

Criteria for the awarding of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points by the European Academy of Chiropractic

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) describes the range of learning activities through which professionals maintain and develop their knowledge and skills. In relation to chiropractic, CPD is important because it promotes and facilitates safe and competent practice and enables chiropractors to stay up to date. CPD may involve the updating of existing knowledge and skills or the acquisition of new knowledge and skills.

The EAC recommends that members are responsible for identifying their own learning needs, planning how those needs may be met, and undertaking CPD that improves patient centred care and develops the profession.

The European Academy of Chiropractic is committed to facilitating and promoting CPD among its members. In order to maintain high levels of postgraduate development, it will award CPD credits to those programmes which it considers are of a standard to merit formal recognition. CPD credits will not constitute components of formal postgraduate academic awards, although may lead to certification that enables, for example, continued registration or membership with a professional body.

As it relates to the EAC, one CPD credit will equate to one hour of approved learning- or skills-based activity. Half points, representing 30 minutes of learning or skills-based activity may also be awarded. The EAC recommends that all members work towards acquiring a minimum of 150 CPD credits within any given five year period. This is in accordance with the European Standard for services provided by chiropractors (CEN Standard).

Applications for the recognition of postgraduate events and the awarding of CPD credits shall be submitted to the EAC Registrar through the EAC/ECU website. The Registrar will consider all applications and determine CPD credit approval according to criteria as set out below.

Postgraduate activities for which CPD credits have been awarded shall qualify for promotion via the ECU website. This includes those activities organised by European Council on Chiropractic Education (ECCE) accredited chiropractic educational institutions, ECU member national associations and other dedicated postgraduate CPD organisations. Awarding of credits for postgraduate activities organised by the above bodies will not be unreasonably withheld.

Seminars and conferences

The approval by the Registrar of taught seminar and conference content for the purposes of CPD recognition shall be guided by compliance with one or more of the following criteria:

- Consistency with a biopsychosocial model of care as required within ECCE-accredited educational institutions;
- Adherence to the principles of evidence-based care;
- A clear relationship to health promotion or public health matters;
- Content that is patient-centred and in patients' best interests;

The EAC shall not unreasonably withhold recognition of postgraduate activities unless it is felt that that the content may be contrary to accepted standards of professional chiropractic practice. This may include the promotion of practice styles or methods that have been found not to be in patients' best interests or that are clearly unethical.

Seminars and conferences relating to practice management may be approved for CPD credits where it may be shown that a chiropractor's knowledge and skills may be developed such that patient care may be enhanced.

Attendance at non-chiropractic health seminars and conferences

The EAC recognises that chiropractors may wish to attend postgraduate educational events organised by non-chiropractic health professional organisations. Where these have been approved for CPD by a recognised academic body, approval for EAC CPD credits will not be unreasonably withheld.

Online learning

The EAC recognises that online learning provides opportunities for CPD in the form of reading of papers or abstracts or by undertaking designated online learning programmes of study (e-learning modules). This applied to programmes of study that are available to chiropractors via CD-ROM.

Credits may be awarded in accordance with estimated hours of online reading or study. In respect of e-learning, CPD credits may be awarded for approved programmes which include a final assessment of learning.

E-learning programmes of study offered by ECCE-accredited institutions or otherwise authorised by the EAC shall automatically be granted CPD credits.

Self-study and other CPD activity

In addition to formal learning activities such as seminars and conferences (i.e. learning with others), the EAC also recognises that CPD can take other forms, including self-study. The EAC will therefore also recognise for the purposes of CPD the following activities:

- Reading of professional, academic and scientific journals (up to 15 CPD credits per year);
- Preparation for and speaking at professional meetings, seminars or conferences;
- Attendance as a participant in national or international professional committees;
- Peer observation or review. This may include formal observation of professional colleagues, small group professional discussions, peer review for the purposes of audit or GEP or observing other healthcare professionals;

Applying for CPD recognition

Seminar and conference organisers are expected to apply to the Registrar for recognition and awarding of credits. In certain circumstances, CPD points may be retrospectively awarded.

Applications should be submitted to the Registrar electronically using the form on the ECU website.

The Registrar shall reserve the right to seek further information or advice about any given CPD activity to be satisfied that the activity applied for is compliant with the criteria set out above.

Applications for CPD recognition will be reviewed within 72 hours, with a decision communicated as soon as practicable thereafter. Once formally recognised by the Registrar, the event will be posted on the ECU website.

Appeals against the decision of the Registrar should be lodged within 72 hours of the decision having been communicated. Appeals shall be referred to the Director of Academic Affairs, who shall review the decision. The decision of the Director of Academic Affairs shall be final.