

Certificate in Clinician Performed Ultrasound (CCPU) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the Certificate in Clinician Performed Ultrasound (CCPU)?

The Certificate in Clinician Performed Ultrasound (CCPU) is offered by the Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM) as a credential for medical practitioners who are not imaging specialists but who may use ultrasound as a diagnostic tool at the point of care.

The CCPU is awarded where a candidate can demonstrate proficiency in image acquisition and optimisation as well as in ultrasound skills relevant to the specialty medical area selected.

The CCPU is governed by the CCPU and CAHPU Certification Board, which makes recommendations to the ASUM Council for the conferring of an award.

Is the CCPU for me?

- The CCPU is a suitable credential for medical specialists using ultrasound at the point of care.
- The CCPU is available to medical specialists and trainees in most disciplines.
- The CCPU & CAHPU Certification Board will consider applications for enrolment from candidates that are registered medical practitioners practicing in an approved specialty area or clinical discipline.

Who has achieved a CCPU, who is enrolled?

The CCPU has been awarded to medical practitioners from Emergency, Neonatal ICU's, O&G specialists, Breast and endocrine surgeons. Rheumatologists, Rural and remote GP's, and Critical care physicians.

What do I have to do to complete the CCPU?

To complete the CCPU a candidate must do the following:

- Become an [ASUM member](#) and [enrol](#) in the CCPU,
- Complete the ASUM Physics, Image Acquisition and Optimisation Online Tutorial or an accredited course in applied physics and image acquisition and optimisation,
- Demonstrate proficiency in image acquisition and optimisation by attending an accredited course or by an agreed assessment method,
- Complete an accredited unit in a specialised modality in which the physician is qualified to practice,
- Complete the practice requirements for the specialist unit(s):
 - Record the scans and/or cases in a logbook, have them signed off by an imaging

- specialist,
- Complete the summative and formative assessments and have them signed off and
 - Submit both to ASUM for assessment.

Where do I find the physics tutorial?

ASUM has an online tutorial that can be accessed by ASUM [members](#) enrolled in the CCPU. Some ultrasound training providers also include an accredited physics component in their training courses.

How do I demonstrate proficiency in image acquisition and optimisation?

Ultrasound units accredited by ASUM for CCPU purposes will meet this requirement. If you are applying for CCPU by experience etc. see below. The competency assessment must be signed off by a suitably qualified [assessor](#) who should possess a CCPU in the relevant unit, DDU/DMU or equivalent or be a sonographer registered by ASAR or NZ MRTB and practicing in the relevant area.

I live outside Australia or New Zealand; can I apply for a CCPU?

If you live outside of Australia or New Zealand but spend sufficient time in one of these countries to substantially complete the logbook requirements you may be eligible to enrol.

If you do not intend spending sufficient time in either country, international applicants will have to demonstrate that:

- their hospital location is acceptable with respect to supporting the clinical case load needed to complete their studies,
- their proposed reviewer has the required qualifications,
- they are able to complete their logbook requirements, and
- they are able to supply full case presentations for at least five cases, if requested by the CCPU & CAHPU Board.

The CCPU/CAHPU Board will assess all supporting documentation submitted by the applicant and may at its discretion request international candidates to submit full case studies or undergo other methods of assessment to ensure equivalent knowledge and ability to Australasian candidates. At its discretion, the CCPU/CAHPU Board may also decline to award CCPU to an international candidate.

Alternatively, if a member of the CCPU/CAHPU Board or associated Special Interest Group travels overseas, has trained qualified personnel there and set up the standards that comply with CCPU, those people can also be approved as reviewers. This model also includes people who earn their CCPU in Australia/New Zealand and want to take their training to another country

Does my logbook need to be checked?

Firstly, your logbook needs to be signed off by a suitably qualified clinician. Then, if complete, it needs to be submitted to ASUM for assessment. ASUM will assess your logbook and, if complete,

recommend you for certification. Requirements for the appropriate specialty can be found in each of the syllabus documents.

Who recognises the CCPU?

Many colleges including [ACEM](#), [RACS](#), [RANZCOG](#), [Sports Medicine](#) and [FRACP](#) endorse the CCPU.

Do I need to 'maintain' my CCPU?

Maintaining an active CCPU requires CCPU holders to maintain active ASUM membership and demonstrate 25 credit points per module every five years via myASUM or their college or equivalent CPD scheme. For those who hold multiple modules in the CCPU there is a maximum requirement of 15 points per year in total.

Do I need a supervisor?

Ideally you will need to identify a suitably qualified clinician in your workplace that is agreeable to mentoring you and signing off on the scans you have performed. Logbook assessors and assessors of summative and formative assessments should possess a CCPU in the relevant unit, DDU/DMU or equivalent or be a sonographer registered by [ASAR](#) or [NZ MRTB](#) and practicing in the relevant area.

How much does it cost?

Before enrolling in the CCPU you need to become an [ASUM medical member](#), the cost of which can be found in the current membership application form. The CCPU enrolment fee covers access to the physics tutorial, logbook assessments and other benefits and is valid for 3 years during which time you may complete as many units as desired. Training course fees vary subject to the provider chosen.

Does ASUM run CCPU Courses?

ASUM runs a limited number of units and [accredits](#) a number of training unit providers who provide a range of CCPU.

Does my experience count?

At the discretion of the CCPU/CAHPU Certification Board applicants may be awarded [recognition](#) for a non-accredited training course/s, extensive practice, workplace training and other credentials and experience that substantially meet the requirements of a specified CCPU unit.

In awarding such recognition the CCPU/CAHPU Certification Board may require the applicant to complete specific training before full credit for a unit is given. Applicants should note that advanced standing is not granted for the prerequisite physics and instrumentation unit.

Does a CCPU articulate to a DMU or DDU?

No. The CCPU is a point of care credential unlike the DMU and DDU.

How long does it take to complete the CCPU?

You have three years from attending each theoretical unit to complete your logbook scans and submit for assessment. Alternatively, you will need to re-enrol and pay the re-enrolment fee at the time for a further three years access to the CCPU.

How do I apply?

Complete the [ASUM Membership Application Form](#) (if not already a member) and the CCPU Enrolment Application form and submit simultaneously. If you seek Advanced Standing / Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) an Application for [Advanced Standing / Recognition of Prior Learning Form](#) should also be submitted at this time.

Who issues the CCPU?

The ASUM Council will issue CCPU candidates meeting all requirements a certificate noting the areas of completion.

Who governs the CCPU?

The CCPU is governed by the CCPU/CAHPU Certification Board, which comprises practitioners from the major specialty areas. The CCPU Certification Board is also assisted by a broad reference group of specialist practitioners.

The CCPU/CAHPU Certification Board makes recommendation for awards to the ASUM Council.

All correspondence to the CCPU & CAHPU Certification Board is through the ASUM office or you may email: ccpu@asum.com.au