RCSI INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTUS
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

RCSI DEVELOPING HEALTHCARE LEADERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WORLDWIDE

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
SCHOOL OF PHYSIOTHERAPY
RCSI BAHRAIN
PENANG MEDICAL COLLEGE MALAYSIA
WELCOME FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE / REGISTRAR & DEAN, RCSI

As a dedicated health sciences institution, RCSI is wholly focused on developing healthcare leaders who make a difference worldwide. RCSI has a long heritage of providing medical education for more than 200 years.

It has been a distinctive feature for generations that the College enjoys a vibrant combination of nationalities and cultures where our students from around the world exchange ideas and learn from one another. Our students enjoy the full ‘RCSI Experience’, which extends beyond the curriculum, to a rich tapestry of student clubs and societies that equip them for a life of leadership and civic participation.

Professor Cathal Kelly
Chief Executive / Registrar, RCSI

A globally recognised and respected qualification is the building block on which a successful career as a healthcare professional begins. We pride ourselves in providing rigorously evaluated programmes that allow graduates to practice in all regions of the world.

We have a unique international perspective with a long tradition of educating students from more than 70 countries at our Dublin campus and more recently at our international campus locations. RCSI graduates are part of our global network of more than 17,000 alumni, who are highly recognised and much sought after internationally.

Professor Hannah McGee
Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, RCSI
RCSI: An Institutional Profile

Established in 1784, RCSI (The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland) is an independent, not-for-profit, health sciences institution with a unique international perspective from its headquarters in Dublin to its presence on three time zones. Its original purpose was to train surgeons and set national standards for surgery in Ireland. Today RCSI offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate academic and professional courses. Its undergraduate medical school is the largest in Ireland and offers the largest number of places to international applicants with over 60 nationalities represented within the current student body.

In addition to undergraduate courses in medicine, pharmacy and physiotherapy, RCSI offers PhD, MD, MCh and MSc degrees by research as well as postgraduate training leading to fellowships in the Faculties of Radiologists, Dentistry, Nursing & Midwifery and Sports and Exercise Medicine. Taught postgraduate programmes are available in ethics, bereavement, pharmacy, surgery, physiotherapy, nursing and leadership.

RCSI Bahrain provides undergraduate courses in medicine, nursing and midwifery and postgraduate studies in nursing, healthcare ethics and law for both Bahraini and international students.

In Malaysia, Penang Medical College represents a unique partnership in medical education between RCSI and University College Dublin where students complete their pre-clinical training at one of the Irish partner medical schools and travel to Penang to complete their clinical training.

About RCSI
- Founded 1784 by Royal Charter of King George III of Great Britain and Ireland
- A not-for-profit registered charity
- Focus on healthcare in education, research and service
- Almost 4,000 students
- More than 60 countries represented in student body
- Independent degree awarding status
- National training body for surgery in Ireland
- Postgraduate Faculties of Dentistry, Exercise & Sports Medicine, Nursing & Midwifery and Radiologists
- International; delivering undergraduate programmes from campuses in Dublin, Bahrain, Kuala Lumpur and Penang
- RCSI is ranked in the top 250 institutions worldwide and joint 1st place in Ireland in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (2016-2017)
- Education and research are central to our future
International; delivering undergraduate programmes from campuses in Dublin, Bahrain, Kuala Lumpur and Penang.
RCSI is committed to excellence in the delivery of health sciences education and to providing students with access to the highest quality teaching, learning and recreational resources. Ensuring RCSI remains at the leading edge; this new Academic and Education building is nearing completion on our St. Stephen’s Green campus.

The largest redevelopment project in Dublin city centre in recent years, this €80m 120,000 square foot facility over 10 floors, will transform the delivery of interdisciplinary health sciences teaching in Ireland. Due for completion in March 2017, the building will comprise state of the art surgical and clinical simulation training suites, standardised patient and task training rooms, a 540 seat auditorium, a library spanning three floors with 500 study spaces, an inter-varsity sized sports hall, a large fitness suite and a variety of other recreational facilities.

The facility is student-centred and will further promote the development of RCSI’s student community in the heart of Dublin city. The building will complement the existing campus facilities and provide students with the opportunity to study in an inspiring and ambitious medical sciences teaching facility among a community of students whose education is solely focused on the pursuit of health science.
Irish qualifications are recognised for excellence worldwide, and Ireland’s graduates are considered as innovators, leaders and ambassadors for excellence.

Why Study in Ireland

Ireland’s worldwide reputation for high quality education is built on the solid foundation of commitment to excellence. Ireland is a beautiful island, combining contemporary modern cities with an unspoilt countryside, cityscapes steeped in history and a rich natural habitat. Ireland is a safe, English speaking country offering the warmest of welcomes to students from all over the world.

Irish qualifications are recognised for excellence worldwide, and Ireland’s graduates are considered as innovators, leaders and ambassadors for excellence around the world. Companies who require a skilled, educated and highly capable workforce (e.g. Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Intel, Twitter, Apple) choose Ireland to locate their European headquarters.

The quality of Irish Education is recognised by Global companies who chose Ireland to locate their European headquarters
• All top 10 global technology companies
• 8 of the top 10 pharmaceutical companies
• 8 of the top 10 internet companies
• US investment into Ireland is greater than Brazil, India, China and Russia combined

Interesting facts on Ireland
• QS World University Rankings – Dublin, 8th best student city in the world
• UNESCO – Dublin, UNESCO City of Literature (1 of only 4)
• Dublin ranked 3rd Friendliest City in the World (Condé Nast Traveller’s Guide 2016).
• Lonely Planet - 5th best travel country (2016)
“We aim to nurture, challenge and motivate our students to realise their full potential, not just as undergraduates but by creating lifelong learners wherever they are in the world.”

