Two Centuries of Healthcare Education in Ireland
Noble Purpose

Building on our heritage in surgery, we will enhance human health through endeavour, innovation and collaboration in education, research and service.
The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland was established by Royal Charter on February 11th 1784. The landmark building of the College has stood on St. Stephen’s Green since 1810.

I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those physicians in whose steps I walk, and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow.

—the Hippocratic Oath
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Welcome to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
Registrar’s Welcome

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Founded in 1784, the College has always set and maintained the highest standards in education and training. From a past grounded in tradition and stability, RCSI is now at the leading edge of health care education using technology, innovation and an entrepreneurial spirit.

In addition to the Undergraduate Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Physiotherapy and Pharmacy, the College also has Postgraduate Faculties of Dentistry, Radiology and Sports and Exercise Medicine. Our Surgical College is the national training body for surgery in Ireland. RCSI headquarters is located in Dublin but in recent years we have extended our global reach with campuses in Bahrain, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates. We are in the forefront of clinical research with an extensive research portfolio and provide medical training and services to Governments throughout the world.

I do not view the College as an Irish institution with international activities, rather I see RCSI as an international organisation based in Ireland. This international dimension makes RCSI a different College in which to study. Our graduates become part of a worldwide network of health care professionals practicing at the highest levels throughout the world. This prospectus provides a small flavour of the very special atmosphere which makes us different – a unique institution! I am sure you will find it both interesting and informative.

Professor Cathal J Kelly MCh FRCSI
Chief Executive/Registrar

Dean’s Welcome

Selecting where you will study for your chosen career is one of the most transforming decisions of your life. You will want to choose a course with a high international reputation – one that will give you the best and most rounded education and one that will get the best from you and your talents. You will want to graduate with a qualification offering strong and international career choices.

Why consider RCSI? We are a very modern College - steeped in tradition - but with our graduates and lecturers on the cutting edge, quite literally, in surgical and medical innovation. RCSI focuses exclusively on education for the core health sciences – Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy – so everything we do is about providing the best health care for patients and their families. Our health sciences focus also means we can be a relatively small College, while at the same time having students from over 50 countries in our classes – truly a global village! At RCSI you get to study in a multi-cultural environment, understanding the variety and complexity of health issues in the world through your classmates as well as through the textbooks and clinical sciences you will learn. We hope to give you some flavour of that education here. Please also consider visiting the College website – www.rcsi.ie

We wish you the very best in your career plans.

Professor Hannah McGee PhD FPsSI
Dean of Medicine and Health Sciences

Fáilte chuig an Coláiste Rioga na Mainleá in Éirinn

Welcome to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
Ireland, Dublin and RCSI
Situated on the western edge of Europe, Ireland is an island with a population of just under five million. Ireland is a constitutional democracy, a member of the United Nations and the European Union. For a relatively small island, Ireland offers a wide variety of countryside with over 5,500 km of largely unspoilt coastline.

Ireland is famous for its music, its art, and above all its writers. Ireland has given the world many literary giants including Jonathan Swift, Oscar Wilde, James Joyce, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett, William Butler Yeats and most recently Nobel Laureate, Seamus Heaney.

Dublin is Ireland’s largest city, with over one million inhabitants. It is one of Europe’s finest capital cities, with a superb coastal location enhanced by some of the world’s most beautiful eighteenth century architecture. Dublin is an enchanting Georgian city and a thriving commercial and social centre, where old and new architectural styles and attitudes to life blend happily together.

In Dublin you can look forward to excellent food and famously friendly people. You will discover a young dynamic city where half the population is under twenty five years of age. Dublin is proud of its many universities, independent colleges, technical colleges and other educational institutes.
History of the College

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland was granted a Charter on February 11th 1784, giving the College the power to regulate the practice of surgery and to make provision for surgical education. Prior to that time, the surgeons were grouped with the barbers in the Barber Surgeons’ Guild. The founders had no premises so the earliest meeting was held in the boardroom of the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin. Subsequently, a disused hall in Mercer Street beside Mercer’s Hospital was acquired. The College flourished from the very start and, in 1810, moved to its present location at the corner of York Street, facing St Stephen’s Green. The site acquired for the building at that time was a disused Quaker graveyard.

The College set about educating doctors with a strong emphasis on surgery. The founding fathers were very influenced by the standard of surgery in France at that time and out of respect for the French College of Surgeons, the motto ‘Consilio Manuque’ meaning ‘Scholarship and Dexterity’ was adopted.

The stimulus for growth in the early years was the demand for Army and Navy surgeons for the Napoleonic wars. Over the past forty years, the College has become home to the College of Anaesthetists and the Faculties of Radiology, Dentistry, Nursing and Sports and Exercise Medicine. These bodies, functioning independently, have added a great dimension to the College.

In 1844, a supplemental Charter was obtained from Queen Victoria, the chief provision of which was the institution of the Fellowship, which divided Graduates into Licentiates and Fellows. The latter could only be obtained by examination taken a minimum of three years following graduation.

