



RCSI Policy on Late Arriving Students

The purpose of this document is to outline the Admissions Policy in relation to students who are not in a position to attend at the commencement of the academic year. It defines the maximum period of absence that is permitted before the right to join the programme in that academic year is lost.

Each year a number of students request the right to join the RCSI after the programmes have commenced on the first day of the new academic year. This happens for a number of different reasons including, but not limited to:

- Leaving Certificate or other results have been upgraded as a result of a recheck application
- Delays associated with students obtaining appropriate visa
- Illness or other personal issues preventing the students from attending

RCSI semesters consist of 12 weeks of teaching, followed by 3 weeks of revision and examinations. Global Best Practice dictates that students should be required to attend for a minimum of 80% of classes. A significant amount of academic material is delivered within the first 3 weeks of all undergraduate programs at RCSI.

For students unable to commence on the first day of the new academic year:

1. Students must inform the Admissions Office by email admissions@rcsi.ie that they are unable to commence their programme on the start date indicated in their Offer Letter, clearly stating the reasons for any delay. This notification must be made as soon as they are aware and always before Orientation Day.
2. Where a deferral of less than three calendar weeks is granted, instructions in relation to securing the deferred place will be issued in writing to the student.
3. Students who miss assignments or assessments, and who have been granted a deferral of less than three calendar weeks, will be treated in the same manner as those students who present valid medical certificates for defaulting on these academic activities.
4. Students who start late are responsible for studying all academic content that was delivered prior to their commencement in the programme.
5. All students must join the programme within three calendar weeks of the programme start date.
6. Students who are eligible for a place as a result of a recheck, but who cannot join the programme within the three calendar week period will be offered a deferred place for the following year.
7. With the exception of rechecks, there is no automatic right to defer an offer to the following year. The granting of deferrals is at the discretion of the Admissions Committee and all requests for same must be made in writing to the Associate Director and Head of Admissions.