Professor Arnie Hill
“At RCSI we work to the highest standards. Our independent degree awarding status requires ongoing commitment to quality enhancement and assurance. Alongside our own internal reviews, we are subject to external reviews and accreditation. In November 2011, the Irish Medical Council reviewed both our undergraduate and graduate entry medical programmes. We were delighted to achieve unconditional approval for the programmes for five years, the highest level of approval that can be issued.”
The ethos of the Medical School is founded on the principle that the patient’s interest is paramount in clinical teaching, medical practice and research.

**Medical Curriculum – RCSi Philosophy**
The ethos of the Medical School is founded on the principle that the patient’s interest is paramount in clinical teaching, medical practice and research. The curriculum is designed to give the student a sound knowledge of the principles of both the science and the art of medicine. The RCSi curriculum is outcomes-focused and reflects the skills and competencies that students will have on graduation, including the knowledge, skills and attitudes the College believes are required to enable its graduates to perform as competent clinicians. These competencies are outlined in the medical graduate profile.

**Medical Graduate Profile**
Vertical and horizontal integration are imbedded within the five pillars of the medical graduate profile. These include basic and clinical sciences, personal and professional development, clinical competence and international health. The college aspires to produce doctors who have a thorough understanding of ethical principles underpinning the practice of medicine, safety and quality in health care. Students are encouraged to become lifelong learners with excellent team working and leadership skills.

A spirit of enquiry is also fostered and all students are provided with the opportunity to undertake research electives within the academic and clinical departments of the College as part of RCSi summer research programme.

Throughout the medical course, students are exposed to a variety of clinical specialties and encouraged to develop a balanced perspective of domiciliary, community and hospital care. Modern clinical teaching facilities combined with the expertise and dedication of the clinical teachers, ensure that the highest training standards are achieved.

I first heard about RCSi while completing my Masters degree in nutrition in New York City. After talking to both recent graduates and seasoned alumni who described the many benefits of attending RCSi - including a diverse student body, early clinical exposure, and opportunity to study medicine in Europe, I decided to apply – and it is one of the best decisions I have ever made!

Having never been to Ireland before attending RCSi, I was immediately impressed with the welcoming RCSi community, particularly as a new student far away from home and about to commence a challenging program of study. I soon realized, however, that I was immersed in a supportive culture of students who soon became both friends with whom I could explore Ireland and colleagues to train alongside as we developed our passions for medicine over the next four years.

The GEM program provided me the opportunity to fulfill my dream of becoming a doctor in a supportive, close-knit environment. I’ve made some amazing friends at RCSi and will always look to Ireland as my second home!

**Dr. Jamie McDonald**
USA
RCSI Dublin GEM graduate
Medical Curriculum Overview
RCSI offers four, five and six year medical programmes. The 5 and 6-year programmes are primarily designed for school leavers, while the 4-year Graduate Entry Medicine programme (GEM) is specifically designed for students who already hold an undergraduate degree.

The curriculum is divided into cycles called Foundation Year (FY), Junior Cycle (JC), Intermediate Cycle (IC) and Senior Cycle (SC). The Foundation Year constitutes the first year of the 6-year medical programme. Some students may be exempt from this year (depending on their academic qualifications) and may enter directly into a 5-year course. The Graduate Entry Medicine condenses the first three years (six semesters) of the 5-year Junior & Intermediate Cycles into two years. Each cycle is taught over two or three semesters with the Senior Cycle being delivered over two academic years.

Within each cycle, the academic content is delivered in modules (modular) which are largely based on systems of the human body (systems-based). Each module integrates the biomedical and clinical sciences (integrated) and is defined by a series of learning outcomes (outcomes-focussed).

All RCSI medical graduates are awarded the historical licentiates of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, LRCPI and LRCSI. In addition, they are conferred with the primary medical degrees of the National University of Ireland, MB, BCh, BAO (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, and Bachelor in the art of Obstetrics).

RCSI Medical Programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNDERGRADUATE ENTRY (6 &amp; 5 YEARS)</th>
<th>GRADUATE ENTRY (4 YEARS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>6 Years</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY1</td>
<td>JC1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2</td>
<td>JC2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JC1</td>
<td>IC1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JC2</td>
<td>GEPJC1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JC3</td>
<td>GEPJC2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IC2</td>
<td>GEPIC1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IC3</td>
<td>GEPIC2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC1</td>
<td>SC1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC2</td>
<td>SC2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4 Years</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Growing up in Dubai meant that early on in life, I was exposed to a melting pot of cultures and traditions, and I’m happy to say that my time at RCSI was a continuation of that journey. Its ethos celebrates and welcomes diversity in all its forms, which makes undergraduate life here all the more enjoyable.

The Royal College of Surgeons was unlike anything I had imagined before I arrived in Dublin.

I could go on for pages, and barely scratch the surface of what the college has to offer. RCSI is an unforgettable experience, and its staff will always support you along the road to a healthcare career. In short, I’m glad I’ve chosen to be part of this community, one that is preparing me for success both inside and outside of the hospital.

Carlos Sebastian Gracias
Portugal/UAE
RCSI Medicine Student
RCSI employs a hybrid approach to teaching and learning, mixing traditional didactic teaching (lectures, tutorials, laboratory work) with problem-based learning.

**Teaching and Learning**

RCSI employs a hybrid approach to teaching and learning, mixing traditional didactic teaching (lectures, tutorials, laboratory work) with problem-based learning where appropriate. The delivery of course objectives utilises a variety of teaching methods throughout the programmes, including traditional lectures; case based learning (where a clinical case is used to illustrate or contextualise learning); small group tutorials (both staff and student directed); practicals (e.g. anatomy dissection); computer assisted learning; bedside clinical teaching; grand rounds; shadowing; observation; skills workshops; tutorials; operating room attendance; ward attendance; home visits; and simulation-based clinical teaching.

