POSTGRADUATE SPECIALIST TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
The mission of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland is to lead excellence and quality in medical practice through world-class training, education and healthcare improvements.
CONTENTS

Who's Who 04
Our mission and our role in healthcare 05
Reach your full potential 07
Postgraduate specialist training in 29 specialties 08
Our role in postgraduate specialist training 11
The path to becoming a specialist in Ireland 12
General Medicine 15
Paediatrics 19
Obstetrics and Gynaecology 23
Pathology 27
Public Health Medicine 33
Occupational Medicine 37
How to apply to Basic Specialist Training 40
What to expect when you start Basic Specialist Training with RCPI 42
Applying to Higher Specialist Training 45
The RCPI Campus 47
Contact us 50
WHO’S WHO

**PRESIDENT**

Professor Mary Horgan is President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Professor Horgan leads the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland on behalf of its Fellows and members. She can be contacted at President@rcpi.ie

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

Professor Richard Costello is Director of Research at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. He is also our Vice President. He can be contacted at Research@rcpi.ie

**REGISTRAR**

Dr Diarmuid O’Shea is the Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. He can be contacted at Registrar@rcpi.ie

**TREASURER**

Dr Donal Reddan is Treasurer of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. He can be contacted at College@rcpi.ie

**DEAN OF POSTGRADUATE SPECIALIST TRAINING**

Professor Anthony O’Regan is the Dean of Postgraduate Specialist Training. He oversees the standards and quality of our postgraduate specialist training programmes across all specialties. You can contact Professor O’Regan at DeanOfPostgraduateSpecialistTraining@rcpi.ie
OUR MISSION AND OUR ROLE IN HEALTHCARE

Our mission is to improve the health and care of the population by leading in medical training, education, professional standards and continuous improvement of the health service.

This involves advocating for standards of care, informing and influencing national health policy, and engaging in reform of our health services.

It also involves equipping doctors and other healthcare professionals with the skills and knowledge they need to care for their patients and run safe and efficient healthcare systems.

What matters to us
We value relationships and understand the value of working collaboratively with all stakeholders in the healthcare system.

But we will always remain true to our position as an independent authority on specialist medicine. We are an unflinching advocate for what is right: what is genuinely in the best interests of patients and those who care for patients.

A commitment to improving patient care lies at the heart of all we do.

Educational opportunities for all healthcare professionals
While our role in society has undergone profound changes since our foundation in 1654, we remain first and foremost a college – dedicated to the education, training and wellbeing of doctors and other healthcare professionals.

Today we offer a truly diverse range of courses and events. Our postgraduate medical education centre continues to develop new and innovative lifelong learning and professional development opportunities for healthcare professionals.

You don’t have to be registered on our training programmes to avail of many our educational offerings – See what courses and events are available to you today by visiting www.rcpi.ie.

Making healthcare safer, better
We quality-assure standards in specialist medical practice. Put simply, we develop policies and procedures to make sure that the delivery of diagnostics and patient care is of the same high quality no matter where you are in Ireland.

We also lead 22 groundbreaking National Clinical Programmes in conjunction with the HSE. These programmes are led by senior clinicians and are helping to transform healthcare in Ireland.

Innovation and collaboration
Every day we see the value of working with experts to find new ways of improving patient care – whether it’s our Healthcare Quality Improvement initiative, developed with international experts, or the national programme office for Traffic Medicine, which we established with the Road Safety Authority.

Reducing Health Harm
We bring experts and interested parties together to influence government and policy makers and promote awareness of urgent healthcare issues at a national, strategic level through our healthcare policy groups. We currently have Policy Groups in the areas of:

- Alcohol
- Obesity
- Tobacco
- Fitness to Drive
- Sexual Health
- Ageing
We know you chose Medicine because you want to help people, and we want to help you do that.
REACH YOUR FULL POTENTIAL WITH THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

Training doctors to become world-class specialists is at the heart of what we do in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. We believe that being a doctor is one of the most rewarding and important professions there is and we are committed to helping you reach your full potential.

We offer postgraduate specialist training programmes, examinations, diplomas and educational courses to equip you with the skills and knowledge you need to care for patients and run safe and efficient healthcare systems.

Our postgraduate training programmes are designed to produce specialist doctors who are capable of handling the everyday challenges of our health service. When you choose to train with us, we will help you develop the advanced skills and knowledge required for practising independently as a specialist and leading a clinical team.

We know what it takes to become a great doctor

You already know that being a good doctor requires more than clinical competence. It involves putting patients first, safeguarding their interests, being honest, communicating with care and personal attention, and being committed to lifelong learning and continuous improvement. Our training programmes will help you develop the non-clinical skills that are essential to providing good quality care to people.

While much of your postgraduate training will happen in the workplace, we have put together a comprehensive educational programme, both to support your clinical knowledge and to ensure that essential non-clinical skills, such as leadership, management, ethics and communication skills, are covered along with clinical skills and procedures.

We also know it’s important to care for the caregivers and we have developed a physician wellbeing programme to support the mental and physical wellbeing of all our doctors.

When you are accepted onto one of our training programmes, you can be assured that your training is monitored and delivered to the highest standard possible.

• We provide support and guidance on targets, procedures, courses, assessments and all matters relevant to your training

• We conduct our affairs transparently and impartially in the best interests of education and training standards

• We protect the best interests of Trainees in our dealings with the government and other stakeholders

You represent the next generation of clinical leaders and it would be a privilege to support you on the path to becoming a specialist.
WE OFFER POSTGRADUATE SPECIALIST TRAINING IN 29 SPECIALTIES

We offer Medical Council-accredited postgraduate specialist training programmes in 29 specialties:

- **Medicine including:**
  - Cardiology
  - Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics
  - Clinical Genetics
  - Dermatology
  - Endocrinology and Diabetes Mellitus
  - Gastroenterology
  - General Internal Medicine
  - Genitourinary Medicine
  - Geriatric Medicine
  - Infectious Diseases
  - Medical Oncology
  - Nephrology
  - Neurology
  - Palliative Medicine
  - Pharmaceutical Medicine
  - Rehabilitation Medicine
  - Respiratory Medicine
  - Rheumatology

- **Occupational Medicine**

- **Obstetrics and Gynaecology**

- **Pathology, including:**
  - Chemical Pathology
  - Clinical Microbiology
  - Haematology
  - Histopathology
  - Immunology

- **Paediatrics**
  - General Paediatrics
  - Neonatology
  - Paediatric Cardiology

- **Public Health Medicine**

Our training programmes are delivered in two stages, marking the steps towards becoming a specialist (consultant) in Ireland:

- **Basic Specialist Training**
  - Completed in Senior House Officer posts

- **Higher Specialist Training**
  - Completed in Specialist Registrar posts
Did You Know?

