Faculty of Sport & Exercise Medicine, RCPI & RCSI

Entry to
The Specialist Division of the
Register of Medical Practitioners

Specialty of
Sports and Exercise Medicine
The Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine, RCPI & RCSI

The Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine is the recognised postgraduate training body for Sports and Exercise Medicine, and one of the 13 recognised training bodies recognised by the Medical Council in Ireland.

The Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine is the training body recognised to advise the Irish Medical Council on the completion of training in the Specialty of Sports and Exercise Medicine in the context of applications for entry onto the Register of Medical Specialists, and for the award of Certificate of Specialist Doctor in Sports and Exercise Medicine.

Routes of entry to the Specialist Register:

A number of routes are available for entry to the Specialist Register. While the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine may advise the Medical Council on individual applications, the final decision on eligibility for entry to the Specialist Register lies with the Medical Council. In brief, the routes of entry to the specialist register are:

- **Graduated from Higher Specialist Training Programme in Ireland (Category A)**

  This category is for graduates of Higher Specialist Training Programmes supervised by postgraduate training bodies, who have completed satisfactorily higher specialist training and been awarded a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) by that Training Body.

- **Trained and / or Recognised as a Specialist in an EU Member State (Category B,C & D)**

  This category is for graduates of Higher Specialist Training programmes supervised by postgraduate training bodies in Member States who have been awarded a Certificate of Specialist Training; a Certificate of Acquired Rights; or are established and recognised as a specialist by the competent authority of a Member State.
• **Medical Practitioners who have completed higher specialist training or equivalent and are not recognised under Categories A-D above (Category E)**

Medical practitioners who do not meet the requirements for recognition of their specialist qualifications under the Directive must submit structured evidence of completion of their specialist training and experience, which will be referred to the relevant approved postgraduate training body in Ireland for assessment of the equivalence or otherwise of their specialist training and experience to that of a medical practitioner who completes an approved, structured training programme within the State, leading to the award of a CSCST or equivalent certificate.

• **At the discretion of the Medical Council**

**Category E - On the recommendation of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine following assessment of the doctor's qualifications, training and experience to date.**

Under the new legislation of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007, applicants for specialist registration who have not completed a programme of specialised training, certified by the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine as the recognised training body for Sports and Exercise Medicine in Ireland, or a competent authority in another EU Member state, will be required to satisfy the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine through a detailed and possibly lengthy assessment process, that they have completed a specialist training in Sports and Exercise Medicine.

The application will be assessed whether the applicant’s qualifications and training and experience, considered together, are judged to be equivalent to a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST).

It is up to the applicant to prove that they are at an equivalent level to a recent trainee accredited with a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST). If the committee is not satisfied that enough information has been provided to cover any aspect of the evaluation, then the committee will reject the application pending further information.
Qualifications:

1. Specialist Qualification in Sport & Exercise Medicine

   (a) Possession of a Diploma in Sports & Exercise Medicine or equivalent, including MSc as recognised by FSEM, RCPI & RCSI. (Appendix 1)

   Or

   (b) Other ways for an applicant to demonstrate knowledge is through a portfolio of research, publications and innovations, which are at Consultant level. The type of evidence required from research publications could, for example, be first author publications on a bi-annual basis in a national or international peer review journal.

It might reasonably be expected that all successful applicants would have undertaken a Sports Specific Emergency Course accredited by the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine and be able to certify this.

It must be stressed that each case is to be judged individually. The evidence submitted, which must itself be of a high standard, will be considered in the context of the whole application and its automatic acceptance cannot be assumed.

Training:

Applicants will be expected to provide as much of the following evidence as possible:

• Evidence of minimum four years full time post diploma/MSc training in Sports & Exercise Medicine Clinical practice (part-time training will be considered on a pro-rata basis). This should include Sports Medicine and/or Exercise Medicine, and not be confined to Musculoskeletal Medicine. Evidence of the training course followed e.g. specialty curriculum, details of programme of training in the specialty should be provided.

• Provide documentary evidence of training in the majority of Sports & Exercise Medicine curriculum competencies (Appendix 2).

• Structured Reports from a trainer from each training post.

• Evidence that the specialty training was recognised by relevant national authorities e.g. certification

• Validated consolidated log books and specialty training records where available.

The main aim of this evaluation will be to identify whether the applicant can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the evaluators that he or she has achieved all the competencies necessary within their specialty. We will no longer look at a minimum duration of training, as the emphasis now is in the achievement of competency rather than time-based criteria.
Appendix 2. The Faculty of Sport & Exercise medicine has published a list of competencies on the Faculty website.

