Outline and recommendations for departments regarding recruitment, employment and education of perfusionists

To persons responsible for recruitment, employment, and education of perfusionists at heart centres.

Departments considering employing perfusionist trainees are advised to initiate the recruitment process approximately 6–9 months prior to the start of the education programme, with the objective of finalising employment at least three months before commencement of the theoretical education.

Departments should take into account that the appointed candidate will function both as a clinical perfusionist trainee and as a university student. The programme therefore includes substantial clinical, theoretical, and academic requirements that must be supported locally.

This document outlines the requirements set by The Scandinavian School of Cardiovascular Technology, the expectations placed on departments and students, and recommendations to support the recruitment process. The School recommends that the qualification requirements described below are used during both candidate selection and interviews, in alignment with standards defined by the European Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (EBCP).

Structure of the education

The perfusionist education consists of an integrated theoretical and practical programme.

The theoretical component is delivered primarily through the science-based Master's programme in Cardiovascular Technology at Aarhus University. Practical training and defined elements of theoretical instruction must be conducted at the employing department and at an approved exchange hospital.

The Master's programme is a two-year, part-time programme corresponding to 60 ECTS credits, equivalent to one year of full-time academic study.

Master's programme structure (Aarhus University)

- 1st semester: Cardiovascular Physiology and Technology (15 ECTS)
- 2nd semester: Cardiovascular Pathophysiology and Research (15 ECTS)
- 3rd semester: Cardiovascular Diagnostics and Advanced Treatment (15 ECTS)
- 4th semester: Master's Thesis in Cardiovascular Technology (15 ECTS)

All teaching and examinations are conducted in English. The programme has clearly defined academic and professional learning outcomes consistent with EBCP competency frameworks.

Teaching periods are condensed and intensive. Semesters 1–3 are delivered in Aarhus, and each consists of six weeks of on-site teaching. During the fourth semester, the student conducts a research project at the home department, forming the basis of the Master's thesis.

Practical clinical training

Practical training is undertaken at the employing department and during a mandatory exchange period at another relevant cardiac centre. This training is an essential component of the education and a prerequisite for certification by the European Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (EBCP).

Clinical training must comply with the standards, competencies, and documentation requirements described in the official Logbook.

Upon employment of a trainee, the School will issue the Logbook. Departments are strongly advised to implement the Logbook from the first day of clinical training. The Logbook defines learning objectives, clinical competencies, supervision requirements, documentation standards, and timelines.

Educational timeline overview

Home hospital	Introduction / practical training	> 3 months
Aarhus	1. Semester (1 course, 1 exam)	6 weeks
Home hospital	Clinical training and structured instruction	4 months
Aarhus	2. Semester (1 course, 1 exam)	6 weeks
Home hospital	Clinical training and structured instruction	5 months
Aarhus	3. Semester (1 course, 1 exam)	6 weeks
Home hospital	Clinical training and structured instruction	Approx. 4 months
Visit hospital	Clinical exchange at an approved cardiac centre	Min. 2 weeks
Home hospital	4. Semester - Master's thesis	4-8 weeks off duty
Home hospital	Final clinical training, practical examination, and Logbook submission	Approx. 3 months
Aarhus	Master's thesis examination and graduation	1 day

Certification as Clinical Certified Perfusionist (CCP)

Certification as a Clinical Certified Perfusionist (CCP) is granted when the following conditions are met:

- Successful completion of all Master's programme examinations
- Approval of the Logbook, including documentation of a minimum of 100 independently performed perfusions
- Successful completion of the practical clinical examination in accordance with EBCP assessment criteria

Recruitment and employment recommendations

Employment should be planned to ensure that clinical training commences no later than three months before the start of the theoretical education. Employment more than one year prior to programme start is generally not recommended but may be accepted in exceptional circumstances following dialogue with the School.

The trainee position must be full-time throughout the two-year education programme to ensure adequate exposure to clinical practice and competency development. Any deviation from full-time employment must be approved by the school.

The trainee must be able to attend three teaching periods in Aarhus and commit sufficient time to academic study outside normal working hours.

Admission requirements – Master's programme

Applicants must fulfil the admission requirements of Aarhus University, including:

- A bachelor's degree in nursing or an equivalent healthcare profession, or a bachelor's degree in engineering, medicine, chemistry, physics, biology, or a related scientific discipline
- A minimum of two years of relevant professional experience following completion of the bachelor's degree
- Relevant experience may include work within cardiac surgery, intensive care, anaesthesia, medical-technical departments, or medical technology industry
- Documented English proficiency corresponding to level B (Danish scale)
- Ability to follow instruction and complete examinations in English

Qualification requirements – clinical perfusionist

Departments are advised to select candidates who demonstrate:

- High professional responsibility, integrity, and reliability
- Technical aptitude and manual dexterity
- Strong communication skills and ability to function effectively within a multidisciplinary team
- Situational awareness and capacity for reflective practice
- Ability to make critical decisions under stress and to communicate concerns appropriately
- Motivation, learning capacity, and commitment to continuous professional development

Departmental responsibilities

- Upon employment, the trainee must be assigned a designated supervisor who acts as the formal liaison with the School
- The supervisor should hold valid EBCP certification and preferably possess a Master's degree or equivalent academic qualification
- Supervision, instruction, and competency assessment must be conducted in accordance with the Logbook
- The Logbook must be actively maintained throughout the training period
- The supervisor and chief perfusionist are responsible for organising internal education and ensuring that training opportunities meet minimum clinical standards
- Decisions regarding delegation of clinical responsibility remain the responsibility of the department
- The department must accommodate the trainee's absence during teaching periods in Aarhus and the exchange stay
- Accommodation and travel related to education must be arranged by the employing department
- Departments are encouraged to support participation in relevant scientific meetings (e.g. SCANSECT / SATS)
- The department must provide scientific and practical support for the Master's thesis, including allocation of writing time (recommended six weeks; minimum three weeks)
- Master's thesis examination is conducted locally in collaboration with the affiliated university, with participation from the School

Expected costs

In addition to salary, the following costs will apply:

- Tuition fees for the Master's programme in Cardiovascular Technology at Aarhus University
- Tuition fees for the practical education at The Scandinavian School of Cardiovascular Technology, including required textbooks
- Travel and accommodation expenses for teaching periods in Aarhus and graduation (approximately 110 days total stay)
- Travel and accommodation expenses related to the exchange hospital stay (minimum two weeks)