



GV-SOLAS

Gesellschaft für Versuchstierkunde
Society for Laboratory Animal Science

Guidelines for training and accreditation of expert title

“Expert in Laboratory Animal Science (GV-SOLAS)”

From the Committee of Specialist Scientists in Laboratory Animal Science

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Accreditation as an expert allows scientists who already have a degree in (veterinary) medicine or a natural science to gain know-how and experience in laboratory animal science in the context of a specialist occupation and through theoretical and practical teaching. Having the expert title alongside the job title serves as an indication of special skills and know-how in the field of laboratory animal science.

Aside from exemptions, which require approval, the necessary experience in laboratory animal science can only be acquired in GV-SOLAS accredited laboratory animal science institutions at universities or other comparable research and teaching institutes under the direction of an authorized trainer. Training institutes accredited by veterinary associations for the field of laboratory animal science are deemed equivalent.

Expert candidates working in a training institution for which an exemption applies regarding the number of animal species housed there must acquire experience with another order of animals for at least 3 months at another training institution.

The award of the expert title is associated with membership of GV-SOLAS. The title is awarded by the board auf on the recommendation of the committee responsible.

The application for accreditation of this expert title is submitted in writing the chair of the Committee for Experts in Laboratory Animal Science GV-SOLAS.

The following certificates must be enclosed with the application:

1. Degree certificate in (veterinary) medicine or a natural science
2. Certificate showing at least two years' membership of GV-SOLAS
3. Certificate showing at least four years' practical work in laboratory animal science. Up to a year working in related areas can be counted towards this, e.g. work in animal welfare, animal breeding genetics, microbiology and animal hygiene, clinical veterinary medicine, animal nutrition, physiology, surgery, pharmacology and toxicology as well as anaesthesia, alternative and supplementary methods, pathology or animal research experiments.
4. Certification showing that the applicant has in-depth experience with at least 3 animal species from two zoological orders. Work exclusively in the field of animal experiments does not count.
5. Outline of professional development with documents showing that the applicant has a basic knowledge of all sub-fields listed under 1-20 in the appendix, in-depth knowledge of at least two sub-fields and comprehensive knowledge of one of the sub-fields.
6. At least 3 independently authored scientific publications in the field of laboratory animal science (at least 1 laboratory animal science, 2 may be publications on animal experiments) which are in keeping with the basic principles of GV-SOLAS. In the case of joint publications with other authors, the part attributable to the application must be disclosed. The personal scientific output of the person to be trained must be identifiable and proof furnished on request.
7. A signed appraisal by the authorized trainer confirming the duration and content of the applicant's training.

8. Certification of continuing education hours. Applicants must furnish evidence that they have received at least 160 hours of continuing education in the form of laboratory animal science conference or courses during their period of training.

The committee may also accept an application for accreditation of the title Expert in Laboratory Animal Science if the applicant is not fully trained in an accredited training institution (ordinary training). In this case, the applicant must likewise meet all the requirements - except item 3 - of the guidelines for accreditation of the title (**extraordinary training**). The duration of extraordinary training is 6 years. As regards this training, evidence of at least three months' work – also in partial segments - at one or more accredited training institutions must be furnished. For at least the regular training period, the applicant must provide evidence to an **authorized trainer**, who conducts the regular sharing of expertise and advice. The authorized trainer must be a veterinarian or scientist specializing in laboratory animal science and employed for at least 4 years at a training institute.

The application for awarding of the title expert is reviewed by at least four members of the committee. As part of this review, there is a technical discussion between the applicant and at least three committee members. If need be, additional outside experts may be consulted. In the ordinary procedure, the committee may waive the technical discussion in exceptional cases. These exceptions may, for example, be justified by the extraordinary experience of the candidate in the field of laboratory animal science. A technical discussion is always held in the extraordinary training procedure.

A decision on the application is made within six months of receiving all the documents. The processing of the application and, where applicable, the technical discussion must be recorded in a written report. On this basis, the committee recommends acceptance or rejection of the application to the board of GV-SOLAS. The board of GV-SOLAS awards the title Expert on the basis of the appraisal. A rejection must be explained in writing. An appeal against the rejection may be lodged with the board in writing within 3 months. The board of GV-SOLAS informs the committee within 40 working days whether it has awarded the title or notified the candidate of rejection.

An administrative fee is charged for processing the application. An additional fee is charged for the awarding of the title by GV-SOLAS. The level of the fees is set by the board of GV-SOLAS and may be requested from the chair of the committee.

The holding of the title Expert in Laboratory Animal Science is conditional upon membership of the GV-SOLAS and certification of regular continuing education hours (at least 30 hours per year).

Justified exceptions to the above points may be approved by the board in individual cases on the recommendation of the committee.

Appendix

Relevant sub-fields of laboratory animal science:

1. Anatomy
2. Physiology
3. Pathology
4. Behavioural biology
5. Breeding, genetics and gene technology
6. Reproduction biology/technology
7. Diagnostics, prophylaxis and therapy for the most important laboratory animal diseases
8. Laboratory animal hygiene and hygiene management
9. Nutrition
10. Surgery
11. Procedures for anaesthesia and analgesia
12. Methods for the standardization and monitoring of physical, chemical, microbiological and social environmental conditions
13. Housing, husbandry and care of laboratory animals under various housing conditions
14. Animal experiment techniques
15. Animal models, modelling theory
16. Animal and species protection, relevant legal knowledge, ethical concepts
17. Alternative and supplementary methods, 3Rs, methods for assessing and reducing constraints
18. Staff training and management
19. Biometrics, planning and analysis of studies
20. Teaching (laboratory animal science training and continuing education, e.g. VTK courses / FELASA)

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