



ECSRHM Policy and Procedures.

Approval of ECSRHM Training Centres and Residency Programmes (Standard and Alternative)

February 2026

Policy

This document is to provide procedures to properly carry out the bylaws as provided in the [ECSRHM Bylaws Article 6.2 Residency Programmes](#) and to accompany the [Policies and Procedures of the Education Committee](#). Covered in this Policy and Procedures: Approval and ongoing certification of ECSRHM Residency Training Centres, approval of all residency programmes, and approval of applications of new Residents. These duties are carried out by the ECSRHM Education Committee.

Procedures

I. Certification of a Residency Training Centre for Standard Residencies

1. An ECSRHM certified Diplomate acting as the Director of the proposed ECSRHM Residency Training Centre (Centre), applies for approval of the Centre to the Secretary of the ECSRHM (ecsrhm.eu@gmail.com) who will share all documentation with the Chair of the Education Committee.
 - a. Usually, the ECSRHM certified Diplomate who has been proposed as Director will be a senior academic, with the experience to oversee an academic programme.
2. **The Application Form** "[ECSRHM_Application for Certification of a Proposed Training Centre_template](#)" includes the following information
 - a. The objectives of the ECSRHM Residency Training Programme.

These should reflect the objectives of the ECSRHM as stated in the [ECSRHM Constitution 2024](#).
 - b. Facilities and resources of the proposed Centre.

The centre is housed at an academic institution, such as a Veterinary College as part of a university. The facilities should include or have access to for purposes of training Residents

 - i. Facilities for clinical examination, treatment and surgery for small ruminants.
 - ii. Diagnostic imaging, e.g., ultrasonography.
 - iii. Reproductive procedures and technologies.

- iv. Veterinary diagnostic laboratory including clinical pathology, anatomic pathology, parasitology, and microbiology services. It is preferred that the Resident be able to receive training from the pathologists in these facilities.
 - v. Biostatistical and epidemiology support or a plan to provide such support.
 - vi. Feed and ration analyses including support for ration formulation.
 - vii. A medical records system that is retrievable to allow the Resident to compile and investigate case series. Flock health programmes should also include a record keeping system. It should ideally allow for export of data so that health and productivity measures may be calculated and trends analysed.
 - viii. Access to up-to-date personal computers and dependable internet access. Software should include licenses for those software packages generally used (e.g., Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint), statistical software (e.g., R, SAS) and meeting software (e.g., Teams, Zoom). Cloud-based secure file storage and sharing system must also be available.
 - ix. An academic library that has a suitable collection of up-to-date veterinary textbooks and access to periodicals including refereed journals in the disciplines of veterinary medicine, nutrition, reproduction, ethology and welfare and other related disciplines of relevance to small ruminant health management. Capacity for electronic access is preferred.
- c. Access to suitable clinical teaching material to satisfy the clinical requirements of the residency. For example, a range of 80 to 120 cases annually would generally meet this goal. This should include individual case material (sheep and goats), as well as flocks and herds – ideally both meat and dairy of both species if possible. The case material should include outbreak investigation as well as flock health management. The Centre should have a variety of sheep and goat farms or access to such farms where the Resident may implement and oversee health management programmes.
 - d. Information on academic training opportunities for the residents in small ruminant health management, including research and attendance at seminars and conferences.
 - e. A listing of personnel to be involved in training of residents, including their expertise relevant to the Residency Training programme.
 - f. Acknowledgment by the proposed Director stating that they understand and will comply with the requirements of the Resident Training Programme including training of the Resident – both scope and time required, in-programme assessment requirements, and the process of examination for Diplomate status.
3. **A Syllabus of the Training Programme** should include
- a. Courses at the post-graduate level that provide education in biostatistics, epidemiology, behaviour and welfare, and animal health economics. These courses may be offered at the centre or a partnered institution or be available as distance education, e.g., virtually.