Finally, the training of Sports & Exercise Medicine doctors, outside the supervision of the Faculty, will be assessed, to the best of the Faculty’s ability, to ensure that such training is broadly comparable in duration and quality to that of those who have been trained in the programmes of the Faculty. However there will be training environments and posts that due to geographical constraints, are outwith the ability of the Faculty to judge upon.

**Experience and Current Clinical Practice:**

- Sports and Exercise Medicine should form the major part (>60%) of the applicants job plan.

- Evidence of last job appraisal, including agreed job plan. This appraisal (by a fellow of Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine on any EU SEM Specialist Register) should include the current nature and extent of the applicant’s involvement in Sports & Exercise Medicine.

The following documentary validated evidence, therefore, will strengthen the applicant’s case.

- **Structured Reports (2) from supervisors and colleagues**

- **Authenticated** employment record of posts relevant to the specialty of Sports and Exercise Medicine, giving details (including type of post, hospital statistics, sub-specialties covered, and dates) see appendix.

- Evidence of **satisfactory** completion of each Sports and Exercise Medicine post by a designated representative of the Institution

- Continuing Professional Development in the specialty (certificates, courses attended, etc.)

- Workplace-based assessments

- On-call rotas

- Job plan/work programme

- Information regarding annual Sport and Exercise Medicine caseload

- Formal assessments or appraisals

- Participation in teaching, lecturing and management

- Participation in clinical audit
• Evidence of research including publications and presentations relevant to Sports and Exercise Medicine

• **Validated** consolidated logbook evidence

• **Successful** attendance at relevant courses

The Medical Council has decided that for those that completed training some years ago, the standards pertaining at that time will be the comparators. Therefore, the guidelines must provide for differences in requirements over time and be reasonably flexible.

All applicants ought to be able to provide evidence of audit of their practice with at least some sort of reflection on practice. If they have been in posts outside the UK/Ireland system, then they might not have completed audit as we understand it.

**Conclusion:**

In conclusion, it is up to the applicant to prove that they are at an equivalent level to a recent trainee accredited with a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST). If the evaluators are not satisfied that enough information has been provided to cover any aspect of the evaluation, then the evaluators should reject the application pending further evidence of audit or appraisal, for instance. The chairperson of the accreditation committee of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine may request in writing further information from the applicant that would aid in the assessment.
Appendix 1

This document is currently being updated (March 2009)

Equivalent Post-Graduate Qualifications
National and International (2005)

Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine, RCPI & RCSI
Application for Entry on Register of Medical Specialties

Sports Medicine Postgraduate qualifications – 2005

Equivalent Qualifications - National and International
Ireland, United Kingdom, European Union, Australia, New Zealand, South
Africa, United States of America and Canada

- Completion and Certification of Specialist Training in Sports & Exercise
  Medicine
- Register of Medical Practitioners
- Register of Medical Specialists

The following Sports and Exercise Medicine degree and diploma qualifications are
deemed by the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine to be equivalent
qualifications for medical specialty registration in Sports and Exercise Medicine with
the Irish Medical Council

Ireland
University College Cork MSc/Dip in Sports Medicine
University College Dublin MMed Sci in Sports Medicine
MSc in Sports Medicine
MSc in Sports & Exercise Medicine

University of Dublin, Trinity College MSc/Dip in Sports Medicine
University of Ulster, Jordanstown MSc/Dip in Sports & Exercise Medicine

United Kingdom
University College London MSc/Dip in Sports and Exercise
Medicine
Universities of the City of Glasgow MSc/Dip in Medicine in Sport and
Exercise
MSc/Dip in Medicine
Sheffield Hollam University MSc in Sport Injury
University of Wales MSc/Dip in Sports and Exercise
Medicine
Queen Mary University of London MSc in Sports Medicine
University of Nottingham MSc/Dip in Sports Medicine
University of Bath MSc in Sports and Exercise Medicine

European Union
Sports Medicine Specialty Accreditation
Finland, Holland, Italy, Portugal, Austria,
Turkey and United Kingdom
The major changes according to the latest **UEMS Doctors Directive 2001/19/EC** were:

1. Minimum training duration for general medical practitioners extended from two to three years (Article 31b). This was an initiative of the European Parliament;

2. In the case of migration within the EU, certificates of medical specialisation have to be recognised by the host country, even if the particular specialty is not recognised as an independent speciality in the host country (Article 42b);

3. In the case of migration within the EU, training obtained in countries outside the European Union (EU) will have to be examined and considered by the host country. The host country has to decide about recognition within **three months** time from the time of application. Appeal to the national Court of Justice is possible (Article 42c);

