

Frequently Asked Questions

MSc in Technologies and Analytics in Precision Medicine

This document provides general information about the MTAPM 2021–22 Academic Year. This document is intended to give students a general understanding of the new Masters programme.

Who can apply for this programme?

This programme is open to applications from those who have successfully completed an undergraduate degree in healthcare (pharmacy or medicine) or a primary degree programme (minimum of a 2.1 honours or equivalent) in a biological, chemical or mathematical/statistical science (including computer science). In addition, candidates who hold a primary degree, with a Second-Class grade (H2.2) in a biological, chemical or mathematical/statistical science (including computer science) and with industrial experience will be considered.

Do I have to choose my own company for the research project?

In order to ensure that flexible project options are available to the students, we have identified three potential routes by which a student can carry out a research project that best reflects their interests within the area of precision medicine. These options are: **1.** Identify research project from a list of project choices offered by both academic and enterprise partners; **2.** If employed in healthcare or relevant industry, you can choose to carry out a project with at your current workplace with your line manager as the project supervisor and a RCSI nominated co-supervisor ; **3.** Liaise with a suitable enterprise partner to develop and carry out a research project.

Can I do my research project with a foreign enterprise partner?

Yes, the flexible research project selection choices allow you to identify a suitable enterprise partner who is either located in Ireland or outside of Ireland in order to carry out research project.

How is the programme assessed?

Students will be assessed through a variety of assessment types. These will include traditional multiple choice / short note question exams as well as through assignments, programming exercises and presentations (either carried out individually or in a group). Assessment of the research project will include submission of overall project plan in the form of a grant proposal followed by submission of an end of project report and an oral presentation.

I'm a prospective student and I'm worried about applying to RCSI during the COVID pandemic.

Please be assured that we are preparing to welcome our new students on campus in September 2021 as scheduled. We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting all our colleagues on the frontline of healthcare and as such we envisage that the new academic year will commence in September 2021 in line with the national guidelines. We will be in contact with our students if there is any changes to the schedule. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us at mtapm@rcsi.com

What procedures have you taken to make sure students will be safe on campus for face-to-face teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Physical distancing measures have been implemented across all RCSI campuses in line with Irish Government guidance. Across the whole University, you will see a variety of implementations including: one-way systems, entrance and exit only locations, signage, screens, floor markings, new entrance and exit measures, plus additional measures to assist with maintaining physical distancing.

- All staff and students are required to complete a daily health questionnaire before attending the campus.
- All students will be randomly tested as part of RCSI's COVID-19 testing programme.
- All our classes take place in large rooms to ensure adequate social distancing and each of these rooms is linked to a filtered ventilation system which changes the air in the room multiple times each hour, in accordance with Government policy.

Are applications currently open?

Yes, we are currently accepting applications. To apply, please visit the [course page](#) for a link to our full-time and part-time programmes and online applications. The closing date for 2021 applications is the **7 August 2021**

Given the current situation, will I be required to attend an interview?

No interviews will be required for this taught Masters programme

I have completed an online application for the upcoming course, when will I hear back?

Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and offers will be allocated after the closing date with applicants being contacted after the closing date.

Is this programme fully online?

It has been designed to be flexible, accessible and responsive so that individuals, regardless of their life-stage and employment circumstances can access quality, evidence-based learning and professional development, through a blended learning environment. This means the programme will be split between face-to-face learning at our city centre campus along with online learning delivered through interactive lectures, tutorials, workshops, case/round-table discussion with experts from academic, clinical and industry.

What are the fees for this Masters programme?

- **1-year programme, full-time (MTAPMFT):** EU Fees: €9,000
- **2-year programme, part-time (MTAPMPT):** EU Fees: €6,000 per year

Please note that fees are subject to annual review.

What are the non-EU fees for the programme?

Non EU fees:

- **1 year full time** - €25,000
- **2 year part time** - €12,500 per year

Please note that fees are subject to annual review.

How can I manage payment for this Masters programme?

Payment can be made in installments, for further information on this please email studentfees@rcsi.ie

Will there be an extension to the tuition fees payment deadline or option to pay in installments this year?

- We are extremely mindful of the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has potentially had on people's finances and understand your need for flexibility at this time.

- On this basis, for offer-holders whose finances have been temporarily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and require a more flexible payment plan, we would ask that you please outline your fee payment requirements by email mtapm@rcsi.com in advance of the acceptance deadline date.
- Rest assured that each request is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and we will guarantee a comprehensive response within three working days of the request being made.

Is tax relief on fees paid available?

Candidates may qualify for tax relief on fees paid and further information is available at revenue.ie.

Are there any scholarships available for this Masters programme?

There are currently no scholarships available for this programme but please see the below website for general information in relation to doing an MSc within the EU.

https://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/planning-studies/scholarships-costs_en

Can I work while I'm completing this programme?

Candidates can be fully employed while completing both the full-time and part-time Masters programme. Students will need to be available for certain times for lectures and need to complete all the assessments and research project within the deadlines outlined for each module.

Can students enrolling on the one year full-time programme be in employment?

It is possible for students to be in full time employment as long as they are able to attend lectures whether that be in person or online and complete all the assessments and research project within the deadlines outlined for each module.

Who accredits the MSc programme and is it recognised by regulatory bodies in Ireland or elsewhere in the world?