- b. Expected clinical duties and schedule. The requirement is that the Resident must spend at least 24 hours per week (60% of a normal 40-hour week) engaged in clinical duties, averaged over the duration of the residency.
 - c. Training modules that provide experiential learning in reproduction, pathology, nutrition, parasitology, and diagnostic procedures. These may be at different institutions or practices if the training centre cannot provide them.
 - d. Self-directed learning opportunities (e.g., shadowing, time at different clinical practices and / or academic institutions for specialized training)
 - e. If applicable, how the training programme is integrated into an MSc / PhD programme being taken consecutively while still complying with the requirements of the residency.
4. **The residency programme must be at least 3 years in length (36 months) and not longer than 6 years (72 months).** It is expected that the Resident would apply to be a Candidate for the Diploma Certifying Examination not later than in their 6th year)
5. **Approval of a Residency Training Centre for Standard Residencies.**
- a. The Chairperson of the Education Committee shares the application with members of the Committee for comment.
 - i. Copies of all documents and correspondence are kept on the College shared drive. Access will be limited to the Board and current members of the Education Committee.
 - ii. Members of the Committee comment and point out deficiencies in the report, if present.
 - iii. If necessary, the Chairperson of the Education Committee writes to the Director of the proposed Centre, requesting clarification of any points that are unclear and seeking further information on possible deficiencies.
 - iv. If necessary, the Director submits a revised report, answering to comments made and covering possible deficiencies.
 - v. The Committee considers the revised report and the response provided and develops a recommendation for action by the Board.
 - b. The Board officially recognises or does not recognise the Centre.
 - i. If recognized, the Centre receives a Certificate of Approval issued by the College.
 - ii. The name of the Training Centre, its affiliated academic institution and the name of the Director will be published on the College website.
 - iii. If the application is rejected by the board, the Director may appeal.
 - c. The entire procedure must be completed within **90 days** after receipt of the initial application.
 - d. The Certificate of Approval for ECSRHM Residency Training Centre is granted for a **five-year period**.
 - i. Approval allows the Centre to recruit veterinarians for a Standard Residency. Approval for acceptance of the veterinarian into a Standard Residency position must be done as

outlined in this document **III. Application for Approval as a ECSRHM Resident (Standard and Alternative).**

- ii. There is a limit on the number of Standard Residents that can be enrolled at the Centre. Each certified Diplomate at the Centre may supervise up to two Residents, and with special permission from the ECSRHM Board, to supervise three. A Resident who has been accepted as a Candidate but has not yet taken the Diploma Certifying examination, is exempt from this count.

6. Recertification of the ECSRHM Training Centre

- a. The Training Centre is certified for 5 years. **In the fifth year**, the Director of the Centre is required to submit an application on or before **June 1st**, for recertification to the Secretary for approval by the Education Committee following the above procedures.
 - i. Documents to be submitted include the “[ECSRHM_Application for Recertification of a Training Centre_template](#)” and required supporting documents.
 - ii. In addition to the information required as outlined in I.2 and I.3 above, information on Residents enrolled in the Training Centre in the last 5 years must be included.
 - iii. The process of approval by the Education Committee is as is outlined in I.5 above.
- b. Copies of all documents and correspondence will be kept on the College shared drive. Access will be limited to the Board and current members of the Education Committee.

II. Approval of an Alternative Residency Programme

Note: As per Article 6.2.c of the ECSRHM Bylaws 2024, an Alternative Residency Programme is approved by the Education Committee, not for a centre but for a specific veterinarian whose circumstances do not permit enrolment in a Standard residency programme.