Assessments take place during a module (continuous) or at the end of a module (summative) and take many forms including, multiple choice questions (MCQs), short answer written questions, Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), practical, oral and online examinations and team/individual projects.

Assessment modes are appropriate to the different types of learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and attitudes) and assessments are carefully blueprinted to the course material for each module.
Why RCSI to study Medicine?

- Ireland recognised for excellence in education
- RCSI is a specialist health sciences university
- RCSI is ranked in the top 250 institutions worldwide and joint 1st place in the Republic of Ireland in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (2016-2017).
- Global recognition of RCSI medical degree
- Success of internships and residency placement globally
- RCSI graduates regarded as clinically distinguished and highly professional
- Innovative and progressive curriculum
- Clinician led and patient centred teaching - world class researchers and practitioners teaching on the Medicine programme
- Opportunities to work with world renowned researchers
- RCSI produces healthcare leaders worldwide and currently has an international network of more than 15,000 alumni working in over 70 countries worldwide.
- RCSI students are part of an international student community where over 60 nationalities are represented in the undergraduate student body at RCSI’s Dublin campus.
- Located in the heart of Dublin city centre, a safe, friendly, English speaking capital city which is part of the European Union.

First to establish a Clinical Research Centre on an Irish hospital site, first to develop an online surgical education programme and first medical school in Ireland to independently adopt the standards of the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME).
Clinical Teaching
The medical programmes focus on the principle that the patient is paramount. From the beginning of the programme there is a strong emphasis on clinical medicine and clinical competence. As students progress through the programme there is a shift of emphasis with less focus on biomedical sciences and increasing focus on clinical medicine in the later years.

In keeping with the medical graduate profile, students in the earlier stages of the programme (Junior and Intermediate Cycles) have clinical exposure. This takes the form of:

- Early patient contact
- Clinical case-based tutorials
- Case discussion facilitated by clinicians
- Clinical data interpretation
- Clinical skills tutorials
- Hospital grand rounds

In the final two years students are based exclusively on clinical sites including the following attachments: medicine, surgery, primary care, psychiatry, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, anaesthesiology, ophthalmology and ear, nose & throat (ENT).

Prior to graduation, final year students also complete a sub-internship programme (residency) where they function as a full member of a clinical team to prepare them for life after graduation.

A key objective of the medical school is to provide the necessary education and clinical experience that enables its graduates to enter postgraduate training in any specialty of medicine.

Prior to graduation, final year students also complete a sub-internship programme (residency) where they function as a full member of a clinical team to prepare them for life after graduation.
A key objective of the Medical School is to provide the necessary education and clinical experience that enables its graduates to enter postgraduate training in any specialty of medicine.

“As a young Saudi student embarking on one of the most testing of degrees, I arrived in Dublin with a sense of trepidation. This was at once dispelled upon my first visit to the Student Services Office – my fears turned into absolute relief. Staff enthusiasm was infectious and their desire to get me settled into the RCSI way of life instilled me with immediate confidence. To begin my learning experience in such an uplifting way was beyond my expectation.

During my progression over the last three years it has become readily apparent that the dedication of the staff and their levels of experience and erudite expertise are of an exceptional standard. Teachers and consultants conduct themselves not only to reflect what is required by the students of the RCSI but ultimately what is required of all doctors within and outside the confines of the College. They, along with the support staff, have set an exceptionally high standard and one that we as students should aspire to reach and transcend.

I feel privileged and honoured to be part of such a wonderful and inspiring College and one that I will always recommend to any individual wishing to enrol in an institution of such high, moral, academic and professional standards as can be found at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.”

Sarah Al Nafisee
Saudi Arabia
RCSI Medicine Graduate

I feel privileged and honoured to be part of such a wonderful and inspiring College.
“RCSI are pioneers in pharmacy education, offering the most progressive and modern programme in a reputable and globally respected institution”

— Professor Paul Gallagher
The mission of RCSI is “to educate, nurture and discover for the benefit of human health.” The aim of the five year integrated Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) programme is to provide an outstanding student experience that supports graduates to become leaders in healthcare provision and innovation. Our MPharm programme combines progressive and innovative teaching with hands on clinical experience and dynamic research opportunities. The programme seamlessly integrates the study of pharmaceutical sciences with clinical application in the practice setting. It will empower you to become a healthcare professional with expertise in medicines, knowing both why medicines work and how they improve the health and well-being of patients. These skills will open up exciting and varied career pathways, from those in patient facing settings to opportunities in the pharmaceutical industry. The School of Pharmacy is subject to both internal quality review and accreditation by the national pharmacy regulatory authority, the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) and international regulatory authority, Malaysian Pharmacy Board, which the School welcomes as an opportunity to showcase the educational excellence and quality of its programmes.

If you are motivated to be such a leader in Pharmacy Practice of the Pharmaceutical Sciences - welcome to RCSI.”
Pharmacy Curriculum – RCSI Philosophy
The focus of the programme is on the pharmacist’s role in the delivery of person-centred care to all members of society. The primary focus of the programme is on health, and the role of the pharmacist in working with people to maintain their health. We avoid a predominant focus on disease and illness, and believe that health as a social concept is a fundamental concept for students to appreciate at all levels of study, in order to develop as patient-centred practitioners. Our focus is on pharmacists as medication therapy experts and the students will be supported in developing a strong professional identity and professional behaviours throughout their studies, as well as developing the relevant knowledge, skills and competence over the course of the programme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Experiential Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Experiential Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Optional Experiential Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Experiential Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Experiential Learning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I have to say that I am really enjoying my time here at the RCSI. The college has provided me with the best educational experience ever! Such as lectures notes, practicals and tutorials. Apart from the academic side, the college has always been caring for us as students by assigning a personal tutor to each student, listening to our concerns and suggestions. Basically being a student in the RCSI is not just about revising your lecture notes it also includes inter-mingling and communicating with the other students from diverse cultures.