We weren't always called the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.
We were founded as the Fraternity of Physicians of Trinity Hall in 1654. We were renamed the College of Physicians in Dublin in 1667, then became the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland in 1692. We finally became the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland in 1890.
The endoscope was invented by a former President of RCPI, Sir Francis Richard Cruise, an Irish doctor and President of RCPI from 1884 to 1886, first demonstrated his invention in 1865, helping to advance the exploration of human anatomy considerably.
OUR ROLE IN POSTGRADUATE SPECIALIST TRAINING

The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland houses six of the 13 postgraduate specialist training bodies in Ireland:

- Irish Committee on Higher Medical Training
- Faculty of Occupational Medicine
- Faculty of Pathology
- Faculty of Paediatrics
- Faculty of Public Health Medicine
- Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Although it has six separate training bodies on site, the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland operates as a single organisation and delivers postgraduate specialist training from Basic Specialist Training to Higher Specialist Training to over 1,200 Trainees in 29 specialties.

This training takes place in structured rotations on hospital sites across Ireland, and is supported by our network of local Trainers, Training Leads, Regional Programme Directors and National Specialty Directors.

All postgraduate specialist training bodies in Ireland work closely with the National Doctors Training and Planning Unit in the Health Service Executive (HSE) to ensure that specialist training is delivered to a high standard on hospital sites.

The tripartite working relationship between the postgraduate specialist training bodies, the National Doctors Training and Planning Unit, and the Medical Council ensures that the integrity and the quality of our training programmes are upheld. In the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland we seek to continually implement quality improvement initiatives to go beyond the minimum standard required.
THE PATH TO BECOMING A SPECIALIST IN IRELAND

What is a specialist?
A specialist is a doctor who is certified to practice independently in a specific area of medicine (e.g. in Paediatrics, Cardiology or Occupational Medicine).

They have completed their postgraduate training and do not require supervision by a more senior doctor. With the exception of General Practitioners, specialists in Ireland are generally referred to as 'Consultants'.

For most specialties (including all of RCPI’s specialties), a doctor is required to complete a period of training called Basic Specialist Training (BST) for two to three years before entering the final stage of training (Higher Specialist Training). During this time the doctor works as a Senior House Officer (SHO) or Registrar, mostly in hospitals and always under the supervision of a more experienced doctor.

Step 1

MEDICAL DEGREE
The first step in the specialist career pathway is a five to six-year undergraduate medical degree programme.

Step 2

INTERNSHIP
After graduating from medical school, a newly graduated doctor spends 12 months training in hospitals as an intern, working as part of a team with nurses and experienced doctors, and earning their first salary as a doctor.

The intern year is structured so that a doctor can experience a variety of medical and surgical specialties. In Ireland the Health Service Executive (HSE) oversees the intern year.

Step 3

CHOOSING A SPECIALTY
Towards the end of the intern year, a doctor must choose an area of medicine to continue training in.

There are 10 specialties to choose from at this stage. You cannot start a training programme in Public Health Medicine, Occupational Medicine or Pathology (excluding Histopathology) directly after internship; training in these specialties is only available at Higher Specialist Training (Specialist Registrar) level. The 10 specialties you can start training in after internship (and in each case the relevant postgraduate medical training body) are shown in the table opposite.

Step 4

HIGHER SPECIALIST TRAINING
After BST most doctors will want to progress to Higher Specialist Training (HST) which is the final stage of training. Entry to Higher Specialist Training is competitive. Following completion of BST, you will be eligible to apply for a place in HST. HST is designed to bring a doctor’s skills up to the standard required for independent specialist practice.

HST takes four to six years to complete, depending on the specialty. During this time a doctor works as a Specialist Registrar (SpR).

On satisfactory completion of HST, SpRs receive a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) which allows them to enter the Specialist Division of the Register with the Medical Council.

Step 5

BECOMING A SPECIALIST
Once a doctor is on the Specialist Division of the Register with the Medical Council they are eligible to apply for consultant posts. However it is not always easy to get into these highly-regarded positions.

Many doctors spend some time working abroad and building up their portfolio of research, audits and publications before becoming a consultant.
There is only one book in the College’s library that can be positively identified as belonging to the library’s founder Sir Patrick Dun. It is an 1687 edition of Marcello Malpighi’s collected works.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Postgraduate Medical Training Body</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anaesthesia</td>
<td>College of Anaesthetists of Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
<td>Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Internal Medicine (and its subspecialties)</td>
<td>Irish Committee on Higher Medical Training, RCPI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Practice</td>
<td>Irish College of General Practitioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Histopathology</td>
<td>Faculty of Pathology, RCPI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstetrics and Gynaecology</td>
<td>Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, RCPI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ophthalmology</td>
<td>Irish College of Ophthalmologists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paediatrics (including Neonatology)</td>
<td>Faculty of Paediatrics, RCPI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
<td>College of Psychiatry of Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Doctors specialising in General Internal Medicine need expert knowledge of a wide range of common acute disorders.
GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

What is General Internal Medicine?
General Internal Medicine deals with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of adult diseases. Doctors specialising in General Internal Medicine are called physicians. They need expert knowledge of a wide range of common acute disorders due to the type of patients they encounter, and often have to manage seriously ill patients with undifferentiated or multi-system disease processes.