This is essentially the Charter by which we work today. The Medical Act of 1886 confirmed that graduates had to be educated in surgery, medicine and obstetrics and so the Conjoint Board between the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Physicians came into existence.

The Graduates received the historical Licentiates of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Since 1978 the College is a recognised College of the National University of Ireland with the award of MB, BCh, BAO to its graduates in addition to the Licentiates.

In addition to the undergraduate medical programme, the College also delivers degree programmes in Pharmacy and Physiotherapy.

Graduates of the School of Pharmacy are awarded BSc Pharmacy. After graduation and following successful completion of a one year period of professional training, graduates are eligible to register with the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

Graduates of the School of Physiotherapy are awarded BSc Physiotherapy in addition to professional recognition by the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists.

Honorary Fellowships are also conferred by the College, and notable recipients include:

- Louis Pasteur (1886)
- William and Charles Mayo (1921)
- Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (1988)
- Sultan Azlan Shah (1991)
- Dato’ Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammed (1991)
- President Mary Robinson (1994)
- His Excellency the Emir Shaikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifa (1995)
- Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1995)
- President Nelson Mandela (1996)
- Professor Alfred Guschieneri (1996)
- Professor Seamus Heaney (1998)
- President Mary McAleese (1998)
- Seamus Mallon (2006)
- King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa (2006)
- President James Earl Carter (Jr.) (2007)
- HRH Prince AbdulAziz bin Ahmed Al-Saud (2007)
- Sir Bob Geldof (2007)
Core activities at RCSI

As a student at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland you will be part of an organisation which is at the heart of medical science.

Among the wide-ranging activities of the College are:

- Undergraduate Medical, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy Programmes
- Post Registration Nursing Education
- Postgraduate Surgical Training
- Postgraduate Training in Anaesthesia, Radiology, Dentistry and Sports and Exercise Medicine
- Postgraduate Research and Taught courses
- Healthcare Management Training
- Consultancy and Hospital Management
- Member of the Conjoint Board with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
- Representation on the Senate of the Royal Surgical Colleges of Great Britain and Ireland
- Partner with University College Dublin in the Penang Medical College, Malaysia
  www.pmc.edu.my
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland – Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain)
  www.rcsibahrain.edu.bh
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland – Dubai (RCSI Dubai)
  www.rcsidubai.com
I will remember that there is art to medicine as well as science, and that warmth, sympathy and understanding may outweigh the surgeon's knife or chemist's drug.

— the Hippocratic Oath
Introduction

RCSI offer two medical programmes; a five/six year course for school leavers and a four year course for graduates. The curriculum model for the Graduate Entry Programme takes the best from the developments of the five/six year programme at RCSI to include learning opportunities for a more experienced cohort of students.

The medical school curriculum and assessment procedures are constantly monitored and reviewed. Educational best practice has seen a general move towards greater integration throughout the curriculum. Teaching is largely systems based with the early introduction of clinical case studies and data interpretation. Early patient contact facilitates integration of the basic sciences and is followed by a clinical programme, which embodies the best of the Irish clinical experience, complimented by a comprehensive IT support infrastructure and excellent educational facilities.
The Medical School of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland possesses a character and individuality that derives from a number of factors:

- the school is governed by doctors whose objective is the furtherance of medical standards
- the school has a unique ambience emanating from the cultural diversity of our students, who together with the complimentary Faculties of the College, exert a beneficial influence on the postgraduate development of RCSI graduates

The ethos of the Medical School is founded on the principle that the patient’s interest is paramount in clinical teaching, medical practice and research. The objective of the Medical School is to provide the education and experience that enable its graduates to enter postgraduate training in any speciality of medicine.

To this end, the curriculum is designed to ensure that the student develops a balanced perspective of domiciliary, community and hospital care, and acquires a sound knowledge of the principles of both the science and art of medicine. Students are exposed to a variety of specialities providing them with comprehensive training, enhancing career options, both at home and abroad.

At graduation, students are expected to be:
- competent in clinical diagnosis
- familiar with the importance of preventive medicine
- capable of initiating appropriate investigations and treatment according to the resources available
- aware of the need for continuing education throughout their medical career

The Medical School reviews its curriculum to conform with national and international licensing authorities reflecting best educational practice.

Medical School Curriculum

The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences is committed to the delivery of an outcomes based curriculum, which adheres to the World Federation of Medical Education guidelines, for quality in medical education. Throughout the programme, students acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes expected of graduates from a centre of excellence.

Each academic year comprises two semesters. The curriculum is modularised in three cycles: Junior, Intermediate and Senior.

The Junior Cycle of the five/six year programme extends over three semesters, from October of the first year to January of the second year (18 months). The Intermediate Cycle follows over a further three semesters (18 months).

The Junior and Intermediate Cycles of the Graduate Entry Programme are delivered in four semesters, over a two year period.
During the Senior Cycle, both the five/six year students and the GEP students are combined for the final two years of the programme.