The college gatherings and occasions throughout the year are unconventionally beautiful and enjoyable; I have to admit that the wide range of societies here is extremely amazing. All in all, I firmly believe that I had made the right decision for my future career.

All in all, I firmly believe that I had made the right decision for my future career.

Meshal Almutairi
Kuwait
RCSI Dublin Pharmacy student
Pharmacy Curriculum Overview
Students study a five year programme leading to a Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) from both RCSI and the National University of Ireland (NUI).

Academic content is delivered over a number of modules, which is based on the systems of the human body. Each module integrates the life sciences, clinical sciences and practice and is defined by a series of learning outcomes (outcomes-focused).

Structured professional placements are integrated throughout all five years of the programme. A four month structured placement in the 4th year and an eight month placement in the final 5th year ensure that all graduates are ready for practice.

The programme consists of five years of study, leading to the award of Degree of Master of Pharmacy upon completion. The modules are primarily delivered sequentially, with the foundation modules running in parallel. This is illustrated in the image to the left. Each semester consists of 12 weeks of scheduled teaching and learning activities, with further time allocated to revision and assessment. The programme meets the requirements of the indicative curriculum of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

Placements are dispersed throughout with major blocks of structured placements occurring in Years 4 and 5. The programme is modular in structure. It is compulsory to complete all modules (including one optional module) and the non-credit bearing professional development modules.

“An acute emphasis on the clinical aspect of pharmacy makes this course unique and exceptional.”

Muireann Windsor McGlynn
RCSI Pharmacy student
Learning will be contextualised by structured clinical placements with faculty-associated pharmacists throughout Ireland.

**Teaching and Learning for RCSI Pharmacy Students**

RCSI employs an innovative approach to teaching. We employ a variety of teaching methods including traditional lectures; case based learning (where a clinical case is used to illustrate or contextualise learning); small group learning; practicals (e.g. anatomy dissection); computer assisted learning; Grand Rounds; shadowing; observation; skills workshops; tutorials; out of hours pharmacy attendance; ward attendance; simulation-based clinical teaching; laboratory work and dispensing practicals.

Assessments take place during a module or at the end of a module and take many forms including, multiple choice questions (MCQs), short answer written questions, Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), peer assessment and, when you are undertaking structured professional placements, trainer assessment. Assessment modes are appropriate to the different types of learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and attitudes) and assessments are carefully blueprinted to the course material for each module.

Students also have the opportunity to learn alongside students from the Schools of Medicine and Physiotherapy in order to prepare them for collaborative practice. Learning is contextualized by the structured Professional Placement Programme which occurs throughout the five years.

RCSI pharmacy students have the opportunity to travel within Europe to the University of Lorraine in Nancy, France and to North America to the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy in East Tennessee, United States of America through the Erasmus programme to undertake part of their studies. There is a strong emphasis on clinical practice and clinical competence from the beginning of the programme.
There is a strong emphasis on clinical practice and clinical competence from the beginning of the programme.

Clinical Teaching for RCSI Pharmacy Students
As students progress through the programme there is a shift of emphasis with less focus on the enabling sciences and increasing focus on clinical pharmacy in the later years.

In keeping with the pharmacy graduate profile, students in the earlier stages of the programme have some introductory experiential learning. This takes the form of:

- Early patient contact
- Out of hours pharmacy visit
- Shadowing a pharmacist
- Case discussion facilitated by pharmacist
- Clinical data interpretation
- Attendance at hospital grand round by video conference link

In the final years, students are predominantly based in clinical practice where they undergo advanced experiential learning. RCSI has an established network of clinical training sites throughout Ireland including both general and speciality teaching hospitals.

A key objective of the Pharmacy School is to provide the necessary education, clinical and research experience that enables its graduates to undertake a PhD or a professional doctorate (DPharm) in advanced practice.
Why RCSI for Pharmacy?

- The BSc (Pharm) and MPharm from RCSI are internationally recognised and globally portable.
- RCSI is the home of the Irish Institute of Pharmacy—the leadership body for pharmacists in Ireland.
- On completion of the 4-year BSc programme, graduates have the option of returning home to complete internship locally.
- The RCSI BSc programme was externally validated to be the best in Ireland—Pharmacy Education and Accreditation Reviews (PEARS project 2010).
- RCSI has professional experiential placements throughout the Pharmacy programme so that knowledge and skills are always contextualised in a clinical setting.
- Students are offered the opportunity to undertake electives in partnered European and North American Faculties of Pharmacy.
- RCSI is the sole provider of Pharmacy internship training in Ireland.
- On completion of the BSc graduates can progress into internship in Ireland for 12 months to undertake the MPharm after which they will be medication therapy experts.
- On completion of the MPharm graduates can progress to a doctorate in the pharmaceutical sciences and become leaders in drug discovery.
- On completion of the MPharm graduates can progress to a professional doctorate and become leaders in hospital practice.

"Science has always fascinated me. This and the desire to help others made Pharmacy in RCSI a great course for me after secondary school. The course covers all aspects of drug development, from the lab to the clinic, resulting in a broad range of skills that can be applied to many varied career paths. Labs, tutorials, external site visits, opportunities for undergraduate research & study abroad truly enhance the learning experience.

There are also numerous opportunities for work placement—I have experienced various aspects of professional practice in community, hospital and industry settings throughout my years in RCSI. Class sizes are small, with many students coming from graduate backgrounds and from other countries.

The course is demanding at times but there is a great sense of camaraderie in the class and the lecturers are always willing to help.

Coming from an international background, I found the cultural diversity, which RCSI boasts to be a real highlight of my time in college. Anyone is also sure to make new friends in the various clubs and societies that one can get involved in. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and can strongly recommend Pharmacy in RCSI to anyone considering a career in science or healthcare.”

