

Addendum to the Guidance on the Professional Development Phase (PDP)

Requirements of Overseas graduates have been clarified and are explained below.

Overseas graduates and the PDP

Overseas graduates may be required to complete the PDP depending on how much experience they have in clinical practice before they register with the RCVS.

- A newly-qualified graduate from an overseas university will need to complete the PDP in exactly the same way as a UK graduate.
- Those with less than one year's clinical experience are also required to undertake and complete the PDP.
- Overseas graduates who register with the RCVS with between one and three year's clinical experience will be asked to review their experience against the RCVS Year One Competences list and confirm that they have achieved these competences. If they are unable to confirm this, then they will be advised to undertake the PDP in order to ensure that any gaps in their experience are filled.

The following paragraph replaces the information given on page 10.

How long should the PDP take?

Although we refer to year one competence, this does not mean that the PDP has to be completed in just one year. Some graduates may complete in a shorter time, some longer. It depends on their caseload. It will probably take longer than a year for someone who wants to complete their PDP in genuinely mixed practice, as they will need to gain broad experience across all three areas, rather than in just one or two. However, it is quite acceptable to complete the PDP in the context of just one main species area, eg small animal practice.

From July 2015, however, a time requirement of three years is being introduced for completion of the PDP and we expect graduates in clinical practice to complete within this time-frame. The three year time period will begin when the graduate enters their first clinical position. If a graduate finds that they cannot complete the PDP within the 3 year time requirement, they should contact the Education Officer at the RCVS or their postgraduate dean to explain their reasons and discuss their options.

The PDP needn't be undertaken just in one practice or post; if the graduate changes jobs, they can continue their PDP in their second or subsequent posts. If a new graduate is undertaking locum work, they can use this experience towards their PDP. However, the RCVS does not recommend that a new graduate undertakes unsupported locum work. A new graduate should not normally be left in sole charge unless they have easy and quick access to support from a more senior colleague.