The Junior and Intermediate Cycles of the Graduate Entry Programme are delivered as systems based modules with modularised assessment. During the Senior Cycle, students rotate through the teaching hospitals associated with RCSI on clinical attachments in Medicine and Surgery and associated subspecialties.

To facilitate staff and students, the curriculum is mapped in an electronic ‘Virtual Learning Environment’ (VLE) providing students with access at all times to the academic calendar as well as the outline, learning objectives and full lecture notes for each module.

Varied teaching and learning methodologies are used to develop the medical sciences and clinical competencies of the core curriculum, including lectures, tutorials, anatomy room teaching, online Histology and Radiology tutorials and simulation for acquisition of practical skills.

In the Junior Cycle, clinical case studies apply lecture content in the biomedical sciences to clinical medicine in small group tutorials. Students learn effective communication and clinical skills, initially with simulated patients and later with patients and their families in both hospital and community environments. Students also receive training in such practical skills as basic life support.

Personal and professional development is a key feature throughout the curriculum and focuses strongly on skills and attitudes necessary for practice in today’s healthcare environment.

Electives

Students are encouraged to take clinical electives as visiting students during summer vacations in the Intermediate and Senior Cycle. Clinical placements, in any part of the world, are facilitated by formal and informal exchange agreements supervised by the Dean’s Office. The host clinician is expected to monitor the student’s performance on electives and once completed, an assessment form must be submitted to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Undergraduate Research Opportunities

In-course project work provides an introduction for students to review medical literature and experience laboratory and clinical research. In addition, the College encourages students to join research programmes at RCSI during the summer vacation by offering a number of Research Studentships.

Conferring of Degrees

Students graduating from the School of Medicine are awarded the historical licentiates of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, LRCP and SI. In addition, they are conferred with the primary medical degrees of the National University of Ireland, MB BCh BAO (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, Bachelor of the Arts of Obstetrics).

Registration

The Irish Medical Council requires graduates of Irish Medical Schools to complete one year of satisfactory service as an Intern in an approved hospital in order to obtain full registration, which is mandatory for practice in Ireland (Medical Practitioners Act 1978).

Non European nationals and those planning to return home after graduation, are advised to inform themselves at an early date of relevant conditions and requirements.
With regard to excellence, it is not enough to know, but we must try to have and use it.

– Aristotle
Introduction

Physiotherapy is a science based healthcare profession which primarily adopts a physical approach aimed at the promotion, maintenance and restoration of the individual's physical, psychological and social well-being. Physiotherapists have an important role to play in the healthcare of people of all ages who have lost movement or ability following an accident or illness. Using skills in manual therapy, therapeutic exercise, movement and electrotherapy, physiotherapists aim to assist people to resume as active and independent a life as possible.

Physiotherapists work in a range of healthcare settings including hospitals, health centres, nursing homes, schools and industry and in many speciality areas such as orthopaedics, paediatrics, care of the elderly, neurology and sports medicine.

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland offers a three year BSc Physiotherapy programme to applicants with a primary degree. Applicants with school-leaving qualifications are required to complete a foundation year.
RCSI School of Physiotherapy

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the School of Physiotherapy is to educate professionally safe, competent, reflective and analytical physiotherapists who possess a sound scientific knowledge base, an understanding of the value of research and analysis, are responsive to the needs of clients and carers and are aware of the dynamic diversity of healthcare environments in which they practice.

On completion of this course graduates will:

• Possess a sound scientific knowledge of physiotherapy practice
• Possess the knowledge and skills necessary to undertake assessment of patients, plan and implement treatment programmes
• Understand the role of physiotherapy in health promotion and education
• Have an understanding of the concepts, methods and techniques of enquiry underpinning healthcare research and evaluation of outcomes of physiotherapeutic intervention
• Be capable of performing competently in an autonomous professional capacity in a variety of healthcare settings
• Have acquired the knowledge, skills and attitudes to pursue lifelong learning and research

Curriculum

The course is delivered over two semesters in each academic year.

The Foundation Year curriculum is divided into eight modules delivered over two semesters.

Three initial subject-specific stand-alone modules are covered in semester one which provide the student with a broad overview of the basic principles of physical, biological and chemical processes. During this part of the programme, the three subject areas (medical physics, human biology and medicinal and pharmaceutical chemistry) are taught separately.

A fourth module on medical informatics introduces students to basic communication skills as well as an introduction to patient privacy, data integrity and data protection legislation. In semester two a module on the chemical processes involved in biological systems, in metabolism and in the behaviour of drugs is taught.

Three further ‘systems-based’ modules, delivered in a fully integrated manner, provide the student with a better understanding of the underlying biochemical and biophysical processes in the human body. Compulsory courses in Medical Informatics, Basic Life Skills and Study Skills are also held during this year.
The First Physiotherapy Year provides the student with a sound scientific knowledge base to underpin the practice of physiotherapy. Students will gain an understanding of the structure, function and inter-relationship of systems in the human body through studies in anatomy, physics and physiology. Physiotherapy skills and movement studies will be studied in parallel to the core sciences facilitating the integration of learning.

