

FAQs for Registered Medical Laboratory Technologists

(updated as at June 2026)

CPD Scheme Fundamentals

Q1: What is the new Practising Certificate-linked CPD scheme and when does it come into effect?

A: The Practising Certificate-linked Continuing Professional Development (PC-linked CPD) scheme is a mandatory professional development requirement introduced by the Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLT) Board. The scheme comes into effect on 1 July 2026, following the conclusion of the voluntary CPD scheme that ends on 30 June 2026. This new scheme aligns with the updated validity period of practising certificates.

Q2: Who is required to participate in the CPD scheme? Is it applicable to me if I am not residing in Hong Kong?

A: All registered MLTs are subject to the mandatory PC-linked CPD scheme. Participation in CPD activities is a professional requirement for maintaining a valid practising certificate, regardless of whether the registrant resides in Hong Kong or overseas.

CPD Cycle and Point Requirements

Q3: How long is the CPD cycle and when does my cycle start/end?

A: Each CPD cycle spans three years, commencing on 1 July of the first year and ending on 30 June of the fourth year. The CPD cycle end date is synchronized with the validity period of the practising certificate, meaning both will conclude on 30 June of the fourth year.

Q4: How many CPD points do I need to obtain per cycle?

A: Registrants are required to attain a minimum of **45 CPD points** in a 3-year CPD cycle with a **minimum of 5 CPD points** in each year during the cycle. Excess CPD points cannot be rolled over or carried forward to the next CPD cycle.

Q5: What if I obtain my practising certificate partway through a CPD cycle?

A: When a MLT is registered after the commencement of the prevailing CPD cycle, the CPD point requirement depends on the date of obtaining their practising certificates. Registrants with certificates having a validity period of 2 to 2.5 years are allowed to attain 30 CPD points. The following table outlines the specific requirements for different registration periods:

Group	End Date of Practising Certificate	Start Date of Practising Certificate	CPD Points required by end date of Practising Certificate	Approximate Duration for obtaining CPD points	Annual Requirement
A1	30.6.2028	Between 25.7.2025 and 31.12.2025	45 Points	> 2.5 Years	- 25.7.2025 -30.6.2026: 0 pt - 1.7.2026 – 30.6.2027: 5 pts - 1.7.2027 – 30.6.2028: 5 pts
A2	30.6.2028	Between 1.1.2026 and 30.6.2026	30 Points	2.0 – 2.5 Years	- 1.1.2026 – 30.6.2026: 0 pt - 1.7.2026 – 30.6.2027: 5 pts - 1.7.2027 – 30.6.2028: 5 pts
B1	30.6.2029	Between 1.7.2026 and 31.12.2026	45 Points	> 2.5 Years	- 1.7.2026 – 30.6.2027: 5 pts - 1.7.2027 – 30.6.2028: 5 pts - 1.7.2028 – 30.6.2029: 5 pts
B2	30.6.2029	Between 1.1.2027 and 30.6.2027	30 Points	2.0 – 2.5 Years	- 1.1.2027 – 30.6.2027: 0 pt - 1.7.2027 – 30.6.2028: 5 pts - 1.7.2028 – 30.6.2029: 5 pts

Q6: If an ongoing CPD course spans two CPD cycles, in which cycle will students earn CPD points?

A: For CPD programmes that span two CPD cycles, registrants will earn CPD points upon completion of the course. These CPD points will be credited to the cycle in which the course is concluded.

Q7: If I attend the same course multiple times within one cycle, can I earn CPD points each time?

A: No, registrants can only earn CPD points for attending the same CPD activity once per cycle. However, if the activity is updated with new content or if you participate in a different role (such as changing from participant to speaker), you may earn CPD points for the new participation.

Q8: If a student is nearing graduation, can they accumulate CPD points before their practicing certificates are issued?

A: Registrants can accumulate CPD points only after their practicing certificates have been issued.

CPD Activities and CPD Point Allocation

Q9: Will attending an online conference be counted as a CPD activity for scoring points?

A: Yes, attending an online course with assessments and proof of participation (e.g., ASCP, USCDC etc.) will be counted. Please refer to the “List of pre-approved online course” for CPD point attainment of respective course. Online programmes not included in this list are subject to individual approval by the Board.

Q10: Can a research project module be counted as a CPD Programme?

A: No, as the nature of research projects varies and may not be directly related to Medical Laboratory Technology.

Q11: How many CPD points can be claimed for participating in an online conference via Zoom lasting 58 minutes?

A: The duration of an accredited CPD activity/ programme must be at least 30 minutes. After the initial 30 minutes, CPD points are calculated by rounding the duration to the nearest quarter hour (i.e., 15-minute increments). For CPD activities/ programmes of varying durations, the allocation of CPD points is specified as follows:

Duration (Minutes)	CPD Points (MLS-relevant activities)	CPD Points (Partially Relevant)
0-29	0	0
30-44	0.5	0
45-60	1	0.5
61-74	1	0.5
75-90	1.5	1
91-104	1.5	1
105-120	2	1

Q12: If I publish a paper and also use the same paper for a presentation, will the CPD points be counted only once or calculated independently?

A: The CPD points will be calculated independently for both activities. For example, if you are a sole author of peer-reviewed paper relevant to MLS, you will earn 5 CPD points. Then, you give a presentation of that peer-reviewed paper in a conference, you will earn another 2 CPD points.

