

## SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY COUNCIL

### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AS A PARA-VETERINARY SPECIALIST WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY COUNCIL (SAVC)

1. The candidate should possess a minimum of a Masters degree or other higher **post graduate** qualification acceptable to Council and must be registered as a para-veterinarian with the SAVC.  
  
or
2. Successful completion of the Council-approved specialist registration examination and registration as a para-veterinarian with the SAVC.  
  
or
3. A foreign qualification recognised for registration as a specialist in the country of origin, peer evaluation by a panel of registered specialists or suitably qualified individuals (recognised amongst peers) appointed by the SAVC and registration as a para-veterinarian with the SAVC.

### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINING AS A PARA-VETERINARY SPECIALIST IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR REGISTRATION WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY COUNCIL

1. **Time interval between completion of the undergraduate para-veterinary qualification and commencement of specialist training**

A para-veterinarian wanting to enter specialist training for registration with the South African Veterinary Council shall have at least 3 years relevant working experience after he/she has attained their undergraduate para-veterinary qualification.

2. **Minimum exposure to speciality during training as a para-veterinary specialist**

The academic training in the speciality should extend over a period of the equivalent of at least two years full time study. The training period must be spent within a university department, research establishment, a service organisation, veterinary practice / research facility/ veterinary hospital/clinic or laboratory acceptable to Council. The candidate shall be required to have worked under the direct supervision of a registered specialist or other person suitably qualified (**recognised amongst peers**) in the field of study for the duration of his/her study.

3. **The supervisor**

The supervisor of the candidate shall be a specialist in the relevant discipline, actively involved in the speciality and registered with the South African Veterinary Council as a specialist in the discipline or shall at least hold an equivalent qualification which will allow registration as a specialist in the discipline in the country of origin and be appropriately accredited/authorised by the SAVC.

Alternatively, the supervisor shall be suitably qualified in the field of study (higher qualification), and recognised amongst peers in the field of study.

The supervisor shall not supervise the training of more than 3 (three) candidates at the same time. The supervisor shall be responsible for the candidate's

- training programme,
- clinical/experiential supervision and instruction, and
- research project (a separate research supervisor may be appointed in liaison with the principal supervisor to guide the candidate in the research project as required),

as well as for the coordination of assessment.

The supervisor will also be required to confirm the correctness of the candidates activity/procedure record every 6 (six) months and to prepare a final written report on the training programme of all candidates supervised by him/her for monitoring purposes as required.

#### 4. **Training centres**

Experiential training shall be conducted within a university department, research establishment, a service organisation, veterinary practice / research facility/ veterinary hospital/clinic or laboratory, approved by the SAVC, according to the requirements of the specific speciality. These venues must have adequate facilities, workload, access to other specialities, library and reference tools (internet), and at least one full-time employed or contractually employed specialist in the speciality pursued by the candidate or other person suitably qualified (**recognised amongst peers**) in the field of study. This specialist has to be registered with the South African Veterinary Council or hold an equivalent qualification which will allow registration as a specialist in the discipline in the country of origin and be appropriately accredited/authorised by the SAVC and be approved as the supervisor. Alternatively, the supervisor shall be suitably qualified in the field of study (higher qualification), and recognised amongst peers in the field of study and be approved as the supervisor by the SAVC.

#### 5. **Scholarship**

The candidate shall:

- comply with all academic requirements (including a dissertation or other scholarly product(s)) as per the minimum requirements of the relevant speciality as approved by the SAVC,
- comply with all experiential requirements of the relevant speciality as approved by the SAVC,
- provide proof of contribution to the furtherance of the speciality in the form of at least one full research article as senior author in an ISI-recognised journal, and
- provide proof of involvement in the provision of continuing professional development.

#### 6. **Assessment**

The curriculum, syllabus or research should cover the major subject in depth and should also include supporting courses relevant to the specialist area.

The course should be structured in such a way that the candidates can gain sufficient practical experience in order to attain a level of proven proficiency acceptable to the Council.

Assessment in the speciality shall be based on:

- a written examination(s) of at least 3 (three) hour's duration, if required by the speciality,
- a clinical/practical examination if required by the specific speciality as approved by the SAVC, and
- a dissertation or other scholarly product(s) as required by the relevant speciality and approved by the SAVC.

The Council may at its discretion, after consultation with the appropriate para-veterinary profession, require the candidate to do a written, oral and or practical examination. A candidate may sit this specialist examination twice with a minimum interval of one year and a maximum interval of two years.

External examiners shall be recognised specialists actively involved in the relevant or associated speciality registered with the South African Veterinary Council as a specialist in the discipline or shall at least hold an equivalent qualification which will allow registration as a specialist in the discipline in the country of origin and be appropriately accredited/authorised by the SAVC. Alternatively, the external examiner shall be suitably qualified in the field of study (higher qualification), and recognised amongst peers in the field of study and be approved as an external examiner by the SAVC.

External examiners shall have access to all components of the final assessment as well as the activity/procedure record of the candidate and report of the supervisor.

#### 7. **Duration**

The academic training in the speciality should extend over a period of the equivalent of at least two years full time study.

Extension of time may be granted under exceptional circumstances as provided for by the relevant speciality and approved by the SAVC.