Emil Bumanglag
Ireland
National Pharmacy Internship Programme (MPharm)
RCSI pharmacy graduate

I can strongly recommend Pharmacy in RCSI to anyone considering a career in science or healthcare.
The BSc (Pharm) and MPharm from RCSI are internationally recognised and globally portable.

“I chose to study pharmacy in RCSI for its world-renowned excellence in healthcare education. The Masters in Pharmacy programme (MPharm) lived up to its reputation as an innovative and well structured programme. It provided me with a robust foundation of knowledge, skills and experiential learning. This allowed me to practice with both competence and confidence in the community, hospital, and industrial pharmacy settings.

Learning was practical, patient oriented and inter-disciplinary facilitated by state of the art laboratories and information technology. The MPharm integrated placements supplemented my theoretical learning and gave me an opportunity to reflect on my educational needs and preferred career path.

RCSI staff are respected role models who instilled concepts of safe, effective, holistic and seamless patient care within me, which I continue to incorporate in my pharmacy practice. As an international student, the extensive academic and personal support provided by RCSI allowed me to settle well in college and to overcome any obstacles encountered during my studies. The multi national student body and the plethora of multi cultural events including international night and the pharmacy ball made me feel right at home.

I would recommend RCSI to any student aspiring to learn not merely the science, but also the art that is pharmacy.”

Jihad Al Saddique
Saudi Arabia
(Doctoral student)
RCSI postgraduate pharmacy student
“RCSI provides the opportunity to study physiotherapy in a multidisciplinary health care environment and amongst an international student body”

— Professor Marie Guidon
The aim of the RCSI School of Physiotherapy is to educate professionally safe, competent, reflective and analytical physiotherapists who possess a sound scientific knowledge base; an understanding of the value of research and analysis; are responsive to the needs of clients and carers and are aware of the dynamic diversity of health care environments in which they practice. In addition the RCSI programme has a strong clinical emphasis with almost one third of the programme undertaken in a variety of clinical placement sites, supported by dedicated clinical tutors.

RCSI provides the opportunity to study physiotherapy in a multidisciplinary health care environment and amongst an international student body. The RCSI programme is an internationally recognised qualification and we are very proud of our graduates who are currently employed in a variety of clinical locations both in Ireland and internationally including the UK, USA, Canada, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.”

Professor Marie Guidon
Head of RCSI School of Physiotherapy
Physiotherapy Curriculum – RCSI Philosophy
The practice of physiotherapy is evolving in a rapidly changing healthcare environment with an increased emphasis on health and wellness, fitness, preventative medicine and health education. An ever-expanding body of knowledge, an increasingly well informed population, the changing roles of many healthcare professionals and a demand for accountability present increasing challenges for the physiotherapist of today. Developing areas in healthcare include elderly health, primary health care in the community, health promotion and wellness. The academic and clinical aspects of the physiotherapy programme reflect these themes.

The physiotherapist must be aware of environmental trends and resource limitations and be responsive and competent to deliver quality care in a timely and cost-effective manner. Complex health care situations require a high level of personal and professional autonomy.

In the clinical setting an understanding of the role of the physiotherapist in the healthcare team, the role of physiotherapist as educator of patient and carer and the environmental limitations of practice is gained. This programme seeks to develop autonomous, competent physiotherapy practitioners who demonstrate advanced levels of analytical and problem solving abilities. It aims to engender a life long desire for further learning and time is allocated for self-directed study. In addition, students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and to identify and manage gaps in their knowledge. A variety of teaching and learning strategies are employed to support this including tutorials, seminars, small group discussions and case study presentations.

Physiotherapy Curriculum Overview
Applicants with school-leaving qualifications undertake a 4-year programme, beginning with Foundation Year. Students with a primary degree (in any discipline) are exempt from Foundation year and undertake a three year BSc Physiotherapy programme.

Graduates of the Physiotherapy course receive the award of BSc Physiotherapy from the National University of Ireland and professional recognition by the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists.

RCSI Physiotherapy Programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4 Years</th>
<th>3 Years</th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Foundation Year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Final Year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RCSI Physiotherapist
Teaching and Learning
The emphasis throughout the programme is on the promotion of student-centred learning and the development of clinical reasoning skills. A variety of teaching methods are utilised to support these concepts including lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical workshops, case presentations and small group discussions.

The development of a reflective and analytical practitioner is facilitated by the use of a learning development portfolio. Students are encouraged to discuss clinical practice experiences with programme staff to develop clinical reasoning skills and promote critical analysis and evaluation.

Why RCSI to study Physiotherapy
- Small class size and dedicated facilities
- RCSI focus on health care professions education
- International student body
- First Irish School of Physiotherapy to have a programme successfully reviewed by the Australian Physiotherapy Council, allowing graduates to apply to the Physiotherapy Registration Board of Australia for General Registration
- Programme is included on the List of Quotable Qualifications approved by the Physiotherapists Board of Hong Kong
- Programme is accredited by the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists (ISCP), a member organisation of the World Confederation of Physical Therapy (WCPT)
- Strong clinical focus of programme with over 1000 hours in a variety of clinical settings, where supervised clinical training is undertaken

Applicants with school-leaving qualifications undertake a 4 year programme, beginning with Foundation Year.

“RCSI, given its history and strong academic and research reputation, attracts a global student body. Having been offered a job in an acute hospital in Singapore before my graduation I now work with two RCSI medical graduates, one RCSI pharmacy graduate and three fellow physiotherapy graduates, half way around the world. Working alongside physiotherapy graduates from different universities across several countries, I have learned to appreciate even more the excellent clinical education I received. Getting the chance to complete clinical placements in all the core area’s in a variety of hospitals across Ireland under the direct supervision of dedicated on site tutors has really stood to me working in a large acute hospital now. The lecturing staff in the College are experts in their chosen fields, and the small class sizes allows the fostering of closer ties between Faculty and students.”

