



Flexible / Modular Pathways to Veterinary Specialization

The **European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS)** has introduced a new approach to veterinary specialization through a **credit-based modular pathway** to make specialization more **accessible** and flexible without compromising the quality standard. This framework was developed in response to a 2019 survey identifying significant European specialization barriers. Recognizing these challenges, the EBVS updated its policies in 2021 to allow for a more flexible route to achieving specialist status, but it's up to each specialty college to decide whether they want to adopt this approach. The modular pathway divides the curriculum into **practical credits** (e.g. Cases), focusing on direct and potentially remote mentored supervision, **theoretical credits** (e.g., ECTS), and **research** (e.g., Publications).

The flexibility of this system lies in the ability to separate practical and theoretical learning and the option to accumulate credits over an extended period, accommodating up to four-year breaks for reasons such as parental leave. Importantly, there is **no initial registration requirement**, although only credits earned within the past **eight years** are considered valid. This approach enables candidates to progress at their own pace, reporting to their college once they have met the necessary criteria.

Specialty colleges have the autonomy to define the specifics of this pathway, including the minimum duration of practical work, the use of remote supervision, and the content and delivery methods for theoretical credits. They may also decide whether to include prior accredited learning.

Despite its longer duration, this pathway ensures that the high standards of specialization are maintained, requiring the same level of commitment and meeting the same **examination** standards as traditional routes. As the veterinary profession progresses, this flexible pathway represents a significant step forward in making specialist training more accessible and adaptable to the diverse needs of the veterinary community.



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