Q13: Can previously published papers be counted for CPD points?

A: The CPD cycle under which you may claim the published paper depends on its publication date. If the publication date falls within a particular cycle, the published paper may be claimed under that same cycle.

Q14: If I am an author of an MLS-relevant article for internal use of the organization/department I am working at, can I claim CPD points?

A: Yes, 2 CPD points is awarded per article with a minimum of 200 words.

Q15: Can an Honorary Professor claim CPD points for the lectures given by him/her? Similarly, can a demonstrator claim CPD points for the demonstration duties at any university?

A: CPD points are counted for activities outside of registrant's full-time employment duties. If the lectures / demonstration is delivered outside his/her full-time employment duties, he/she could claim CPD points.

Q16: If a guest speaker is invited to a sharing event each year, where the content remains the same, can they attain CPD points each year?

A: Yes, they can earn CPD points each year to recognize their contributions to CPD development.

Q17: In the case of an article, book, newspaper, or magazine with multiple authors, aside from the key author, are the remaining authors eligible to earn CPD points?

A: Yes, co-authors are eligible to earn CPD points as follows:

- 3 CPD points per peer-reviewed article for each co-author.
- 2 CPD points per book or book chapter relevant to biomedical sciences for each co-author.
- 1 CPD point per article published in a newsletter, newspaper, or magazine for each co-author.

Q18: In the case of MLT-related research project/programme with multiple supervisors, aside from the key supervisor/examiner, are the remaining supervisors eligible to earn CPD points?

A: Yes, each co-supervisor of a project or dissertation in an academic programme is eligible to earn 1 CPD point per project.

Q19: Can serving as an editor of a peer-reviewed journal earn CPD points?

A: Yes, each editor can earn 5 CPD points per appointment.

Q20: Do registrants need to submit proof of self-study e.g. a summary report, to the MLT Board?

A: Registrants are required to prepare a summary of 100 to 200 words (in Chinese or English) for each full article or review. While registrants **do not** need to submit these summaries to the Board, they are required to retain them as evidence of their self-study. Under certain circumstances, registrants may be requested to provide these summaries for verification.

CPD Record Management and Audit

Q21: How do I record and report my CPD attainment?

A: All registrants are required to maintain comprehensive records of their participation in CPD activities by utilizing the **FORM - IIa, IIb, IIc and IId** enclosed in the CPD manual, the form could be downloaded from the MLT Board's website.

Q22: Will the MLT Board conduct audits to verify my CPD records?

A: Yes, the MLT Board will conduct random audits from time to time to ensure compliance with CPD requirements. When requested by the MLT Board, registrants must provide the relevant supporting documents within the specified time period. Each MLT should retain relevant supporting documents for six years.

Compliance, Non-Compliance and Remedial Mechanism

Q23: What happens if I do not meet the CPD point requirement?

A: If you have attained at least two-thirds of the required points (i.e., 30 points for a full cycle or pro-rata equivalent), your non-compliance is remediable. You will be required to engage in a remedial programme to earn the remaining points by the end of the next CPD cycle. If you have attained less than two-thirds of the required points without acceptable reasons, the MLT Board will not issue a practising certificate renewal, and you will not be able to practice as a MLT.

Q24: What is the remedial mechanism if I fall short of the CPD requirement?

A: If you achieve at least two-thirds of the required CPD points (i.e., 30 points for a full cycle or pro-rata equivalent) but fall short of the full requirement, you are eligible to enter a remedial programme. The remedial programme must be completed within the immediately subsequent CPD cycle. This requires you to concurrently fulfil both your regular CPD requirements for the new cycle and your additional remedial obligations. It is important to note that the remedial cycle represents the final and sole opportunity for remediation, no additional opportunities will be provided. For examples of various remediable scenarios and their corresponding additional requirements, please refer to the table in paragraph 14 of the CPD Manual.

Governance and Accountability

Q25: What are the consequences of submitting false or misleading information about CPD attainment?

A: False reporting may constitute a criminal offense under applicable legislation and may expose you to criminal liability in addition to professional disciplinary action by the Board. It is therefore critical to ensure the accuracy and truthfulness of all CPD documentation and reports submitted to the MLT Board.

Concerns form MLT registrants for consultation forum

Q26: Why do fresh graduates need to comply with CPD requirements? They have just graduated with updated knowledge?

A: The purpose of CPD is to encourage members of the profession to keep abreast of the latest developments and to enhance professional knowledge and skills through ongoing participation in professional development activities. While fresh graduates have recently completed their formal training, lifelong learning remains essential to maintain professional competence in a changing healthcare environment.

Q27: If I submit an application to the MLT Board for CPD accreditation, when can I receive the result?

A: The CPD Accreditation Sub-Committee under the Education Committee of the MLT Board convenes CPD accreditation meetings once every two months. Under normal circumstances, the expected processing timeline for CPD accreditation applications is approximately two months counting from the submission of completed set of applications and necessary supporting documents.

Q28: Why does the application process take a relatively long time?

A: Due to the high volume of applications, occasional incomplete supporting documents, and the need for thorough review and quality assurance, the processing time may be longer in some cases. We appreciate your understanding and patience.