Movement studies will introduce the student to the analysis of the normal musculoskeletal system and its movements. This will form the basis for development of the analytical skills required in the assessment of musculoskeletal problems. The study of musculoskeletal and orthopaedic problems and their management will be introduced utilising a problem-solving approach.

Following the end-of-year examinations a three-week clinical placement is undertaken. During this placement, students will gain an understanding of the role of the physiotherapist and the environment of practice.

The Second Physiotherapy Year focuses on the application and analysis of problems and their effects in key pathological areas e.g. cardiovascular/respiratory, neurology and musculoskeletal disorders. Students will gain an understanding of the research process and develop an ability to appraise and evaluate research and literature.

Clinical education modules are undertaken in the core clinical areas of orthopaedics/rheumatology, outpatients, medical/surgical cardiorespiratory and neurology.

The Final Physiotherapy Year focuses on the integration of knowledge and understanding into clinical practice. Optional clinical placement modules include paediatrics, women’s health, care of the elderly and advanced neurology. In addition, a significant proportion of time is spent on the completion of a research project.

Throughout the programme, clinical education is a central element with more than one thousand hours being undertaken by the student on a fulltime block basis. Students gain this essential clinical experience under the supervision of physiotherapy clinical tutors and senior physiotherapy clinicians.

Assessment takes place on a modular basis throughout the year.

**Professional Recognition**

Graduates of the physiotherapy programme receive the award of BSc Physiotherapy from the National University of Ireland and professional recognition by the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists.

**Research Opportunities**

Undergraduate students gain an understanding of the research process by completion of a research project in the Final Year. In addition, RCSI offers a number of bursaries to students wishing to undertake research during the summer vacation period. Opportunities for postgraduate research are also available by means of registration for MSc/PhD degree programmes by research.
I would rather discover a single causal connection than win the throne of Persia.

– Democritus
Introduction

Pharmacy is the science of medicines. Pharmacists are involved in the discovery of new drugs, their development into usable medicines and their use by patients. Pharmacists advise and educate on all aspects of the properties and use of medicines.

Pharmacy is an ancient profession, dating from when people first began to administer remedies to treat disease. It is now firmly rooted in science and is an essential part of many exciting advances in the treatment of disease. Students need a comprehensive grounding in a large range of subjects in order to understand the physical, chemical and biological properties of medicines.

The four year pharmacy programme at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland leads to the degree of BSc (Pharmacy) of the National University of Ireland.
RCSI School of Pharmacy

Aims and Objectives

RCSI Pharmacy graduates will be capable of undertaking a career in any of the specialties within the field of pharmacy. The essential requirements of the graduate are:

- Scientific knowledge
- Professional competence
- Commitment to continuing professional development

To achieve this, graduates require a defined set of core competencies classified under knowledge, skills and attitudes. The programme combines teaching in basic and pharmaceutical sciences and the practice of pharmacy to produce a rounded professional.

The programme is structured to ensure that the student’s journey progresses from foundation studies, through scientific and professional studies to preparation for practice. Professional and practice studies form part of the curriculum from the start.

On completion of this course graduates will:

- Be fit for the purpose of practicing pharmacy
- Possess the foundation and disposition for continuing development
- Be competent and reflective practitioners

The Curriculum

The course is delivered over two semesters in each of the four academic years.

The Junior Cycle takes the form of two semesters. A foundation semester introduces the student to the pharmacy programme and includes basic studies in pharmaceutical sciences and practice. This is followed by a further semester of basic pharmaceutical studies and pharmacy practice.

The Intermediate Cycle extends over two years. During this cycle, core pharmaceutical sciences and pharmacy practice are studied.

The Senior Cycle, the final year of the programme, emphasises personal development, development of critical and investigative skills and preparation for practice. The taught modules concentrate on clinical and practice subjects. Students also complete an investigative, evidence-based project in one of the areas of pharmacy.
Professional Recognition

The Pharmacy programme at RCSI is fully accredited by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. Following successful completion of a pre-registration year and a registration examination, graduates will be eligible for Membership of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland and to practice as pharmacists. Only registered pharmacists may supervise the dispensing and sale of medicines. Registered graduates may also practice in many other countries where reciprocal arrangements exist.

Career Options

Pharmacy offers many career options with the majority of pharmacists practicing in the community. By definition this involves the greatest degree of interaction with patients and their families. Community pharmacists must maintain a sound knowledge of medicines to ensure their safe use and to advise patients and other members of the healthcare team.

Another frequent choice is hospital pharmacy. The demands of a large hospital are considerable and the pharmacist has a variety of roles to play, including providing information on medicines to medical teams and their patients, specialist manufacturing and clinical pharmacy.