4. Transfer of the lists of specialties to an appendix to increase the speed of the updating process.

**Australasia**

- University of Queensland, Australia: MSc/Diploma in Sports Medicine
- Edith Cowon University, Australia: MSc in Medicine (Sports Medicine)
- University of Canberra, Australia: MSc/Diploma in Sports Medicine
- University of New South Wales, Australia: MSc/Diploma in Sports Medicine
- University of Otago, New Zealand: Postgraduate Diploma in Sports Medicine

**South Africa**

- University of Capetown, South Africa: M Phil Degree in Sports Medicine (3-year modular programme, MSc & PhD in Sports Medicine)

**United States of America (USA)**

- Medical Specialty Board Certification in Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Paediatric Medicine, Internal Medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery with Certificate of Added Qualification or Fellowship in Sports Medicine

**Canada**

- Canadian Academy of Sport Medicine: CASM Diploma of Sport Medicine

All other qualifications will be considered on their merits subject to the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Sports & Exercise Medicine.
Appendix 2

Competencies

Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine, RCPI & RCSI
Division of Sports and Exercise Medicine

Experience in Sports and Exercise Medicine

Provide documentary evidence of (post-training) experience in the majority of Sports and Exercise Medicine curriculum competencies. (list shown below)

**Sports and Exercise Medicine - Obligatory knowledge, skills and experience**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Knowledge</th>
<th>Investigations and Procedures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population Health</td>
<td>Spinal Injuries, Amputee Rehabilitation and Disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musculoskeletal Medicine</td>
<td>Physical Activity in Special Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working within the Sporting Environment</td>
<td>Research, Statistics and Audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Emergencies in Sport &amp; Exercise Medicine</td>
<td>Teaching and Presentation Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs in Sport</td>
<td>Sports Medicine Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychosocial Aspects of Sport &amp; Exercise Medicine</td>
<td>Ethical and Medico-legal Aspects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Self-Directed Learning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other core competencies will be considered on their merits subject to the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Sports & Exercise Medicine.
Appendix 3

Experience and Clinical Practice
Post-Training in Sports and Exercise Medicine

Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine, RCPI & RCSI

Application for entry on the Specialist Register in the
Division of Sports and Exercise Medicine

Experience and clinical practice in Sports and Exercise Medicine – Post training

Provide documentary evidence of experience and clinical practice in specialist areas relevant to Sports and Exercise Medicine.

Sports and Exercise Medicine – relevant Sports and Exercise Medicine specialist areas

Primary Care Medicine  Respiratory Medicine
Emergency Medicine  Cardiology
Rheumatology  Neurology
Orthopaedic Surgery  Sports Medicine Management
Musculoskeletal Medicine  Pharmacology
Radiology  Endocrinology
Population Health / Public Health
Exercise Physiology

Other experience and clinical practice will be considered on their merits subject to the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Sports & Exercise Medicine.
Specialist Division of the Registrar – Specialty of Sports & Exercise Medicine

Checklist for applicants

1. Application fee

2. Certified copies of qualifications (copy notarised as true copy of original)

3. Any supporting documentation (see below).

4. Names and contact details of referees to verify professional involvement with sporting bodies.

5. Detailed CV - providing as much of the following evidence as possible:

   Training:
   - Evidence of post-diploma/MSc training in Sports and Exercise Medicine;
   - Documentary evidence of training in the majority of Sports and Exercise Medicine curriculum competencies;
   - Structured reports.
   - Certification.
   - Validated consolidated log-book.

   Experience:
   - **Authenticated** employment record of posts relevant to the specialty of Sports and Exercise Medicine,
   - Evidence of **satisfactory** completion of each Sports and Exercise Medicine post by a designated representative of the Institution
   - Formal assessments or appraisals
   - CPD
   - Workplace-based assessments
   - Information regarding annual Sport and Exercise Medicine caseload
   - Professional involvement at sporting events or with teams.
   - Evidence of clinical audit, research or presentation at Sports and Exercise Medicine conferences, professional attendance at sports events, teaching, research and publications.

   Current clinical practice:
   - Evidence that Sports and Exercise medicine forms a significant part (greater than 60%) of the applicant’s current clinical practice.
   - Job appraisal and agreed job plan;
   - **Validated** consolidated logbook evidence
   - Successful attendance at relevant courses.
   - Evidence of participation in teaching, lecturing and management
   - Evidence of participation in clinical audit
   - Evidence of research including publications and presentations relevant to Sports and Exercise Medicine
   - Evidence of **successful** attendance at relevant courses

The above list is examples of documentation that will help the assessment of an application. All other documentation provided will be considered on its merit. A certified copy is a copy (often a photocopy) of a filed document, legal or other, in its entirety that is sworn to be a true copy by a court clerk or solicitor.