The vast majority of physicians have a subspecialty interest in diseases affecting particular organs or organ systems. The subspecialties in General Internal Medicine are as follows:

- Cardiology
- Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics
- Clinical Genetics
- Dermatology
- Endocrinology and Diabetes Mellitus
- Gastroenterology
- Genitourinary Medicine
- Geriatric Medicine
- Infectious Diseases
- Medical Oncology
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Palliative Medicine
- Pharmaceutical Medicine
- Rehabilitation Medicine
- Respiratory Medicine
- Rheumatology

You will be placed on a rotation and you will know in advance what posts you will be working in over the next two years. You will rotate to a different SHO post every three months. The combination of posts will ensure a broad exposure to acute medicine and different medical subspecialties, with a balance between larger and smaller hospitals. You will spend at least 12 months in posts involving acute unsolicited medical 'take' (general medical on-call) and you will rotate through at least three out of the following five core specialties:

- Cardiology
- Respiratory Medicine
- Geriatric Medicine
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology

A minimum of six months will be spent outside your main metropolitan area and you will spend time in a Level 4 (large tertiary) hospital and a Level 3 (general) or Level 2 hospital (local hospital with selected/GP-referred medical patients).

In addition to supervised clinical training in the hospital, you are required to pass the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI) examination in General Medicine. You are also required to attend a number of mandatory courses that will help you to develop professionally and acquire the non-clinical skills and knowledge needed to provide excellent patient care.

Entry to BST is competitive. We manage national recruitment to BST in General Internal Medicine every year.

Step 1 of becoming a specialist in General Internal Medicine – Basic Specialist Training
Basic Specialist Training (BST) in General Internal Medicine is a two-year programme of supervised clinical training in Senior House Officer (SHO) posts. Completion of the intern year is an essential entry requirement.

Step 2 of becoming a specialist in General Internal Medicine – Higher Specialist Training
We offer separate Higher Specialist Training (HST) programmes for each subspecialty in General Internal Medicine (17 HST programmes in total). Completion of BST in General Internal Medicine
Medicine (or an equivalent training programme) is an essential entry requirement for each subspecialty.

Each HST programme provides structured, supervised clinical training in Specialist Registrar (SpR) posts. You will rotate through pre-arranged posts in your chosen specialty every twelve or six months.

For most Trainees, after the first two years of HST there are opportunities to develop a special interest or arrange one year out of clinical training to conduct research.

It takes four to six years to complete HST depending on your specialty; the duration of training might be extended due to research or overseas clinical appointments.

When you complete Higher Specialist Training, you will receive a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) and can practice independently as a specialist.

**Training in General Internal Medicine is accredited by the Irish Committee on Higher Medical Training**

The Irish Committee on Higher Medical Training (ICHMT) is the national postgraduate training body for General Internal Medicine. The ICHMT is based in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

The ICHMT has been accredited by the Medical Council as meeting the strict standards required to deliver postgraduate specialist training in General Internal Medicine and its 17 subspecialties.

### Facts about BST in General Internal Medicine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Duration</strong></th>
<th>Two years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Job title/grade of doctor</strong></td>
<td>Senior House Officer (SHO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sample rotation breakdown</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Year 1** | July – September: Acute Medical Unit  
October – December: Neurology  
January – March: Respiratory Medicine  
April – June: Endocrinology |
| **Year 2** | July – September: Geriatric Medicine  
October – December: Cardiology  
January – March: Gastroenterology  
April – June: Rheumatology |
| **Average intake each year** | 230 - 260 |
| **Exams to pass** | Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI) examination in General Medicine |
| **Mandatory educational courses to be completed as part of BST** | - BST Leadership in Clinical Practice: Communication Skills  
- BST Leadership in Clinical Practice: Leadership Skills  
- BST Leadership in Clinical Practice: Online  
- Ethics, Transfusion, and Prescribing for General Internal Medicine  
- Infection control  
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) |
| **Training body** | Irish Committee on Higher Medical Training (ICHMT) |
| **When to apply** | October each year |
We have Napoleon’s toothbrush. We also have his snuff box. These items, which were donated to RCPI by Mrs Mary Tyrell in 1937, were originally presented by Napoleon to the Irish surgeon Barry Edward O’Meara (1789-1836).
Paediatricians diagnose and treat specific health issues, diseases and disorders related to the various stages of growth and development.
PAEDIATRICS

What is Paediatrics?
Paediatrics deals with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions affecting infants, children, and adolescents, from birth to age 18.

Paediatricians diagnose and treat specific health issues, diseases and disorders related to the various stages of growth and development. They work very closely with the patient and their family.

Paediatricians working in general hospitals in Ireland mainly practice General Paediatrics. A General Paediatrician must be competent in the prevention, diagnosis and management of a wide range of diseases. They must be able to deal with the acute presentation of illness affecting one or more organ systems at the same time.

Paediatricians in tertiary children’s hospitals (e.g. Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital Crumlin) tend to have a specific subspecialty interest, such as Paediatric Immunology or Paediatric Metabolic Medicine.

Neonatology, a subspecialty of Paediatrics, deals with the medical care of newborn infants, especially the ill or premature newborn infant. It is usually practiced in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs).

Step 1 of becoming a specialist in Paediatrics – Basic Specialist Training
Basic Specialist Training (BST) in Paediatrics is a two-year programme of supervised clinical training in Senior House Officer (SHO) posts. Completion of the intern year is an essential entry requirement.

You will be placed on a rotation and you will know in advance what posts you will be working in over the next two years.

Your rotation will incorporate the following core elements:

- At least six months in General Paediatrics
- Six months in Neonatology
- Experience in Community Paediatrics, Paediatric Emergency Medicine or another paediatric subspecialty (i.e. Cardiology, Gastroenterology) may be included
- Not more than six months will be spent in any one subspecialty

In addition to supervised clinical training in the hospital, you are required to pass the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI) examination in Paediatrics. You are also required to attend a number of mandatory courses that will help you to develop professionally and acquire the non-clinical skills and knowledge needed to provide excellent patient care.

Entry to BST is competitive.

Step 2 of becoming a specialist in Paediatrics – Higher Specialist Training (HST)
Higher Specialist Training in Paediatrics, General Paediatrics, Neonatology and Paediatric Cardiology, is a five-year programme of structured, supervised clinical training in Specialist Registrar (SpR) posts. Completion of BST in Paediatrics (or an equivalent recognised training programme) is an essential entry requirement.

The experience gained by rotating through different departments is an essential part of HST in Paediatrics. For this reason, you will not be placed in the same unit for more than two years of clinical training, or with the same trainer for more than one year.
When you complete HST you will receive a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) and can practice independently as a specialist.

**Training in this specialty is accredited by the Faculty of Paediatrics**

The Faculty of Paediatrics at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland is the national postgraduate training body and professional body for Paediatrics in Ireland.