Dermot Austin
Ireland
Physiotherapy Graduate
Clinical Teaching
Clinical education is the central element of the physiotherapy programme where academic knowledge and therapeutic skills are integrated in the treatment of patients under the supervision and teaching of skilled and experienced physiotherapists.

Clinical education consists of more than 1000 hours over a three year period of the course with more than 90% of this in direct patient contact. During this time students gain experience in the provision of patient care and also have the opportunity to participate in the administration of services, in-service education programmes, quality assurance and clinical research activities.

Students also gain an understanding of the diversity of practice environments. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and to adopt a reflective approach to the clinical experience which is fostered by the use of a Physiotherapy Undergraduate Learning Portfolio and structured discussion sessions facilitated by clinical tutors and the Practice Education Coordinator.

Clinical placements are on a full-time block basis and are undertaken in a variety of physiotherapy settings and in a number of geographical locations.

“As a postgraduate returning to study Physiotherapy, the prospect of three more years of exams was somewhat daunting. However, RCSI has consistently exceeded my expectations. The small class size immediately fostered a sense of comradery and community amongst the young and not so young! The faculty are highly skilled and educated and provided us with a strong support network both educationally and personally. Since graduating, RCSI has readily facilitated my application process to work as a physiotherapist in Canada where I’m currently discovering the challenges and rewards of this exciting career in private practice.”

Jean Lewis
Ireland
RCSI physiotherapy graduate

The faculty are highly skilled and educated and provided us with a strong support network both educationally and personally.
Clinical education consists of more than 1000 hours over a three year period of the course with more than 90% of this in direct patient contact.

"Three months into my last year at St. Marys Academy in Winnipeg, Manitoba in Canada, I came to a conclusion: I wanted to become a physiotherapist. As I looked into my options, I was thrilled to find that RCSI, the school that both of my sisters were currently attending, offered a Physiotherapy program. After being accepted, I knew this would be the school for me. While the thought of leaving home was daunting, I was ready to experience new cultures, new people, and a whole new method of learning. Or in other words, I was ready to experience all that RCSI had to offer.

While I am only beginning my second year here at RCSI, my time here has been incredibly rewarding. As the Physiotherapy Foundation year class representative I have been able to help be the voice of my own smaller class of future physiotherapists, as well as the whole class of 2018. Unlike any university I have been toured through, RCSI provides its students with a tight knit community of small sized classes, and students from all walks of life. The opportunities to challenge and enjoy yourself academically, socially, and physically are endless. From rock climbing outdoors, to enjoying a dramatic production, RCSI is by far a school that excels at providing its students with everything that they need. I am so grateful for every opportunity that attending this school has given me and hope that my next three years are just as memorable."

RCSI is by far a school that excels at providing its students with everything they need.

Julia Verrelli
Canada
RCSI Physiotherapy Student
STUDENT LIFE AT RCSI DUBLIN

Student life is an important and vibrant aspect of the RCSI experience. Whether you are interested in sports, arts, volunteering or just fancy a work out in the gym, RCSI student life will provide the perfect conduit to find like-minded friends and colleagues to share your interests.

Dublin is a wonderful city in which to be a student, and RCSI with its international mix of students offers a unique opportunity to be a student in the heart of one of Europe’s great capital cities. Student life is an important and vibrant aspect of the RCSI experience, and students get just as much satisfaction from their social and cultural activities as they do from their studies.

The College has over 70 clubs and societies with a range of offerings to suit all tastes. Students are actively encouraged to become involved in College life as the ideal counter balance to a busy academic schedule.
RCSI offer rewarding research experiences to undergraduate and postgraduate students.
RESEARCH AT RCSi

RCSI aim to attract the highest calibre research-active academic staff and build strong research relationships between clinicians and scientists.

The Institute of Research is one of Ireland’s foremost research centres in medical and health sciences. RCSI is committed to research excellence, and to developing collaborative links with industry, and with educational research and policy institutions both nationally and internationally. Reflecting its unique healthcare focus, its research theme is Translational Health Research: ‘from bench to bedside to population’. RCSI built Ireland’s first hospital campus Clinical Research Centre in 2000, alongside Beaumont Hospital, one of its principal teaching hospitals in Dublin. This supports the Centre’s translational focus and provides ready opportunities for clinician-based research studies.

Research ‘clusters’ include the following areas:
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular Research
- Nursing
- Infection, Immunity & Inflammation
- Medicine
- Neuroscience
- Bioengineering
- Gynaecology, Obstetrics & Perinatal Health
- Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Sciences & Medicinal Chemistry
- Surgery
- Population Health Sciences

Students are provided with the opportunity to participate in research through the Summer Research Programme, which is delivered through the RCSI Institute of Research.
RCSI Research Summer School is committed to supporting and nurturing our undergraduate students by offering rewarding research experiences for the enhancement of human health. We achieve this by providing our students the opportunity to work with RCSI’s highest-calibre, research-active academic staff.

RCSI Research Summer School Aims to:
• Encourage and support undergraduate students in carrying out basic science research in the dynamic environment of RCSI’s Research Institute for a period of eight weeks over the summer.
• Communicate the passion of RCSI scientists for biomedical and population health research to undergraduate students while they are undertaking their research project.
• Train undergraduate students in ‘hands on’ basic laboratory techniques and provide them with the skills for critically assessing current research and communicating their research findings.
• Ensure research experience is relevant to our undergraduate students’ education.

RCSI Research Summer School Student Experience:
• Students gain a better understanding of how basic science research ‘works’.
• Students equip themselves with the skills to debate and critique current ‘hot topics’ in research.
• Students acquire the desire and curiosity to continue to engage in research during the remainder of their undergraduate training and further on, into their clinical years.
• Students encourage their peers to become involved in research.

