start within 24 months after approval of the formation of the new specialty by HKAM Council.