Pharmaceutical and healthcare industries also offer many opportunities. Pharmacists may be involved in drug discovery, development of final products, large-scale manufacture of medicines, quality assurance, regulatory affairs and sales and marketing.

Other career opportunities for Pharmacy graduates include education and research and careers in government and regulatory agencies.

Research Opportunities

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland has a large research programme in the pharmaceutical sciences and there are research opportunities at postgraduate and postdoctoral level in pharmacology, pharmaceutics, pharmaceutical chemistry and pharmacy practice. There are also opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in research projects through summer attachments.
Research

Enhancing the undergraduate education programmes at the College is a world class programme of research. An environment of critical enquiry and rigorous intellectual activity is promoted in every department and at every level.

Developments in biomedical sciences and biotechnology provide an unrivalled opportunity to explore the pathogenesis of disease and to develop novel therapies. A central tenet of the research strategy at RCSI is Translational Research – the integration of clinical sciences and biotechnology. Niche areas of research expertise are in Neuroscience (Alzheimer’s, Epilepsy, Schizophrenia), Pulmonary Inflammation (COPD), Cystic Fibrosis, Asthma), Cancer (breast, colorectal, skin), Cardiovascular (thrombosis, hypertension, stroke).

Supporting the basic and medical science programmes, the College has established a range of technologies that impact significantly on biomedical research, including:

- Proteomics
- Bioinformatics
- Mass Spectrometry
- Biobanking
- Imaging
- Organic and peptide chemistry

Researchers at RCSI facilitate their teams in collaborative projects in molecular medicine, technology development and their translation to the clinical arena. A supportive environment and infrastructure assists new independent researchers become established in the research culture of the College and its extensive network of international contacts.

Postgraduate Research Training

Central to the research environment at RCSI is an outstanding Postgraduate Research Training Programme. This structured programme guides students within a support network and infrastructure that nurtures tomorrow’s scientists in a challenging and stimulating environment.

RCSI augments its Postgraduate Training Programme by active participation in the Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre (DMMC) Advanced Education programmes.

The DMMC offers an extensive range of advanced postgraduate and postdoctoral training courses in Molecular Medicine. www.dmmc.ie
RCSI Undergraduate Admissions
Applications from European Union School leavers to the RCSI Schools of Medicine, Physiotherapy & Pharmacy are made online via the Central Applications Office. www.cao.ie

The CAO website provides full details regarding the CAO application process. The closing date for receipt of CAO applications is 1st February. Late closing date is 1st May.

The CAO course codes for school leavers are:
RC 001 – Medicine
RC 004 – Physiotherapy
RC 005 – Pharmacy

European Union School Leavers

Applications from European Union School leavers to the RCSI Schools of Medicine, Physiotherapy & Pharmacy are made online via the Central Applications Office. www.cao.ie

European Union Graduate Applicants

European Union graduate applications to the School of Medicine are made online via the CAO www.cao.ie

The CAO course code for Graduate Medicine is; RC 101 – Graduate Medicine

School of Physiotherapy RC004

Applicants must achieve a minimum of six subjects in the Leaving Certificate Examination (or equivalent), which must include Irish, English, Mathematics, a third language and a science subject from the group Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry or Biology. At least one grade of B at higher level in a science subject or Mathematics must be presented.

School of Pharmacy RC005

Applicants must achieve a minimum of six subjects in the Leaving Certificate Examination (or equivalent), which must include Irish, English, Mathematics, a third language and a science subject from the group Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry or Biology. At least one grade of B at higher level in a science subject or Mathematics must be presented.

Graduate Physiotherapy & Pharmacy

European Union graduate applications to the Schools of Physiotherapy and Pharmacy are made online through the College website, www.rcsi.ie/admissions

Graduate applicants to the Schools of Physiotherapy and Pharmacy are broadly defined as students who have pursued a primary degree or training in an area other than physiotherapy or pharmacy. Graduate entrants present with many different academic qualifications which may include;

- Primary degrees (usually with first class honours)
- Higher degrees (e.g. MSc or PhD) or professional paramedical qualifications.

Definition of European Union Applicant

For the purpose of admission to RCSI, European Union applicants are defined as applicants who hold a valid European Union passport and who have been resident in an European Union State for three of the five years preceding entry to the College.
RCSI Undergraduate Admissions

How to apply and Admissions Policies

Non European Union Applicants

All non European Union applicants (school leavers and graduates) must apply directly online through the College website www.rcsi.ie/admissions

The website provides full details of the application process and minimum academic entry requirements.

Academic Requirements

The Admissions Office considers many different school-leaving examinations. The current minimum academic entry requirements for the Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy are available on the Admissions section of the College website.

Interview and Selection

In addition to academic qualifications, a structured interview forms an integral part of the short listing process for all non European Union candidates and graduate European Union candidates to the Schools of Pharmacy and Physiotherapy. The interview assesses the candidates’ motivation, communication skills, relevant work or voluntary experience, and the steps taken to gain an insight into the fields of medicine, pharmacy and physiotherapy as a career.