It has been accredited by the Medical Council as meeting the strict standards required to deliver postgraduate specialist training in Paediatrics. The Faculty is based in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

### Facts about BST in Paediatrics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Two years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job title/grade of doctor</td>
<td>Senior House Officer (SHO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample rotation breakdown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Year 1 | July – January: General Paediatrics  
January – July: Neonatology  |
| Year 2 | July – January: Emergency Paediatrics  
January – July: Paediatric Cardiology  |
| Average intake each year | 35 – 40 |
| Exams to pass | Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI) examination in Paediatrics |
| Mandatory educational courses to be completed as part of BST |  |
| - BST Leadership in Clinical Practice: Communication Skills  
- BST Leadership in Clinical Practice: Leadership Skills  
- BST Leadership in Clinical Practice: Online  
- Ethics, Transfusion, and Prescribing for Paediatrics  
- Child Protection Recognition and Response  
- Advanced Paediatric Life Support (APLS)  
- Neonatal Resuscitation Programme (NRP)  
- STABLE programme  
- Infection control |
| Training body | Faculty of Paediatrics |
| When to apply | October each year |
We have Members in 66 countries.

Doctors who pass the MRCPI exam are entitled to use the post-nominal MRCPI. Today, almost 6,000 doctors in 66 countries can use the letters MRCPI after their name.
Doctors in this specialty provide medical and surgical care to women and have specialist expertise in pregnancy, childbirth, fertility and family planning.
OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

What is Obstetrics and Gynaecology?
Obstetrics and Gynaecology is concerned with women’s health – before, during and after the reproductive years.

Obstetrics focuses on childbirth, providing pre-natal care and pregnancy support along with post-partum care. Gynaecology focuses on the health of the female reproductive system including the diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases.

Doctors in this specialty provide medical and surgical care to women and have specialist expertise in pregnancy, childbirth, fertility, family planning and disorders of the female reproductive system. Combined training in both Obstetrics and Gynaecology is important because these specialties often overlap.

Step 1 of becoming a specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology – Basic Specialist Training
Basic Specialist Training (BST) in Obstetrics and Gynaecology is a three-year programme of supervised clinical training in Senior House Officer (SHO) and Junior Registrar posts. Completion of the intern year is an essential entry requirement.

You will be placed on a rotation and you will know in advance what posts you will be working in for the first two years. Your rotation will incorporate the following core elements:

- The combination of posts ensures a broad exposure to Obstetrics and Gynaecology over the three years
- No more than six months is spent in any one SHO post
- There is an on-call commitment in Obstetrics, Gynaecology or combined Obstetrics and Gynaecology for the full three years
- The third year is spent in a Junior Registrar post
- You will re-interview for this post at the end of your second year

In addition to supervised clinical training in the hospital, you are required to pass the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI) examination in Obstetrics & Gynaecology. You are also required to attend a number of mandatory courses that will help you to develop professionally and acquire the non-clinical skills and knowledge needed to provide excellent patient care.

Entry to BST is competitive.

Step 2 of becoming a specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology – Higher Specialist Training (HST)
Higher Specialist Training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology is a five-year programme of structured, supervised clinical training in Specialist Registrar (SpR) posts. Completion of BST in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (or an equivalent training programme) is an essential entry requirement.

The experience gained by rotating through different departments is an essential part of HST in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. For this reason, you will not be placed in the same unit for more than two years of clinical training, or with the same trainer for more than one year.

Your five-year Higher Specialist Training programme in Obstetrics and Gynaecology will incorporate the following core elements:

- Exposure to Obstetrics and Gynaecology practice in a variety of settings
- Exposure to Gynaecology in a variety of hospital settings, including stand-alone maternity hospitals and academic teaching hospitals
- In addition, one year can be spent in full-time research. This is optional, but encouraged
When you complete Higher Specialist Training, you will receive a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) and can practice independently as a specialist.

Training in this specialty is accredited by the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland is the national postgraduate training body and professional body for Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Ireland. It has been accredited by the Medical Council as meeting the strict standards required to deliver postgraduate specialist training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

The Institute is based in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

### Facts about BST in Obstetrics & Gynaecology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Three years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job title/grade of doctor</td>
<td>Senior House Officer (SHO) in years 1 and 2, Junior Registrar in year 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample rotation breakdown</td>
<td>In years 1 and 2 Trainees rotate to a new SHO post in Obstetrics and Gynaecology every six months. Year 3 is spent in one Junior Registrar post.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average intake each year</td>
<td>20 - 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams to pass</td>
<td>Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI) examination in Obstetrics &amp; Gynaecology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Mandatory educational courses to be completed as part of BST | - BST Leadership in Clinical Practice: Communication Skills  
- BST Leadership in Clinical Practice: Leadership Skills  
- BST Leadership in Clinical Practice: Online  
- Basic Practical Skills for Obstetricians and Gynaecologists  
- Certificate in Basic Ultrasound  
- Ethics, Transfusion, and Prescribing for Obstetrics and Gynaecology  
- Family Planning  
- Health Research An Introduction  
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology Practical Scenario Modules  
- Infection control  
- Practical Obstetric Multi-Professional Training (PROMPT) or Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) or Medical Obstetric Emergencies and Trauma (MOET)  
- HSE Children First |
| Training body | Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists |
| When to apply | October each year |
A nod to St Luke, the patron saint of physicians
In honour of the patron saint of physicians, the College has a long tradition of holding its Annual Stated Meeting on St Luke’s Day, 18 October, each year. All Fellows of the College are invited to attend this meeting.
Pathology underpins every aspect of medicine, from diagnostic testing to cutting-edge genetic research.
PATHOLOGY

What is Pathology?
Pathology is the study of the nature and causes of diseases. It underpins every aspect of medicine, from diagnostic testing and monitoring of chronic diseases to cutting-edge genetic research and blood transfusion technologies. Pathology is integral to the diagnosis of every cancer.

Pathologists are specialist medical practitioners who study the cause of disease and the ways in which diseases affect our bodies by examining changes in the tissues and in blood and other body fluids. Some of these changes show the potential to develop a disease, while others show its presence, cause or severity or monitor its progress or the effects of treatment.

