



RCSI

UNIVERSITY
OF MEDICINE
AND HEALTH
SCIENCES

StAR PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATES

RCSI is proud to offer **StAR Professional Doctorate** programmes for experienced healthcare professionals who wish to make a significant, practice-based contribution to their field while continuing to work.

These programmes integrate advanced research training with real-world professional practice, enabling scholars to develop impactful, original research that enhances clinical, educational, policy, or organisational outcomes in their discipline.

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Professional Doctorate programmes encompass eight specialisations:

- » Professional Doctorate Nursing
- » Professional Doctorate Pharmacy
- » Professional Doctorate Physiotherapy
- » Professional Doctorate Positive Health
- » Professional Doctorate Health Professions Education
- » Professional Doctorate Health Sciences
- » Professional Doctorate Population Health Sciences
- » Professional Doctorate Dental Science

NFO Level 10
Programme Duration..... 4 years
Course start date..... September 2026
Programme Director..... Dr Marie McIlroy

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Detailed entry requirements are available on the website, but include:

- » At least five years of professional experience in a relevant area
- » Registration with a relevant professional body (where applicable)
- » An upper second class (2H1) Honours degree or Masters degree
- » A 500 word project proposal developed with your proposed RCSI supervisor
- » Written agreement from your workplace advisor that guarantees protected time to complete the programme and attend in-person sessions.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW AND IN-PERSON REQUIREMENTS

Year 1 of your programme will require you to complete four taught modules. Each module requires one in-person day.

Module 1: Advanced Research Methods

Module 2: Systematic and Scoping Reviews for Evidence Appraisal and Synthesis

Module 3: Research Ethics and Integrity

Module 4: Leadership Development

Academic Integrity training is also mandatory.

In addition to the module in-person days, you are required to attend an induction day and progress review days.

You must successfully pass all modules and attend all in-person sessions in order to progress to Year 2 of the programme. You will have access to additional training and workshops offered by RCSI throughout the programme. At the end of Year 1, you will submit a full research proposal, developed in collaboration with your RCSI supervisor.

Years 2–4 are spent primarily in your workplace, where you will focus on gathering, analysing, and interpreting data for your thesis. During this period, you are expected to actively progress your research project under the guidance of your RCSI supervisor. Attendance at academic conferences and engagement in scholarly dissemination activities is expected. Professional Doctorate awards also require successful examination in a viva voce examination.

Fees for the 2026/27 academic session are €5,245. Programme offers will be issued in July.

Year 1 fees must be paid on acceptance of the programme offer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Click [here](#), scan the [QR code](#) or Email: postgraduateschool@rcsi.ie