RCSI provides rewarding research experiences to undergraduate and postgraduate students.
RCSI offers its students the opportunity to participate in summer clinical and research electives. Research electives may encompass basic research, translational research or audits but do not involve patient care. In contrast, direct involvement in patient clinical care is the defining factor of clinical electives.

Participation in summer research electives is strongly encouraged throughout the Junior and Intermediate Cycles. In addition to its own highly popular Research Summer School, RCSI also offers a number of exciting summer research exchange opportunities with various international partners. These are advertised on an annual basis and competitively applied for. Self-sourced research placements are also a valuable source of opportunities.

The advantages of undertaking research electives include field-specific experience, the possibility of conference presentations or publications, and the acquisition of contacts to later facilitate clinical electives or other career opportunities.

Participation in RCSI’s formal clinical electives is restricted to medical students who are about to enter Final Year. Through a network of strategic international partnerships, RCSI offers a significant number of clinical elective opportunities to be undertaken (with financial support from the College) during Final Year. The clinical electives team also provides advice and comprehensive administrative support to students during the crucial time-window when they apply for electives; whether those electives are for the purposes of networking, specialty “fit-testing” or to enhance prospects of matching to residency training programmes abroad.

Muli mutya (greetings in Lugandan)!

Our names are Jennifer Ward and Orla Donohoe and during the summer after IC3 we went to Uganda where we spent time working with the Rural Healthcare Foundation Uganda, who ran the Safe Motherhood programme, which was funded by Lámha Suas. As part of this programme we travelled to the homes of women in the community carrying out antenatal and postnatal checks with a doctor from Kampala, named Dickson.

Our experience in Uganda was unlike any elective we could have dreamt of doing, not only because of the wide range of medical experience, but also the cultural and social issues we encountered. For example, the gender inequality issues that we witnessed first hand came as a shock. Our clinical skills were put to the test as we were thrown into a health system that is worlds apart from the western medicine that we come from. There was no modern technology to assist us and we learned antenatal examinations and tests, as well as delivering babies using clinical skills only. Thanks to the IDI, we got the opportunity to assist in surgery and to learn important surgical skills. Uganda was unforgettable and at times a sensory and emotional overload. In our free time we travelled the country and were overwhelmed by its beauty. We would highly recommend an elective in a developing country because, despite our efforts here, the experience simply cannot be put into words!

Orla Donohoe and Jennifer Ward
Ireland
RCSI Medicine Students
Today’s students training in RCSI’s five campuses will join the alumni working in countries worldwide.
RCSI is committed to enhancing the standards of health, education and life chances among our local and international communities. Multiple campuses in different countries reflect the truly international character of RCSI, both in terms of the diversity of its student body and in its geographical reach.

In addition to the main campus in Dublin (which houses the Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy), RCSI has a strong international presence with a Medical University in Bahrain, Medical Schools in Malaysia and an Institute of Leadership in Dubai.

RCSI Bahrain was established in 2004 to provide undergraduate courses in Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery and Postgraduate studies in Nursing. In February, 2009 a new state of the art campus was opened to cater for the growing number of students from Bahrain, the Gulf region and beyond.

In Malaysia, Penang Medical College represents a unique partnership in medical education between RCSI and University College Dublin (UCD). In 2011, RCSI extended its’ long-standing educational involvement with Malaysia when it established a 5-year undergraduate medical programme in Kuala Lumpur in conjunction with Perdana University.

Postgraduate training and education in management and leadership is provided in Dubai through RCSI’s Institute of Leadership.
“RCSI Bahrain is one of the international Colleges of RCSI Dublin. The primary mission of RCSI Bahrain is to inspire, educate and train competent and caring graduates who are well prepared to enter specialty training programmes and assume leadership roles in their profession. We undertake these activities to internationally recognized standards of excellence in teaching and research. All our programs meet the highest quality criteria of various accrediting bodies, locally, regionally and internationally.”
About RCSI Bahrain
An archipelago of 33 islands, the Kingdom of Bahrain lies at the heart of the Arabian Gulf. Meaning ‘two seas’ in Arabic the word Bahrain refers to the freshwater springs that are found within the salty seas surrounding the islands. The Kingdom combines traditional and distinctive Middle Eastern culture with a modern infrastructure with the legacy of a six thousand year old civilisation.

RCSI received a licence to establish a medical university in Bahrain in October 2003. As a result, the RCSI Bahrain was opened in October 2004 with its first intake of medical students. This was followed in 2006 by the first intake of nursing students and by the establishment of a School of Postgraduate Studies and Research.

The newly built campus is a state of the art medical education establishment which was completed in October 2008 and incorporates tutorial rooms, lecture theatres, offices, teaching, research and specialised clinical simulation laboratories, cafeteria, library and separate modern sports facilities.

The Clinical Simulation Laboratory provides students with the opportunity to practice clinical skills and techniques in a non-threatening environment prior to their formal clinical placement, and is one of the first of its kind in the region. The King Hamad University Hospital is adjacent to the university and also provides a state of the art teaching and learning centre for RCSI Bahrain students.
Medical Curriculum – RCSI Bahrain Philosophy

RCSI Bahrain is wholly owned by RCSI and the curriculum philosophy is identical to that in RCSI Dublin.

The curriculum is designed to give students a sound knowledge of the principles of both the science and the art of medicine. The curriculum is outcomes-focused and reflects the skills and competencies that students will have on graduation, including the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to enable graduates to perform as competent clinicians. These competencies are as outlined earlier in this document.