In Ireland, pathology has five major areas of activity:
- Chemical Pathology
- Clinical Microbiology
- Haematology
- Histopathology
- Immunology

Chemical Pathology
Chemical Pathology involves detecting changes in a wide range of substances in blood and body fluids (electrolytes, enzymes and proteins) in association with many diseases. It also involves detecting and measuring tumour (cancer) markers, hormones, poisons and both therapeutic and illicit drugs.

The largest part of a Chemical Pathologist’s day is typically spent in clinical liaison: advising other doctors about the appropriate tests for the investigation of a particular clinical problem, the interpretation of results and follow-up, and the effect of interferences e.g. by therapeutic drugs on test results.

Evaluation of new technologies and the development of new tests is an ongoing process in Chemical Pathology. This applies particularly to areas that are now opening up, such as the use of molecular biology techniques in diagnostic tests. Specialist areas of interest include such topics as inherited metabolic diseases, trace metals and environmental monitoring, drugs of abuse, and nutrition.

Clinical Microbiology
Clinical Microbiology deals with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of human diseases caused by microorganisms including bacteria, fungi, parasites and viruses. It includes the study of microbial pathogenesis and epidemiology and is related to the study of disease pathology and immunology. It is a specialty that encompasses both the laboratory diagnostic aspects and prevention and clinical management of microbial diseases.

Haematology
Haematology is the study of blood and the blood-forming organs, and the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases that affect the production of blood and its components, such as blood cells, hemoglobin, blood proteins, vascular systems and the mechanism of coagulation.

Haematology encompasses both clinical and laboratory aspects. Registration as a specialist in Haematology requires satisfactory completion of training in both clinical and laboratory components.

Histopathology
The three main aspects of this specialty are diagnostic histopathology, cytopathology and autopsies.

Diagnostic histopathology involves making diagnoses based on the microscopic examination of tissues removed during
various operative interventions and procedures such as endoscopy, biopsy or resections. The biopsy or surgical specimen is processed and histological sections are placed onto glass slides.

Cytopathology deals with diseases on the cellular level. A common application of cytopathology is the smear test, used to detect precancerous cervical lesions and prevent cervical cancer.

A histopathologist also conducts postmortem examination of the body to determine the cause of death (autopsy).

**Immunology**

Immunology deals with the physiological functioning of the immune system and immunological disorders, such as allergies, autoimmune diseases, hypersensitivities, immune deficiency and transplant rejection.

Immunology encompasses both clinical and laboratory aspects. In addition to carrying responsibility for running service laboratories, Immunologists are increasingly engaged in clinical management of patients. Training in this specialty covers the technical and managerial skills required to run a laboratory and the clinical skills required for patient care.

---

**Step 1 of becoming a specialist in Pathology – Basic Specialist Training**

We offer a Basic Specialist Training programme in Histopathology.

There are no Basic Specialist Training programmes in Chemical Pathology, Clinical Microbiology, Haematology or Immunology. If you want to train in one of these specialties you will need to complete Basic Specialist Training in General Internal Medicine (or an equivalent BST programme) before

---

**Facts about BST in Histopathology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Two years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job title/grade of doctor</td>
<td>Senior House Officer (SHO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample rotation breakdown</td>
<td>Trainees spend 24 months in Histopathology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average intake each year</td>
<td>7 - 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams to pass</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory educational courses to be completed as part of BST</td>
<td>BST Leadership in Clinical Practice: Communication Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BST Leadership in Clinical Practice: Leadership Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BST Leadership in Clinical Practice: Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ethics for Histopathology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Infection control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to laboratory management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training body</td>
<td>Faculty of Pathology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When to apply</td>
<td>October each year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
you can enter Higher Specialist Training (see page 15 for information about BST in General Internal Medicine). You can read more about specific entry requirements for Pathology specialties in the Higher Specialist Training curricula available on our website www.rcpi.ie.

**Basic Specialist Training in Histopathology**

Basic Specialist Training (BST) in Histopathology is a two-year programme of supervised clinical training in Senior House Officer (SHO) posts. Completion of the intern year is an essential entry requirement.

You will be placed on a rotation and you will know in advance what posts you will be working in over the next two years. Your rotation will incorporate 24 months in pure Histopathology.

In addition to supervised clinical training in the hospital, you are required to attend a number of mandatory courses that will help you to develop professionally and acquire the non-clinical skills and knowledge needed to provide excellent patient care. You are not required to pass any exams during BST in Histopathology.

Entry to BST is competitive.

**Step 2 of becoming a specialist in Pathology – Higher Specialist Training**

We offer separate Higher Specialist Training (HST) programmes for each specialty in Pathology. If you want to specialise in Pathology you must make sure that you complete the right Basic Specialist Training programme beforehand.

Completion of BST in General Internal Medicine (or an equivalent training programme) is an essential entry requirement for HST in the following specialties:

- Chemical Pathology
- Clinical Microbiology
- Haematology
- Immunology

Completion of BST in Histopathology is an essential entry requirement for HST in Histopathology.

Each HST programme provides structured, supervised clinical training in Specialist Registrar (SpR) posts. You will rotate through pre-arranged posts in your chosen specialty every twelve or six months.

For most Trainees, there are opportunities to develop a special interest or arrange one year out of clinical training to conduct research.

It takes four to five years to complete HST depending on your specialty; the duration of training might be extended due to research or overseas clinical appointments. When you complete Higher Specialist Training, you will receive a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) and can practice independently as a specialist.

Pathology underpins every aspect of medicine. It is integral to the diagnosis of every cancer.
Some advice about applying to HST in Pathology

• **Chemical Pathology**  
  Applicants for HST in Chemical Pathology will ideally have some experience in Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases.

• **Clinical Microbiology**  
  Applicants without experience in Clinical Microbiology should be able to demonstrate their interest in the specialty, for example through previous experience in a relevant specialty such as Infectious Diseases, Genitourinary Medicine, Oncology or Respiratory Medicine.

• **Histopathology**  
  Applicants for HST in Histopathology must demonstrate their aptitude for the specialty by passing an Aptitude Assessment in the second year of BST.

Training in this specialty is accredited by the Faculty of Pathology

The Faculty of Pathology at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland is the national postgraduate training body and professional body for Pathology in Ireland.

It has been accredited by the Medical Council to deliver postgraduate specialist training programmes in Chemical Pathology, Clinical Microbiology, Haematology, Histopathology and Immunology. The Faculty is based in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.
Public Health Medicine reaches beyond the usual boundaries of the healthcare system.
PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICINE

What is Public Health Medicine?