The Admissions Committee Interview Panel travel abroad on a regular basis to interview prospective Non EU students.

Overseas Interview Location Schedules are published on the College website.

To facilitate preferred interview locations, please ensure that your application is received at least twenty working days prior to the published interview date.

European Union Graduate interviews for the Schools of Pharmacy and Physiotherapy take place in Dublin at RCSI during the month of April.

Accepting a Place

Once an application has been successful, an offer pack outlining the registration conditions is sent to the student. In addition the offer pack contains:

- Acceptance form
- RCSI Student Agreement
- RCSI Orientation Handbook

Students are advised to read all literature carefully and to reply by the date stated in the letter of offer.

RCSI Equal Opportunity Policy

In assessing applicants for entry to the Undergraduate Programmes, candidates are evaluated on the basis of their academic achievement, ability and potential, regardless of age, religious belief, ethnicity, gender, marital or family status, sexual orientation, or physical ability. Admission to the programmes requires that the candidate has the potential to fulfil the duties of healthcare professionals.

Applicants who are unsuccessful cannot be reconsidered for entry within the same cycle but may re-apply the following year without prejudice to the new application.

Applicants who are in attendance or have previously been in attendance at courses in other recognised third level institutions are considered only if they have successfully completed the prescribed examinations of the course last taken by them. An academic transcript detailing courses and examination results must be submitted to the Admissions Office not later than July 15th. Failure to do so may result in the application being deemed invalid.

It is the policy of RCSI not to accept transfer students.
Disability Policy

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland is committed to building an inclusive learning environment and to the provision of reasonable accommodation as a response to meet the individual needs and as far as possible, to enable full access and participation for all students with a disability.

The objective of this policy is to provide recognition of the importance of reasonable accommodation and to provide a systems framework for responding in a timely and appropriate manner, to the individual needs of students with disabilities. The policy applies to all prospective and registered students. Notwithstanding the fact that RCSI is committed to the adoption of reasonable accommodation there may be times when this is not possible. RCSI is committed to implementing not only the letter but also the spirit of the disability legislation as far as is safe and practicable.

Garda Clearance

Full registration on the medical, physiotherapy and pharmacy programmes is subject to Garda Vetting, which takes place during the first semester. Prior to same, all students are provided with conditional registration.

Health Screening and Immunisation

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland is mindful of its overriding duty of care to the public with whom students come into close contact throughout their studies. All medicine and physiotherapy students are screened for infectivity with Tuberculosis and Hepatitis B. Immunisation must be obtained where required. It is the policy of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland to provide a healthy and safe working environment. This can only be achieved successfully with the co-operation and vigilance of all students.

Tuition Fees

European Union school leavers who have not attended university previously are covered under the Irish Government Free Fees Scheme. Tuition Fees for all undergraduate programmes are available from the Admissions section of the College website.
Library

The College provides a Library service on two sites. The Mercer Library serves students and staff on the St. Stephen’s Green campus, while the Library in Beaumont Hospital focuses on the needs of students in the clinical years and provides access to information for the continuing education of healthcare professionals and postgraduate students. Both libraries have extensive opening hours and have large areas designated for studying. All facilities and resources between the two libraries are shared.

Access to up-to-date healthcare information is of critical importance in medicine, pharmacy, physiotherapy and nursing. Learning to find and manage relevant information for education, medical practice, patient care and research is an important part of the educational process, especially in the era of evidence-based practice.

The Library plays an important role in this process, acting both as a gateway to the world’s medical and healthcare information and as a ‘laboratory’ where information skills can be taught and put into practice.

The Library service aims to deliver the essential support services required for RCSI’s students, forming an integral hub of study, learning and communication. The services extend far beyond the confines of the Library buildings through the College website www.rcsi.ie/library. This virtual Library provides users with the ability to access a host of healthcare information databases such as Medline, CINAHL and PsycInfo, and collections of full text medical journals such as Science Direct and Blackwell’s Synergy as well as individual titles from medical electronic journals.

Library staff assist and advise students in using these varied resources. They also contribute to formal teaching in information skills and evidence-based practice and offer informal drop-in and one-to-one sessions.

Information Technology

Registered students are provided with a laptop computer and wireless access throughout the campus to RCSI’s ‘Virtual Learning Environment’ (VLE). The VLE ‘Moodle’ facilitates student access to curricula, course information, lecture notes, timetables and examination information.

Computer laboratories are also available in the libraries and in the main RCSI campus with printing facilities available at several locations throughout the buildings.
**Student Services Office**

The Student Services Office is responsible for 'out of classroom' or non-academic supports. The office has an open door policy which is part of its 'one-stop information shop' aimed at providing answers and solutions to student queries and issues. ‘If we can’t help you ourselves, we are sure to know someone who can’.