Approval of an Alternative Residency Programme is done concurrently with approval of the applicant for the Alternative residency position using the form “[ECSRHM_Application for Approval of Admission of a Resident_template](#)”. For procedures to approve the applicant for an Alternative residency position, see below **III. Application for Approval as a ECSRHM Resident (Standard and Alternative).**

1. Application for an Alternative Residency Programme

The application form “[ECSRHM_Application for Approval of Admission of a Resident_template](#)” should be submitted jointly by the veterinarian applying to be an Alternative Resident and the certified Diplomate who will supervise the Resident. It must include the following information specific to the programme

- a. The objectives of the ECSRHM Residency Training Programme.
These should reflect the objectives of the ECSRHM as stated in the [ECSRHM Constitution 2024](#).

b. Facilities and resources that should be available to the Resident

The Resident may be based in a private practice, government institution or industry, but ideally should have access to an academic institution, preferably one with a veterinary degree-granting College or a veterinary science division. All sites to be used in the training of the resident, must be listed including locations. The sites should include or have access to for purposes of training the Resident

- i. Facilities for clinical examination, treatment and surgery for small ruminants.
- ii. Diagnostic imaging, e.g., ultrasonography.
- iii. Reproductive procedures and technologies.
- iv. Veterinary diagnostic laboratory including clinical pathology, anatomic pathology, parasitology, and microbiology services. It is preferred that the Resident be able to receive training from the pathologists in these facilities.
- v. Biostatistical and epidemiology support or a plan to provide such support.
- vi. Feed and ration analyses including support for ration formulation.
- vii. A medical records system that is retrievable to allow the Resident to compile and investigate case series. Flock health programmes must also include a record keeping system. It may be tied to an on-farm electronic system but must allow for export of data so that health and productivity measures may be calculated and trends analysed.
- viii. Access to an up-to-date personal computer and dependable internet access. Software should include licenses for those software packages generally used (e.g., Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint), statistical software (e.g., R, SAS) and meeting software (e.g., Teams, Zoom). Cloud-based secure file storage and sharing system must also be available.
- ix. An academic library that has a suitable collection of up-to-date veterinary textbooks and access to periodicals including refereed journals in the disciplines of veterinary medicine, nutrition, reproduction, ethology and welfare and other related disciplines of relevance to small ruminant health management. Capacity for electronic access is preferred.
- x. Access to suitable clinical teaching material to satisfy the clinical requirements of the residency. For example, a range of 80 to 120 cases annually would generally meet this goal. This should include individual case material (sheep and goats), as well as flocks and herds – ideally both meat and dairy of both species if possible. The case material should include outbreak investigation as well as flock health management. The practice should have a variety of sheep and goat farms or access to such farms where the Resident may implement and oversee health management programmes.
- xi. Facilities and individuals to provide advanced education in small ruminants: medicine and surgery, health management, reproduction, biostatistics, epidemiology, nutrition, behaviour and welfare, and animal health economics.

c. A Syllabus of the Training Programme should include

- i. Courses at the post-graduate level that provide education in biostatistics, epidemiology, behaviour and welfare, and animal health economics. These courses may be offered at the residency location or a partnered institution or be available as distance education, e.g., virtually.
- ii. Expected clinical duties and schedule. The requirement is that the Resident must spend at least 24 hours per week (60% of a normal 40-hour week) engaged in clinical duties, averaged over the duration of the residency.
- iii. Training modules that provide experiential learning in reproduction, pathology, nutrition, parasitology, and diagnostic procedures. These may be at different institutions or practices if the residency location cannot provide.
- iv. Self-directed learning opportunities (e.g., shadowing, time at different clinical practices and / or academic institutions for specialized training)
- v. If applicable, how the residency is integrated into an MSc / PhD programme being taken consecutively while still complying with the requirements of the residency.
- d. A listing of personnel to be involved in training of this resident, including their expertise relevant to small ruminant health management.
- e. The residency programme must be at least 3 years in length (36 months) and not longer than 6 years (72 months). It is expected that the Resident would apply to be a Candidate for the Diploma Examination not later than in their 6th year.
- f. Acknowledgement signed by the proposed Supervisor (certified Diplomate) stating that they understand and will comply with the requirements of training of the Resident – both scope and time required, in-programme assessment requirements, and the process of examination for Diplomate status.