Public Health Medicine is about improving and protecting the health of the population, rather than treating individual patients. Public Health physicians have specialist knowledge of health protection, health service development and health improvement, as outlined in the table below.

Public Health Medicine reaches beyond the usual boundaries of the healthcare system. Doctors in this specialty work in national government agencies, local community and voluntary organisations.

Step 1 of becoming a specialist in Public Health Medicine – Clinical training

Clinical experience is an important foundation for practice in Public Health Medicine.

There is no Basic Specialist Training programme in Public Health Medicine. If you want to train in this specialty you first need to meet the entry requirements for Higher Specialist Training in Public Health Medicine:

- Completed Basic Specialist Training (or an equivalent programme) in one of the following specialties:
  - Anaesthesia
  - General Internal Medicine (See page 15 of this document)
  - Histopathology (See page 27 of this document)
  - Obstetrics and Gynaecology (See page 23 of this document)
  - Ophthalmology
  - Paediatrics (See page 19 of this document)
  - Psychiatry
  - Surgery (Core Surgical Training)

- Or have completed at least two years on an accredited training programme in General Practice

- Or are registered on the General Practice specialist division with the Medical Council of Ireland

Domains of Public Health Medicine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Protection</th>
<th>Health Service Development</th>
<th>Health Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Disease and injury prevention</td>
<td>- Health needs assessment</td>
<td>- Health promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Communicable disease control</td>
<td>- Service planning</td>
<td>- Reducing inequalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Protection from environmental hazards</td>
<td>- Clinical governance and risk management</td>
<td>- Advocacy and socio-economic issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Emergency planning</td>
<td>- Efficiency (including value for money)</td>
<td>- Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Audit and evaluation</td>
<td>- Lifestyles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Change management</td>
<td>- Community development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Equity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional desirable experience
Although they are not essential entry requirements, the following qualifications and experience will be viewed favourably during the interview process for Higher Specialist Training in Public Health Medicine.

- Masters in Public Health (MPH)
- Experience in Public Health Medicine or Infectious Diseases
- Part 1 of the Membership of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine Ireland (MFPHMI) examination or Part A of the MFPH (UK) examination or equivalent examination

Step 2 of becoming a specialist in Public Health Medicine – Higher Specialist Training
Higher Specialist Training in Public Health Medicine is a four-year programme of structured, supervised clinical training in Specialist Registrar (SpR) posts.

The experience gained by rotating through different training locations is an essential part of HST. For this reason, you will rotate at least once during HST and you will spend at least six months in the Department of Health and Children.

Specialists in Public Health Medicine operate a 24-hour Public Health Out Of Hours Service. This service provides national cover for the International Health Regulations (IHR), an Irish government commitment to the World Health Organisation and its Member States. The service also provides out of hours guidance on infectious disease control and outbreak management, for example in a crèche, hospital or nursing home. To prepare for out of hours specialist cover, you will be required to participate in a health protection working hours on-call rota during HST.

You are also required to pass the Membership of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MFPHMI) examination.

When you complete Higher Specialist Training, you will receive a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) and can practice independently as a specialist.

Training in this specialty is accredited by Faculty of Public Health Medicine
The Faculty of Public Health Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland is the national postgraduate training body and professional body for Public Health Medicine in Ireland.

It has been accredited by the Medical Council as meeting the strict standards required to deliver postgraduate specialist training in Public Health Medicine. The Faculty is based in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

Doctors in this specialty work in national government agencies, local community and voluntary organisations.
We helped to bring Traffic Medicine to Ireland. Traffic Medicine is a relatively new specialism that aims to reduce the harm caused by road crashes. We worked closely with the Road Safety Authority to establish a National Programme Office for Traffic Medicine in Ireland in 2011. This office is based in RCPI and has published two sets of medical fitness to drive guidelines to date.
Occupational Medicine deals with the interface between work and health.
OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

What is Occupational Medicine?
Occupational Medicine is a clinical medical specialty that deals with the interface between work and health. It is a small but long established specialty, both in Ireland and internationally.

Occupational physicians need to have a broad knowledge of clinical medicine. Typically, entrants to specialist training have already gained qualifications in General Internal Medicine, General Practice or another clinical field. They also need additional knowledge of basic science (e.g. noise exposure and effects on hearing, radiation exposure effects, toxicology), along with an awareness of legal issues pertaining to workplace safety and employment equality. A good understanding of how business works and what constitutes good management is essential. Occupational Medicine also has various subspecialties, such as Diving Medicine or Aviation Medicine.

Typically, medical students or doctors in postgraduate training come into contact with the occupational health department in the context of sharps injuries or hepatitis B immunisation in a hospital setting. In fact, this is just one small area of the specialty. Occupational Medicine involves preventative programmes such as immunisations, health surveillance (e.g. audiology for noise exposure), rehabilitation of workers with an illness or disability, and advising organisations (governmental and business) on how to best optimise the health of their most important asset, their employees.

Occupational Physicians need to know how to “get to the bottom” of sometimes complex cases or issues. They must give decisive medical advice and be prepared to explain this medical advice to both the employee and the employer, while respecting confidentiality when dealing with the latter.

Specialist training in Occupational Medicine can be completed in Ireland on the Faculty of Occupational Medicine's Higher Specialist Training programme. Career prospects are good, with specialists gaining employment in the public sector or the private sector. The lack of ‘on-call’ commitment facilitates a healthy work-life balance.

**Step 1 of becoming a specialist in Occupational Medicine – Clinical training**
Clinical experience is an important foundation for practice in Occupational Medicine.

There is no Basic Specialist Training programme in Occupational Medicine. If you want to train in this specialty you first need to meet the entry requirements for Higher Specialist Training in Occupational Medicine:

- Completed Basic Specialist Training (or an equivalent programme) in General Internal Medicine (Candidates who have completed BST in other specialties may also be considered)
- Or have completed an accredited training programme in General Practice
Step 2 of becoming a specialist in Occupational Medicine – Higher Specialist Training (HST)

Higher Specialist Training in Occupational Medicine is a four-year programme of structured, supervised training in Specialist Registrar (SpR) posts.

