

ADVANCED CRITICAL CARE PRACTITIONERS (ACCP) PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document provides information from selection through to qualification for Advanced Critical Care Practitioners (ACCPs) leading towards FICM ACCP Membership. It is intended as a quick checklist and guide to creating and running an ACCP programme. Some of the sections have more detailed notes, which can be found on page 6.

For more detailed information, please visit the ACCP section of the [FICM website](#)

1. TRAINEE ACCP SELECTION REQUIREMENTS:

REFERENCE	REQUIREMENT	YES	NO
1.1	Trainees must be a NMC, HCPC or GPhC registered professional, eligible to undertake a Non-Medical Prescribing qualification* *As current legislation stands, this would not include ODPs		
1.2	Trainees must have appropriate* and recent** Critical Care experience * minimum 3 years ** within 3 years of commencement of ACCP training		
1.3	Trainees must be able to demonstrate evidence of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in Critical Care		
1.4	Trainees must have a bachelor-level degree as they will be required to complete academic qualification at Masters level.		
1.5	Trainees must have successfully completed a robust selection process which includes a clinical and academic assessment		
1.6	Trainees must be in a substantive, recognised ACCP post, having successfully met individual trust selection procedure in terms of skills and relevant experience		
1.7	Trainees must be entered onto a programme leading to an appropriate Postgraduate Diploma/Masters degree in Advanced Critical Care Practice at a Higher Education Institution (HEI) that is capable of delivering this training. This programme must include Non-Medical Prescribing		
1.8	It is recommended the interview and selection process include the following : a. Clinical interview b. HEI academic interview c. SIM / OSCE based selection		

2. UNIT REQUIREMENTS

REFERENCE	REQUIREMENT	YES	NO
2.1	Trainees must be employed as an ACCP in a unit with the capacity and ability to provide ACCP training.		
2.2	Trainees must be supernumerary for the duration of their training (minimum 2 years). The Consultant retains overarching responsibility for the patient in this time.		
2.3	It is strongly recommended ACCP trainees apply for FICM ACCP Membership upon successful completion of the academic and clinical aspects of ACCP training. (see notes on page 6 for more information)		
2.4	The unit should have a clear workforce plan in place to include ACCPs as part of the medical rota. This plan should be in place when the ACCP completes training. (see notes on page 6 for more information)		
2.5	Trainees should be supervised and trained in clinical practice by ICM Consultants who espouse the principles and values on which good practice is founded as derived from the GMC's Good Medical Practice (2024) standards. (see notes on page 6 for more information)		
2.6	Trainees will be trained in existing UK training centres approved for, at a minimum, Stage 1 and Stage 2 ICM CCT training, or for those sites with clear and documented approval from the regions ICM RA. (see notes on page 6 for more information)		
2.7	The unit must have an ACCP Clinical Lead in place who has regular contact with the relevant Higher Education Institution.		
2.8	Trainees should have an Educational Supervisor (ES) who will follow them through their training period and assist in monitoring and defining the trainees' educational requirements.		
2.9	Trainees should have a Clinical Supervisor (CS) for each clinical attachment who will be responsible for monitoring and guiding their progress in each clinical area.		
2.10	The ES will provide an end of placement assessment based on Supervised Learning Events (SLEs) and Multi-Source Feedback (MSF) from members of the multi-disciplinary team. It may be appropriate for the ES and CS roles to be undertaken by the same person.		
2.11	Trainees should meet with the ACCP Local Clinical Lead (or nominated deputy) on a quarterly basis as per the curriculum requirements.		
2.12	Trainees will undergo a formal Annual Review of Competency Progression (ARCP) to examine their overall performance and progress.		

3. SUPERVISION

Overall supervision (direct or indirect) will be provided by a Consultant in ICM but elements of supervision could be provided by other senior medical practitioners where deemed appropriate by the LCL. Where the supervising Consultant in Intensive Care Medicine is not physically present, they must always be readily available for consultation, and it is identified that ultimate responsibility for standards of patient care lies with the Consultant in ICM.

Every trainee must, at all times, be responsible to a nominated Consultant.

4. ESSENTIAL TRAINING CRITERIA OF ACCP TRAINERS

REFERENCE	REQUIREMENT	YES	NO
4.1	The trainer must have a willingness to teach and commitment to delivery of 'hands on' teaching and training including preoperative and postoperative care		
4.2	The trainer must have a regular clinical commitment to intensive care		
4.3	The trainer must have robust evidence of recent CPD, as a trainer, normally based on the previous two years		
4.4	The trainer must be up to date and supported in a post with protected time for further CPD		
4.5	The time required for supervision of trainee and trained ACCPs is described in the FICM Sustainable Careers document.		
4.6	The trainer must have familiarity with the assessment procedures and documentation of the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour components of competency-based training		
4.7	The trainer must be willing to continuously assess the trainee throughout the appointment and to complete trainees' assessment forms of a regular basis as necessary		
4.8	The trainer must be willing to liaise with the HEI on all aspects of the ACCPs' training		

5. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME RESPONSIBILITIES

The HEI is responsible for:

- Producing and delivering a suitable academic programme.
- Assessment of academic competence.
- Ensuring clinical and educational supervisors are competent to supervise and assess clinical skills acquisition and clinical competence.
- Liaising with LCL regarding progress of trainees, including supporting the failing candidate.

The ACCP Local Clinical Lead is responsible:

- To the HEI for the quality management of the training programme.
- For the overall training arrangements in each Trust through the education and training structures in place locally.
- For ensuring that the ARCP process is organised correctly.

6. HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTES

ACCP training is to PGDip level with an option to continue to an MSc.

REFERENCE	REQUIREMENT	YES	NO
6.1	HEIs should provide a specific PGDip programme in Advanced Critical Care Practice; this programme should run for two years, full time with the expectation of progression to full MSc		
6.2	It is strongly recommended trainee ACCPs register with the FICM at the start of their training. (see notes on page 6 for more information)		

HEI programmes should be meticulously aligned to the FICM ACCP curriculum (see notes on page 6 for more information). Modules and programmes should include:

REQUIREMENT	YES	NO
Programme title: PGDip Advanced Critical Care Practitioner		
Final award title: PGDip Advanced Critical Care Practitioner		
Two-year full-time programme at Level 7		
Clinical practice delivered in a named ICU		
Clinical academic partnership		
Competencies as defined by the FICM ACCP Curriculum (2023)		
Completion of a portfolio of evidence of learning and practice as per FICM ACCP curriculum requirements		
Integrated approach with unit based ACCP Clinical Lead		

The first year in Advanced Critical Care Practice should contain theory delivered by subject experts and clinical training delivered in a clinical setting, this should include:

Practice placements		
Research module as per Level 7 pathway requirements*		
Clinical examination and history taking		
Completion of a portfolio of evidence of learning and practice as per FICM ACCP Curriculum requirements		
Initiate and interpret patient investigations to determine a diagnosis, treatment option/s and formulate and/or implement a management plan that accurately identifies patient needs		
Management of organ failure, including physiology and anatomy		
Practical skills as per the competency document taught and assessed in clinical setting		
Assessment:		
ACCP portfolio to include competency sign off		
Written / OSCE examination/ Viva/ Patient assessment		

*Some courses may embed core research elements in their training pathway without having a separate research module, this will need to be evidenced when applications are made for FICM ACCP Membership.

The second year in Advance Critical Care Practice should include:

Extended skills for advanced critical care practice		
Management of the more complex ICU patient		
Formulating management plans		
Advanced organ support		
Ethics		
Professional behaviour		
Non-medical prescribing module		

ALS should be successfully completed to at least provider status by the end of year two.

Exit exam: this is currently likely to be held in the clinical setting, in partnership with the hosting HEI.

APEL arrangements may apply but should relate to NMP, research, clinical history taking and examination. APEL arrangements should not relate to advanced practice modules exploring the theoretical aspects of advanced practice as this will not meet the clinical knowledge, skills and competency arrangements required.

7. TRAINEE REGISTRATION

All ACCP trainees are strongly recommended to register with the FICM as soon as possible after starting their ACCP training, via submission of an ACCP Trainee Registration Form to the Faculty. **There is no fee for registration**, but it is considered vital that ACCP trainees register to inform future training and workforce planning.

The form can be found here: <https://www.ficm.ac.uk/careersworkforceaccps/accp-training>

8. LOCAL ORGANISATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In units new to the role it is suggested that:

REFERENCE	REQUIREMENT	YES	NO
8.1	The unit prepares adequately for the role with a multi-disciplinary team; this is key in supporting the ACCP trainees and ensuring clarity.		
8.2	A different uniform helps identify both the role and a change in role for unit staff undertaking training.		
8.3	A patient information leaflet (available on the FICM website) should be used to ensure patients, and their families are aware there is a new role on the unit and clearly sets out the scope of practice and supervision requirements.		
8.4	Local governance/legal department policy and guidance should be sought to ensure the Trust/Hospital organisation structures are very clear about the role and how this is affected by NHS indemnification.		
8.5	The title ' <i>trainee ACCP</i> ' should be used to reflect the identity of the role. This should be reflected in all documentation and communication. Titles such as ANP should be avoided and all qualifying ACCPs will be asked to change their titles when they apply for ACCP Membership with the FICM.		

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE CHECKLIST (listed above as 'see notes on page 6 for more information'):

Section 2

2.3 To apply for FICM ACCP Membership, please visit the FICM website for the criteria and application documents: <https://ficm.ac.uk/aboutusmembership/membership>

2.4 It is anticipated that all trained ACCPs will be employed on the medical rota as part of the medical workforce.

2.5 GMC Good Medical Practice (2024) and Explanatory notes: <https://www.gmc-uk.org/professional-standards/professional-standards-for-doctors>

2.6 As the curriculum mandates a parallel of academic and clinical practice training of ACCPs will occur in existing UK training centres approved for Stage 1 and 2 ICM level training or for those sites with clear and documented approval from the regions ICM RA, following the process outlined under training centre amendment on this [page](#). For more information on becoming approved for Higher Specialty Training, please follow this link: <https://www.ficm.ac.uk/trainingexamstrainingcurriculaandassessment/quality>

Section 6

- FICM ACCP Curriculum 2023 and 2015: <https://ficm.ac.uk/careersworkforceaccps/accp-curriculum>
- FICM ACCP CPD and Appraisal Pathway: <https://ficm.ac.uk/careersworkforceaccps/accp-cpd-and-appraisal>
- FICM ACCP CPD and Appraisal Assessment Forms. These can also be used for trainee ACCP assessments: <https://ficm.ac.uk/careersworkforceaccps/accp-cpd-and-appraisal>

6.2 To register with the Faculty as a Trainee ACCP please visit the FICM website here: <https://ficm.ac.uk/careersworkforceaccps/accp-training>

6.3 The ACCP Patient Information leaflet is available on the FICM website here: <https://ficm.ac.uk/careersworkforce/accps>