III. Application for Approval as a ECSRHM Resident (Standard and Alternative)

1. A veterinarian and their proposed Supervisor submit an application using the form “[ECSRHM_Application for Approval of Admission of a Resident_template](#)”. Section 1 of this form is used for applicants of both the Standard and Alternative residency. This form is also used to request approval of the Alternative Residency programme – both the applicant’s and the programmes approval are considered concurrently and require completion of both Section 1 and Section 2.
 - a. Only certified ECSRHM Diplomates may supervise a Resident. However other experts in small ruminant health management may be part of the advisory team.
 - b. **For the Standard residency**, the application form should be jointly completed with Director of a ECSRHM Residency Training Centre. The Director may also forward the application form to another certified Diplomate at the centre as a potential Supervisor.
 - c. **For the Alternative residency**, the application form should be jointly completed by a certified ECSRHM Diplomate willing to supervise the applicant.

- i. Supervision of the Resident should be by a certified ECSRHM Diplomat and be “**direct**”¹, except if the residency is taking place in a country where there is no certified Diplomat. Then supervision is “**overall**”².
- d. If the Alternative residency is to occur in a country where there is no certified ECSRHM Diplomat, the ECSRHM Education Committee, at its discretion may waive the requirement for a residency to be directly supervised by a certified Diplomat of the ECSRHM.
 - i. In this case, another veterinarian can be appointed as a local co-supervisor, if the Education Committee approves their qualifications. It is preferred that these qualifications include national recognition of specialist qualifications in small ruminant health management.
 - ii. These will be evaluated after submission to the Committee of a detailed curriculum vitae of that person, which should provide evidence of scientific knowledge, ability to supervise the Resident and extensive clinical experience. This CV must be submitted with the application form.
 - iii. In this case, a certified ECSRHM Diplomat should also be appointed to provide overall supervision of the Resident.
- 2. To be considered for acceptance to an ECSRHM residency programme, the veterinarian
 - a. Must be a graduate of an EAEVE approved institution unless relieved of this obligation by the Education Committee.
 - b. Must have graduated from an approved veterinary institution at least 12 months before commencing the residency. A certified Diplomat of the EBVS must have graduated at least 4 years previously.
 - c. Must have completed an internship post-graduation in farm animal (ruminants) or its equivalent which included as a significant component, clinical training in small ruminants (sheep and goats). This internship must be at least one year (12 months) in length as a full-time position. It may have taken place at a veterinary teaching hospital within an academic institution and / or a veterinary practice.
 - i. The internship supervisor must provide a letter verifying the type and scope of the internship with special attention to sheep and goats. This letter is to be submitted with the application form.
 - ii. The applicant may request of the Education Committee that this requirement be waived but must submit evidence that they have achieved equivalent experience in small ruminant clinical practice.

¹ “Direct” supervision = the Supervisor is physically present or readily available to supervise the Resident in their clinical training. The Supervisor is responsible in assuring that the Resident training meets the criteria of the programme and is able to make an assessment of the Resident’s progress in-programme

² “Overall” supervision = the Supervisor is generally not physically present where clinical training is occurring but is responsible for assuring that Resident training meets the criteria of the programme and is able to assess the Resident’s progress in-programme. A co-supervisor who may not be a ECSRHM Diplomat is able to provide “direct” supervision.