Your four-year programme will incorporate the following core elements:

- **At least 18 months in an industrial sector (e.g. heavy and light industry, engineering, electronics, manufacturing, pharmaceutical, chemical, transport)**

- **A minimum of one year in the service sector (e.g. healthcare, financial services, insurance, office environment)**

The experience gained by rotating through different units is an essential part of HST. For this reason, you will not be placed in the same unit for more than two years of training, or with the same trainer for more than one year.

You will be required to do work experience in units that offer a broad exposure to essential elements of Occupational Medicine. You will see about 400 occupational clinical cases each year, involving audiology, psychosocial, respiratory, dermatological, toxicological, rehabilitation, disability assessment and musculoskeletal conditions.

You are required to pass two exams during HST: Licentiate of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine (LFOM) and Membership of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine (MFOM).

When you complete Higher Specialist Training, you will receive a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) and can practice independently as a specialist.

Training in this specialty is accredited by Faculty of Occupational Medicine

The Faculty of Occupational Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland is the national postgraduate training body and professional body for Occupational Medicine in Ireland. It has been accredited by the Medical Council as meeting the strict standards required to deliver postgraduate specialist training in Occupational Medicine.

The Faculty is based in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

Occupational Medicine has subspecialties such as Diving Medicine and Aviation Medicine.
We have 413 Honorary Fellows, including the President of Ireland Michael D Higgins, the late poet and Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney, singer and political activist Bob Geldof, and former Presidents of Ireland Mary McAleese and Mary Robinson. Honorary Fellowship of the College is awarded to those who have made an exceptional contribution to medicine, philanthropy or society.
HOW TO APPLY TO BASIC SPECIALIST TRAINING

When to apply
The application process for Basic Specialist Training programmes offered by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland commences in October each year. The closing date for applications is early November.

An online application form for BST programmes commencing July 2020 will be made available on our website www.rcpi.ie early October 2019.

How the application process works
You can apply to Basic Specialist Training programmes in four specialties:

- General Internal Medicine
- Paediatrics
- Histopathology
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology

You can apply to more than one specialty, although very few candidates will apply to more than two specialties.

In each specialty that you apply to, you will be asked to rank your choices of hubs or rotations, dependent on the specialty.

All applicants who meet the entry criteria are scheduled for interview. Interviews are typically conducted in January and February. There are separate interview processes for each specialty. You will be required to bring two appraisal forms from two referees and your academic transcript to your interview. Your referees are asked to rate your professional attitude and personal attributes on the appraisal form.

You will receive marks for your academic achievements, performance at interview, clinical acumen, general suitability for the specialty and your appraisal forms. You will be matched to your highest possible preference based on your total marks.

First round offers will be made in March. There are usually three rounds of matching and offers.

You can only be matched to one preference in each specialty. You can be offered a place in more than one specialty but you can only accept one offer.

The documents and information that you need to submit with your application to Basic Specialist Training are listed below.

Documents that you need to submit
- A scanned/PDF copy of your academic transcript from medical school, listing your complete academic history: programmes attended, a breakdown of marks/grades achieved, the degree awarded, your overall grade and conferring date. If you completed your degree in a non-English speaking university, your transcripts must be translated into English.
- A scanned/PDF copy of your current Medical Council of Ireland registration, or evidence that you are eligible for inclusion on the Trainee Specialist Division of the Medical Council’s register at the time of applying
- A scanned/PDF copy of proof of English language competency (IELTS) or documentary evidence if you are exempt from this requirement - All applicants to our training programmes are required to demonstrate their competency in the English language in line with HSE specifications*
- A scanned copy of your passport identity page
- Two appraisal forms completed by two referees. A hospital stamp is required.

*If you completed your entire medical degree in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the Republic of Ireland, UK or the United States you are exempt from having to provide proof of English language competency.
Information to be included on your application form

- Your employment history
- Professional qualifications/education
- Experience to date under the headings
  - Audit experience
  - Presentations
  - Publications
  - Abstract publications
  - Skills courses attended
- Career objectives
- Details (name, title, hospital, phone and email) of two employer referees

Who to contact if you have questions about applying

In RCPI, we have a dedicated administrative team to support Trainees in Basic Specialist Training. They will be happy to deal with any questions you have about BST.

If you are interested in Basic Specialist Training you should contact bst@rcpi.ie

Entry requirements for Basic Specialist Training programmes commencing July 2020

- Completed internship by July 2020
- Eligible for inclusion on the Trainee Specialist Division of the Medical Council’s register at the time you apply
- You have proof of competency in the English language in line with HSE specifications (or proof of exemption)
WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU START BASIC SPECIALIST TRAINING WITH RCPI

When you are accepted onto one of our Basic Specialist Training programmes you will be invited to a welcome day at our historic home at No.6 Kildare Street, at which you will get to meet fellow Trainees and attend talks about your training programme, exams and taking care of your health and wellbeing.

You will receive a curriculum, which outlines the educational content of your BST programme – the knowledge and skills required for a Certificate of Completion of Basic Specialist Training. This curriculum will help you keep track of your progress over the next two or three years.

You will be assigned to a trainer for the duration of each training post in BST. Your trainer will support and regularly assess your progress. You will meet your trainers in the first week of each placement and agree on a Personal Goals Plan together.

Benefits and services for RCPI trainees

We are delighted to offer a wide range of benefits and services to all those who are accepted onto an RCPI training programme (Basic Specialist Training or Higher Specialist Training). Many of our Trainee benefits are designed to aid learning and exam preparation, while others are simply designed to save you money and make your life easier.

When you are accepted onto one of our training programmes, here is what you can expect...

BMJ Journals and clinical decision support tools

All Trainees in BST are given free access to the following online journals and clinical decision support tools:

- The BMJ Journal - One of the world’s oldest medical journals and the fourth most cited. You will receive full online access
- The Lancet (online)

Free four-month subscription to BMJ OnExamination

Trainees preparing for the MRCPI written exams can avail of a four-month subscription to BMJ OnExamination paid for by RCPI.

OnExamination lets you put your knowledge and exam aptitude to the test through a series of mock tests. Detailed performance analysis tools and graphs will ensure you understand how you are performing by session and improving over time.

