

# Vascular Science Undergraduate Degree

## Frequently Asked Questions

January 2023

The new Vascular Science Undergraduate degree is now open to recruitment for its first intake Sept 2023!

This new role will be able to support your service by performing AAA and peripheral aneurysm scans, ABPI/TBI measurements, DVT scans and carotid screening scans to detect the presence/absence of disease.

The Vascular Practitioner will not only help increase the workforce and create a complete career framework from level 3 to level 8 helping retain staff but will also standardise the learning and training expected at this level. This is particularly important now that some centres have already developed this role locally to help resolve workforce issues. With an increased workforce it will allow the current band 7 staff time to develop their own roles and create more Consultant Vascular Scientist roles within the Vascular Science profession.

There was a lot of interest from SVT members at the recent ASM with many having similar questions. I have therefore compiled a list of the most frequently asked questions below for those of you who were unable to attend.

## FAQs

### 1. What is the on the curriculum and what are the entry requirements?

The [curriculum](#) and [entry requirements](#) can be viewed here.

### 2. Does my trainee need to attend University or is the course delivered as a distance learning course?

Apprenticeship Route

The apprentice will attend university for 4 weeks per year (5 weeks yr 1) as detailed below.

They also need to be released 1 day a week for their online lectures (Monday year 1, Tuesday year 2, Wednesday year 3)

The remainder of the time will be in the hospital training (similar to the structure of the STP training)

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Block 1	18/09/23 – 22/09/23 25/09/23 – 29/09/23	23/09/24 – 28/09/24	22/09/25 – 27/09/25
Block 2	08/01/24 – 12/01/24	06/01/25 – 10/01/25	05/01/26 – 09/01/26
Block 3	22/04/24 – 27/04/24	31/03/25 – 04/04/25	04/05/26 – 08/05/26
Block 4	22/07/24 – 26/07/24	21/07/25 – 25/07/25	15/06/26 – 19/06/26

## **Direct Entry Route**

The student will attend University full time with placement blocks in participating hospitals

These placement blocks are

10 weeks year 1

15 weeks year 2

25 weeks year 3

### **3. What does the job description for a Vascular Science Practitioner look like?**

The SVT are working on some example job descriptions for all levels of Vascular Science, however, the National Profiles for Healthcare Science can be used to develop a local job description if needed.

[This can be viewed here \(pages 10 and 12 for the practitioner level profiles\)](#)

### **4. Our service doesn't perform DVTs or ABPIs. Is this course relevant?**

The Vascular Science Practitioner may not be of use in every service, if your department doesn't provide these services then you might not need a Vascular Science Practitioner. It's a new course/role to give more options for training and recruitment for services with high volume AAA, DVT and Carotid referrals.

### **5. How is this level different from the STP?**

The STP curriculum has now been revised and includes arterial duplex and venous insufficiency scans. The STP curriculum would also require the trainee to be competent in defining/grading carotid disease, not just detecting the presence of disease. For further details on the new STP curriculum please view [here](#)

### **6. How can I get involved?**

There are 2 ways in which you can support a trainee.

Apprenticeship route. This can be for an existing member of staff or recruit a new member of staff as a trainee and enrol them on the course. You can apply for full funding for the course fees through your own apprenticeship funding, all you need to do is contact your local apprenticeship lead and they will help you through the process. Applications will be around April each year!

Direct entry route. These trainees will enrol themselves onto the course but will need placements to get their work base training. Hospital Trusts are provided with funding to take trainees on placement.

For further information on either route please contact Tracy Longden-Thurgood on [tlongdenthurgood@glos.ac.uk](mailto:tlongdenthurgood@glos.ac.uk).

Further information can be found on the [Gloucestershire University website](#) and [UCAS website](#). With full support of the NSHCS we will be aiming for accreditation to ensure graduates get automatic registration with the [AHCS practitioner register](#).

Watch out for further updates on the Vascular Science degree on the [website](#) and social media.

For further info please contact me on [educationpathways@svtgbi.org.uk](mailto:educationpathways@svtgbi.org.uk)

*Helena Edlin – Lead Vascular Scientist, Manchester.*