Services include:
- Accommodation
- Access & Disability
- Chaplaincy
- Clubs & Societies
- Counselling
- Health Information
- Hardship and Student Assistance Fund
- Immigration, Garda (Police) National Immigration Bureau (GNIB), Visas
- Induction to Orientation
- Student Events
- Student Publications
- Student Welfare Officer

Contact details are as follows:

RCSI Student Services Office
123 St Stephen’s Green
Dublin 2, Ireland

t: +353 1 402 2294
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**Orientation Day**

Orientation Day is the first day of the academic year and comprises a series of short introductory lectures. These lectures are aimed at providing an overview of various services within the College, such as:
- Clubs & Societies
- Health Service
- IT Service
- Library Service
- Student Support Services
- Students’ Union

The Orientation Day Programme includes a ‘Welcome Address’ from the Dean of the Medical Faculty and an introduction to administrative staff.

The President of the Students’ Union also announces the programme for ‘RCSI Fresher’s Week’.

**Fresher’s Week**

The first week of Semester 1 is known as ‘Fresher’s Week’. The aim of the entire week is to welcome all new students and assist with the settling-in process. Fresher’s Week provides a great opportunity to have fun, make new friends, and join the many and varied RCSI Clubs and Societies. The Students’ Union will provide a schedule on Orientation Day.

**Students’ Union**

The RCSI Students’ Union aims to maintain and promote the education, social and general welfare of all students. All RCSI students are automatically full members of the SU with voting rights in the election of Officers and Class Representatives.

The SU is the College’s bridge between Faculty, Administration and the student body. They aim to ensure that student voices are heard on a variety of topics. The SU works closely with Faculty Centre, Administration and the Student Services Office.

RCSI Students’ Union
t: +353 1 402 2190
e: su@rcsi.ie
w: www.rcsi.ie
RCSI Student life

Clubs & Societies

Being a student is not all about studying! With over sixty Clubs and Societies, RCSI offers a wide variety of social activities. Students have ample opportunity to combine a vibrant social & sporting life with an active commitment to their studies.

College sports grounds are located at Dardistown, close to Beaumont Hospital (RCSI’s main teaching hospital). The facility includes playing fields for GAA (Irish Football), Soccer and Rugby and an all weather pitch which is floodlit and suitable for hockey, training and tennis.

There are indoor sports facilities located in the main College (St Stephen’s Green), including a gym with weights area, squash court, table-tennis, volleyball, basketball, pool and indoor badminton. A number of sports, such as horse-riding and swimming, are arranged with service providers outside the college.

The following Clubs and Societies are registered with the College with new arrivals added annually. So if you don’t come across something of interest, think about helping us to set it up.

RCSI Societies:

- American Medical Students’ Association (AMSA)
- Art Society
- Association of Norwegian Students Abroad (ANSA)
- Biological Society
- Canadian-Irish Medical Students’ Association (CIMSA)
- Cancer Society
- Caribbean-African Society
- Christian Union
- Dance Society
- Debating Society
- Drama Society
- Emergency Medicine & Critical Care Society
- Friendship Society
- Gourmet Society
- Hamilton Society
- Irish Society
- Islamic Society
- Medical Innovation Society
- Music Society
- Penang Medical College Students Association (PMCSA)
- Pharmacy Society
- Photography Society
- Physiotherapy Society
- Red Cross Society
- SUAS
- Surgical Society

RCSI Clubs:

- Archery
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Men’s Basketball
- Women’s Chess
- Climbing
- Cricket
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Fencing
- GAA
- Golf
- Hockey
- Men’s Hockey
- Women’s Hockey
- Karate
- Kickboxing
- Paintball
- Polo
- Rugby
- Running
- Sailing
- Scuba
- Diving
- Skiing
- Soccer
- Men’s Soccer

- Women’s Squash
- Surfing
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Tag
- Rugby
- Tennis
- Taekwondo
- Volleyball
- Men’s Volleyball
- Women’s Yoga

Accommodation

One of the most important tasks faced by new students is the search for suitable accommodation. RCSI offers a number of services to assist students in finding the perfect home away from home.

The closest student accommodation to RCSI is located at Mercer Court, immediately adjacent to the College. For further information, please go to www.mercercourt.ie.

The RCSI Student Services Office also provides listings of alternative types of accommodation, including student residences, host families, private rented accommodation, shared accommodation, short term accommodation (including B&Bs, hotels, and hostels). These listings can be found on the RCSI website: www.rcsi.ie/studentservices

Disability Support Service

The Disability Officer is responsible for providing supports to students with disabilities to enable them to participate and succeed in all aspects of College life. Full details of Disability policies and procedures are available from the Student Services Office, on the RCSI website, and on Moodle. Relevant forms are also available to download. To discuss a disability, to register as a disabled student and/or to seek disability supports, please contact the Disability Officer. The Disability Support Service is located in the Student Services Office.