This Masters is accredited by the National University of Ireland and is a Level 9 qualification on the NFQ (Irish National Framework of Qualification). It is internationally recognised on other regional frameworks such as the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA).

The programme is based on a modular structure using the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), which has been developed in accordance with the recommendations from the Bologna Agreement (1999) and Ireland's National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). These standards provide a mechanism to promote international transparency, international recognition of qualifications, and the international mobility of learners and graduates.

What are the entry requirements for the MSc in Technologies and Analytics in Precision Medicine? Full-time Programme

- Successfully completed an undergraduate degree in healthcare (pharmacy or medicine with a minimum of a 2.1 honours or equivalent).
- OR successfully completed a primary degree programme (min of 2.1 honours or equivalent) in a biological, chemical or mathematical/statistical science (including computer science).
- Candidates who hold a primary degree, with a second class grade (H2.2) in a biological, chemical or mathematical/statistical science (including computer science) and with industry experience will be considered.
- English Language Requirements:
 - Students should have an IELTS certificate (dated within the last two years at date of application) with an average IELTS score of at least 6.5 (no domain < 6.5), OR
 - Students should have satisfactory proof that their basic medical degree was completed through English (in a country where English is the language spoken by the vast majority of the population).

As part of the application process, you are required to submit the following supporting documentation:

- CV
- Copy of passport
- Copy of educational transcripts
- Proof of sponsorship (where applicable)
- Evidence of English language qualification (where applicable)
- Contact details of two referees

What is the structure of the MSc programme?

Full-time programme

The one-year full-time MSc requires the completion of 90 ECTS credits based on taught modules and a research dissertation. Students will complete the taught modules in the first part of the programme whilst preparing a research protocol for the dissertation in the second part of the programme. The programme is made up of four modules comprising of 15 ECTS credits and a research project of 30 ECTS credits.

Part-time programme

The two year MSc programme requires the completion of 90 ECTS credits based on taught modules and a research dissertation. It is expected that students will complete the taught modules in their first year of the programme. In the second year of the programme students will prepare their research protocol and complete their dissertation.

Is the MSc programme recognised for the purposes of applying for a student visa for Ireland?

Yes, those who successfully secure a place on the programme can apply for a student visa. RCSI will be able to provide a visa letter to support an application for a student visa; **however, students will have to liaise with immigration services independently to secure their own visa and ensure they undertake in a timely manner to have visa secured for commencement of programme in September 2021.**

Will the graduation of this programme be online due to COVID-19?

We are unable to confirm at this stage. Where safe, the graduation will be face-to-face but this will depend on the COVID-19 status in Ireland and Irish Government guidelines.

What is the scheduling of part-time course?

The part time course will run for a period of two years. In the first year, students will attend three modules in semester 1, followed by three modules in semester 2 and with the rest of year 1 (May–August) used to identify research project and submit the project plan in the form of a grant proposal. In year 2, students will attend three modules in semester 1, followed by three modules in semester 2 and research project carried out from May–July.

Is there exit criteria for the programme?

The programme offers exit routes at MSc (90 ECTS credits), Postgraduate Diploma (60 ECTS credits) and Certificate (30 ECTS credits).

Will an internationally obtained degree be recognised for entry to the Masters programme?

The degree submitted to support your application must be obtained from a recognised university, irrespective of what country it was completed in.

What skills will students learn by undertaking the Masters programme?

We have developed an innovative and agile programme that will give students knowledge and skills focused on emerging and future pharma technologies, addressing skills gaps in industry centred around technologies and analytics in precision medicine and ultimately enabling future growth. The MSc in Technologies and Analytics in Precision Medicine will equip students to become experts in the various analytical skills involved in application of precision medicine strategies in both healthcare and bio-pharmaceutical sectors. The programme has been developed to deliver expertise across a range of specialist skills in areas including computational biology, genetics/genomics, artificial intelligence and machine learning, big data, and connected health underpinned by innovation and leadership as we embark on a new era of healthcare.

Modules have been designed to equip students with a versatile skill set that will help them better meet the demands of the changing healthcare landscape, reimagining education for the delivery of the next generation of transformative therapeutic technologies. In addition to the knowledge and skills components, you will also undertake modules which addresses various elements of professional development. The combination of technological capabilities and development of transversal skills will aim to drive creativity and flexibility in the modern workforce.

Is it possible for someone to acquire this Masters through distance learning?

While the MSc programme will be taught using a blended learning approach (face-to-face and online), certain elements of the programme will require student to attend specific sessions such as programming practicals on campus. Thus, distance learning will not be a possibility for this MSc programme.

When will I know if I have been accepted onto the MSc programme?

Eligible applicants will be notified by email and advised of next steps.

How involved are the industry partners in the delivery of the programme?

The industry partners have played a critical role in development of the overall MSc and will also play an active role in the research project component of the programme. Specific modules such as AI/machine learning, precision medicine and connected healthcare for example, will be delivered by both academic staff as well as experts from relevant enterprise partners.

Are there places offered for the research project with the industry partners?

Yes, as mentioned above the research project can be carried out with a suitable industry partner.

Will there be guest lecturers on this programme?

In order to ensure that most up-to-date subject matter is covered as a part of the programme, national and international guest lectures will deliver content relevant to their area of expertise.