- d. The veterinarian must be licensed to practice or be eligible to practice veterinary medicine in a European country including the UK.
 - i. If the veterinarian cannot fulfil this requirement, they may request that the Education Committee waive this requirement.
 - ii. However, the residency requires considerable clinical duties so the veterinarian must be licensed to practice in the country / region where the residency is located.
3. The veterinarian and the ECSRHM Diplomate who has agreed to supervise, will then submit the completed application form (ECSRHM_Application for Approval of Admission of a Resident_template) to the Chairperson of the Education Committee (via the Secretary of the College at ecsrhm.eu@gmail.com) requesting acceptance of the veterinarian into the residency (Standard or Alternative). Incomplete applications with missing information will not be considered. In addition to information mentioned above or previously addressed in sections addressing approval of residency programmes (Standard and Alternative), each applicant must complete
 - a. Expected start and completion dates of the residency.
 - b. A short description of the proposed research project (500 words maximum). This research in the field of small ruminant health management must be performed and completed during the residency period. The Resident should be a lead investigator with appropriate supervision. All research must meet the Human Ethics and Animal Use in Research requirements for that institution and country. When possible, it is expected that the research will result in publication in a peer-reviewed international journal with the Resident as first author. Such a publication is a requirement to be approved as a Candidate for the ECSRHM Diploma Certifying Examination.
4. Additional supplementary documents to be submitted with the application form, must include the following:
 - a. A curriculum vitae of the applicant including clinical and academic experience relevant to small ruminant health management and goals for the residency. Any limitations or restrictions on the veterinarian's ability to practice veterinary medicine must be communicated as well.
 - b. If the residency is in a country with no certified ECSRHM Diplomate providing direct supervision, the co-supervisor providing direct Supervision must submit a curriculum vitae to be assessed and approved by the Education Committee regarding their qualifications and experience in small ruminant health management.
 - c. A signed and dated letter from the supervisor of the internship or if the veterinarian has not completed an internship as described above, they may submit evidence of equivalent experience to the Education Committee for approval, attested by the suitable third party.
 - d. Documents required to approve the Alternative Residency programme if applicable (see above **II. Approval of an Alternative Residency Programme**).
5. The Education Committee will meet to consider the application once all forms and documents have been received. Notification of acceptance or denial will be communicated to the

applicant and Supervisor once a decision has been reached and within **90 days** of receipt of the application.

IV Approval of the Application for Residency (Standard and Alternative) and the Alternative Residency Programme

1. Applicants to a Standard residency programme do not need to have the programme approved as they are training at a certified ECSRHM Training Centre. However, the applicant must be approved by the Education Committee before being accepted into a Standard residency.
2. The approval of the Alternative residency programme and residency application must be done concurrently.
3. The Chairperson of the Education Committee circulates the proposal to members of the Committee.
 - a. Copies of all documents and correspondence will be kept on the College shared drive. Access will be limited to the Board and current members of the Education Committee.
 - b. Members of the Committee comment and point out possible deficiencies in the proposal, if present.
 - c. The Chairperson of the Education Committee writes to the Supervisor(s) of the proposed programme, requesting clarification of any points that are unclear and seeking further information on possible deficiencies.
 - d. The Supervisor(s) of the proposed programme submits a revised proposal, answering to comments made and covering possible deficiencies.
 - e. The Committee considers the proposal (revised if applicable) and the response provided and develops a recommendation for action by the College Board.
 - f. The Board of the College officially approves or does not approve the residency programme.
 - g. The whole procedure must be completed within 90 days after receipt of the initial proposal.

V. Appealing an Adverse Decision

Appeals are governed by policy in the [ECSRHM Bylaws 2024 Article 8](#). The veterinarian / Diplomate may appeal an adverse decision to recognise a centre for training of residents and/or to approve a proposed residency training programme as per [Article 8.1 of the ECSRHM Bylaws 2024](#).

The procedures are:

1. The College must inform the Applicant / Candidate that they may appeal the adverse decision and inform them of the grounds of appeal as outlined in [Article 8.2 of the ECSRHM Bylaws 2024](#).
2. If the Applicant / Candidate wishes to pursue an appeal, they must pay a fee of €2000. This fee is refundable if the case for the appeal is accepted. If rejected, the fee will be used to reimburse costs and remaining amount returned to the Applicant / Candidate.
3. The Appeal procedure is provided in [Article 8.5 of the ECSRHM Bylaws 2024](#) and will be

followed by the College and the Appellant.

4. If either party is not satisfied with the decision of the Appeals Committee, they may appeal to the EBVS according to the policy and procedures of that organization. The decision of the EBVS is final and all parties involved must comply with that.

VI Forms used to carry out the procedures of approval of Training centres, Standard and Alternative residency programmes and acceptance of residents.

[ECSRHM Policy and Procedures. List of documents](#) provides a list of all Policy and Procedures documents as well as all forms used for the procedures in this document.

Approved by the ECSRHM Board, February 12, 2026