Disability Officer
T: +353 1 402 2106
disability@rcsi.ie
www.rcsi.ie/disability
Counselling

A professional Counselling Service is available to all RCSI students. To maintain student confidentiality, this service is managed by an independent private practice. For further information, please consult the RCSI Student Orientation Guide, contact the Student Services Office or consult the Student Services section on the college website www.rcsi.ie/studentservices

Personal Tutors

All new students are assigned a Personal Tutor, who is a member of the academic staff. The first meeting takes place at the Personal Tutors’ Reception on Orientation Day. After the initial introduction, tutors are available for consultation on any matter, academic or personal.

Students are encouraged to get to know their personal tutors as they are a valuable source of support throughout the college years.

Meet & Greet Service

RCSI is pleased to offer all new students, with our compliments, a welcome on arrival service, including transfer from Dublin Airport to their accommodation in Dublin. Please contact the Student Services Office for further information. Requests must be made at least 14 days before arrival.

Student Health

A comprehensive student health service is available at the Department of General Practice in the Mercer Medical Centre.

For further information regarding student health, please visit www.mercermedicalcentre.com

College Restaurant

The College restaurant, located on the first floor of the main college, caters for the needs of our international student body and serves a wide selection of foods, including vegetarian and Halal options. Starbucks is located in the basement of the main College, where hot drinks and light snacks are available. The College is also surrounded by a large selection of snack bars, cafés and restaurants in the immediate vicinity to suit all tastes and budgets.

Student Events

Student Life is a rich and vibrant part of RCSI. Some of the annual student events include the following:

- International Night
- International Food Night
- Chocolate Ball
- Boston Marathon
- College Ball
- Graduation Ball
- Pharmacy Ball
- Ballad Session
- Islamic Awareness Week
- Overseas Tours

For further information, please check the Student Services section on the website.

Climate

The dominant influence on Ireland’s climate is the Atlantic Ocean. Consequently, Ireland does not suffer from the extremes of temperature experienced by many other countries at similar latitude.

Average annual temperature is about 9°C. In the middle and east of the country temperatures tend to be somewhat more extreme than in other parts of the country. For example, summer mean daily maximum is about 19°C and winter mean daily minimum is about 2.5°C in these areas.

We recommend that you bring warm clothes, jumpers, socks, vests etc. with you including a good quality coat, scarf and gloves for your stay in Ireland. Winters can be difficult for students coming from warmer climates and it is advisable that you obtain the above items to ensure warmth and prevent colds.
Open Day

Prospective students are welcome to attend the annual RCSI Open Day, which is held each year in early January. It consists of a wide range of presentations on careers in medicine, pharmacy and physiotherapy. The Open Day for the Graduate Entry Programme to Medicine takes place in November each year. Details are available on the website. There are guided tours of the College and the main affiliated teaching hospital – Beaumont. It is also possible to arrange visits of the College at other times by contacting the Admissions Office or the Student Services Office.

After Graduation

Graduates of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland are part of a global family of over 7,000 Alumni. The Alumni are the College’s greatest resource. The aim is to develop partnership and understanding between the College and its Alumni, through an extensive programme of activities. The Alumni and Development Office is committed to promoting the social, education and cultural fellowship of graduates. Newsletters and electronic bulletins are posted regularly and the world-wide network of graduates is involved in career guidance, graduate reunion programmes, local and overseas Alumni Chapters and the Association of Graduates.

Contacts:

Admissions Office
Tel: +353 1 402 2228/2156
Fax: +353 1 402 2451
E-mail: admissions@rcsi.ie

Student Services Office
Tel: +353 1 402 2294/2106
Fax: +353 1 402 2461
E-mail: studentservices@rcsi.ie

Immigration Regulations

Please note that all Non European Union students arriving in Ireland are subject to immigration regulations.

Full information regarding immigration regulations and a list of countries that require visas may be found at the visa information section of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs website: http://www.dfa.ie
The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland-Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) was founded in 2004 and officially opened in October 2004 by HH the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Sh. Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa and the former Taoiseach (prime minister) of Ireland, Mr. Bertie Ahern TD.

Students from Bahrain, India, Italy, Kuwait, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United States of America and Yemen were admitted to the inaugural foundation year for Medicine in October 2004. As of October 2008 there are students of 34 nationalities represented in the student body. A vibrant school of Nursing admitted its first cohort of students in October 2006.

RCSI Bahrain is a constituent university of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The role of the University is to provide healthcare education and training to world standards in Bahrain, drawing students from Bahrain, the other GCC countries and beyond. The University moved in October 2008 to a purpose built university campus adjacent to the King Hamad General Hospital which is currently under construction. Additional undergraduate healthcare programmes under consideration include dentistry and pharmacy.

To find out more about RCSI Bahrain please visit www.rcsibahrain.edu.bh
The College Crest

The crest is an eagle, preying on a serpent which is an emblem of disease. The supporters are Irish elks, with chaplets of shamrocks around their necks. Over the helmet is conventional drapery, called the Mantling, and derived from a head-covering worn by knights in armour for protection against the sun’s heat.

Consilio Manuque – Scholarship and Dexterity