RCPI Affinity Scheme – save money on travel, computers, motoring, entertainment, eating out and lots more

Our Affinity Scheme will give you access to a wide range of negotiated discounts on travel, computers, insurance, medical equipment, entertainment, eating out, fashion and clothing, health, sports and fitness, grocery shopping, financial products, beauty and cosmetics, and lots more. Discounts include brands such as Hertz, Radisson Blu, Fleming Medical, Hiscox and Kilkenny.

Free student Leap Card

We know it can get expensive travelling to and from courses, study days, exams and hospital rotations in new towns and cities. To help you save money on travel, we provide all our Trainees with a free Student Leap Card. This will get you significant discounts with Irish Rail, Dublin Bus, Bus Eireann, Dart and Luas services.
Dedicated Health and wellbeing support
We understand that training can be challenging. RCPI offers a range of support services to help you through your training. This includes; support from your Trainer, National Specialty Director or Trainee Rep; the HSE Employee Assistance and Counselling Service, and RCPI’s Health and Wellbeing programme. Through our Physician Wellbeing programme we have been providing support and information about health and wellbeing to doctors since 2014.

Other products and services
You will also have free access to the following products and services in RCPI:

- Free attendance at non-mandatory courses and events, including Masterclasses and Clinical Updates
- A modern city-centre Postgraduate Medical Education Centre, fitted with the latest classroom technology and free wifi
- Facilities for research and study at our premises at No.6 Kildare Street, available Monday to Friday
- Free access to all courses and study days required for your training programme
- Our modern, easy to use e-learning environment RCPI Brightspace
APPLYING TO HIGHER SPECIALIST TRAINING

The recruitment and selection process for Higher Specialist Training (HST) opens in October every year. In your last year of BST, we will let you know when that year’s recruitment process is going to open.

As there are a limited number of places in HST, entry to each specialty is competitive.

On the online application form for HST you will be asked for the following information:

- Employment and training history
- Clinical practice - experience to date
- Teaching experience
- Audit experience
- Research experience
- Presentations to date
- Publications to date
- Abstract publications to date
- Management experience
- Academic distinctions
- Skills courses completed
- Aims and achievements
- Contact details of two referees, one of whom must be your most recent supervising consultant

Entry requirements for Higher Specialist Training

- You must be eligible for inclusion on the Trainee Specialist Division of the Medical Council’s register at the time of applying.
- You must have a certificate of completion of Basic Specialist Training (BST) in the relevant specialty, or a letter of equivalence of BST, or a letter of provisional approval of BST.
- For most specialties you must have successfully achieved a postgraduate qualification such as MRCPI or equivalent. Please check the relevant HST curriculum on our website.
- You may also need to meet other specialty-specific entry requirements, which are outlined in the relevant HST curriculum on our website.
THE RCPI CAMPUS

Our campus extends to three sites in close proximity to each other in Dublin city centre: Frederick House, Setanta House and No.6 Kildare Street.

**Headquarters at Frederick House**
Our administrative headquarters are located in Frederick House, South Frederick Street. Our office opening hours are 9am–5pm, Monday–Friday.

**Frederick House Contact details**
Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
Frederick House
19 South Frederick Street
Dublin 2
Ireland

RCPI Reception: +353 1 863 9700
Fax: +353 1 672 4707

**Postgraduate Medical Education Centre at Setanta House**
Our Postgraduate Medical Education Centre is located in Setanta House. This is where most of our educational courses are held. This is a modern education centre, fitted with the latest classroom technology and free Wi-Fi. Our meeting rooms are also located in Setanta House.

**Car parking**
Setanta Car Park off Frederick Lane (+353 1 677 5209) is the closest public car park. Dawson Street Car Park off Schoolhouse Lane (+353 1 662 5226) is also close by. Please contact the car park operators to check opening times.

There is limited on-street parking on South Frederick Street. There is no parking on Kildare Street.

**Setanta House contact details**
Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
Setanta House
Setanta Place
Dublin 2

RCPI Reception: +353 1 863 9700
Fax: +353 1 672 4707

**RCPI Regional Offices**
Cork School of Medicine
University College Cork
Brookfield Health Science Complex
College Road
Cork

Tel: +353 21 490 1589
Email: Fionacollins@rcpi.ie

Galway Academic Office
University Hospital Galway
Saolta University Health Care Group
Newcastle Road
Galway

Tel: +353 91 893151
Email: SheilaKelly@rcpi.ie

University of Limerick Hospitals Group
Postgraduate Training Dept
Room 2938, Ground Floor Nurses Home, University Hospital Limerick, St Nessan's Rd, Dooradoyle, Limerick

Tel: +353 61 588264
Email: Muiregraham@rcpi.ie
No.6 Kildare Street

No.6 Kildare Street has been the historical home of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland since 1864. Today it is used as a venue for many of our flagship events and symposia. It is also the atmospheric setting for Membership conferrings and Fellowship admission ceremonies.

Our Heritage Centre is also based at No.6 Kildare Street. The RCPI Heritage Centre is a research and educational centre specialising in the history of medicine and medical humanities in Ireland. It has a unique collection of antique manuscripts, books, prints, photographs and other rare items.

No.6 Kildare Street is also available to book as a venue for external conferences and events, including weddings.

Research and study facilities at No.6 Kildare Street

All Trainees, Members and Fellows have free access to the Mary Hearn Research Room, a quiet, comfortable research and study area in No.6 Kildare Street. The room is equipped with free Wi-Fi and power sockets for laptops and other mobile devices. There are also three computers with internet access and connection to a printer.

No.6 Kildare Street Contact details

Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
No.6 Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Ireland

RCPI Reception: +353 1 863 9700
Fax: +353 1 672 4707
CONTACT US

Irish Committee on Higher Medical Training
Phone +353 1 863 9717
Email chairofiCHMT@rcpi.ie

Faculty of Occupational Medicine
Phone +353 1 863 9765
Email fom@rcpi.ie

Faculty of Paediatrics
Phone +353 1 863 9765
Email paediatrics@rcpi.ie

Faculty of Pathology
Phone +353 1 863 9738
Email pathology@rcpi.ie

Faculty of Public Health Medicine
Phone +353 1 863 9738
Email fphm@rcpi.ie

Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Phone +353 1 863 9728
Email iog@rcpi.ie

Examinations
Phone +353 1 863 9700
Email examinations@rcpi.ie

Basic Specialist Training in General Internal Medicine, Paediatrics, Histopathology and Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Phone +353 1 863 9700
Email bst@rcpi.ie