Medical Curriculum Overview

The Medical Programme in RCSI Bahrain is either 5 or 6-years in duration depending on the academic curriculum that the student has studied prior to admission. This full-time programme is open to school leavers and those who have undertaken an undergraduate degree in another discipline but now wish to pursue a career in medicine.

Students are provided with comprehensive training through exposure to a variety of specialities, thus enhancing career opportunities at home and abroad. The medical programme is benchmarked against the World Federation for Medical Education and is identical to that in RCSI Dublin.

Medical graduates are awarded the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, and Bachelor of the Art of Obstetrics (MB BCh BAO) of both the National University of Ireland and of RCSI Bahrain. In addition, graduates receive the Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (LRCSI) and the Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (LRCPI). These degrees are identical to the degrees conferred on graduates of RCSI Dublin.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6 Years</th>
<th>5 Years</th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>FY1</td>
<td>FY2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>JC1</td>
<td>JC2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>JC3</td>
<td>IC1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>IC2</td>
<td>IC3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>SC1</td>
<td>SC2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RCSI Bahrain Doctor
Medical Commencement Programme
(pre-medical programme)

Some students may come from an academic background that does not allow them to enter directly into a full undergraduate medical course. In such cases, these students may be eligible to undertake an additional year of study to enable them to enter the medical school. The RCSI Bahrain Medical Commencement Programme has been designed specifically to fill this academic and/or English language gap.

This one year full-time programme is designed to equip students with a greater knowledge of general science subjects, study skills, medical English and research skills. Additionally, it aims to provide students with the appropriate knowledge to bridge the gap between their second level education and the RCSI medical programme. On successful completion of the Medical Commencement Programme students are guaranteed progression into the first year of the full 6-year medical course.

“Having graduated in 2013 from RCSI Bahrain and now a resident at the University of Toronto, I can look back and say how RCSI-Bahrain was a solid and great medical school. Being in a small group, we came to know each other really well and with that came the privilege of having open door policies with our professors. In fact, most of them called us by our first names. Before the clinical years started we were allowed to encounter patients as observers and, when our clinical years began, we had almost one on one teaching with preceptors. Hence they got to know us really well and trust our skills. They allowed us to do procedures such as intubations, central line insertions, under supervision. This is the kind of experience that one does not get in bigger, less intimate schools.

From an administrative point of view, the school was very supportive of electives; our administration officer always made sure to give us a heads up on matching deadlines, elective and internship opportunities, setting up Kaplan and board prep speakers.

Outside the classroom, Bahrain is a charming island. It’s a mixture of the East and West. The weather is always sunny; the people are so warm and friendly. After five years of medical school, it became like a second home to me. If RCSI had a residency program in Bahrain, I would have stayed there anytime!”

“RCSI-Bahrain was a solid and great medical school.”

Dr Sabrina Berdouk
Canada
RCSI Bahrain
Medical graduate
Teaching and Learning
The 5 and 6-year programmes delivered in RCSI Bahrain mirror those delivered in RCSI Dublin. Academic staff are a combination of Irish, local and international with regular exchange of staff between both campuses. The core curriculum and assessments are common to both campuses and are subject to the same academic rigour and quality control. Students from both campuses undertake many of their examinations at the same time all of which are approved by common external examiners.

Details in relation to teaching, learning and assessment are covered earlier in this document.

“I’m in Foundation Year of the Medical Course. Even though I’m only beginning my journey of medicine, I have come across a number of experiences which I will never forget! RCSI Bahrain, to me, is not only a place of learning but has also become my second home in many aspects. There’s a small community within the college and because of this, everyone is like family. You get to experience different traditions and customs because of the cultural diversity which makes RCSI Bahrain the perfect place to gain new experiences. International night was one event that opened my eyes to the many different types of customs, clothing and of course, foods native to the population of RCSI.

RCSI provides us every opportunity to make the most of our college years, both academically and socially. We have a number of events which take place each year so there is always something going on! Academically, we get the best of technology and a number of different systems which aid and encourage us in our learning such as the new Learning Resource Centre, the Student Support Centre and many more. All in all, I can’t think of any other college where I’d want to study medicine more!”

Maham Khan
Pakistan
RCSI Bahrain
Medical student
Student Life at RCSI Bahrain
The Kingdom of Bahrain provides a wonderful environment in which to live and study. Bahrain is an archipelago of 33 islands, situated off the coast of Saudi Arabia in the Arabian Gulf. The largest island is Bahrain Island where the capital, Manama, is situated. The RCSI Bahrain campus is located on 24 acres on the island of Muharraq, which is linked to Bahrain Island by a number of causeways. The population is just over one million of which about half are expatriates. The Kingdom combines traditional Middle Eastern culture with a modern infrastructure. While Arabic is the official language, English is also very widely spoken.

At RCSI Bahrain we recognise that student life involves more than study, and involvement in sporting, cultural and other social activities is strongly encouraged and supported. There are a large number of student clubs and societies covering a wide variety of activities, and a standalone Sports and Recreation Centre on the campus provides facilities for a number of team sports as well as two fully fitted gyms.

"RCSI Bahrain has the reputation of being one of the best medical colleges because it offers the perfect studying atmosphere. It follows the approach of mixing fun with knowledge.

The University’s qualified teaching staff deliver the curriculum content in the most efficient way. The activities and events organised by the Student Council offers the interaction needed between students to create a healthy environment. These events also provide fun breaks from all the study and stress.

The ‘Homecoming Festival’ was one of the best events organised by the Student Council. It was the first opportunity for the students to mix and break the ice with each other. We made our first friendships that night.

The opening of the Learning Resource Centre is an excellent addition to the campus facilities and offers a quiet and relaxed space to study in."

RCSI Bahrain has the reputation of being one of the best medical colleges because it offers the perfect studying atmosphere.

Isa Al Hajri
Bahrain
RCSI Bahrain
Medical student
Penang Medical College has been providing the highest quality of medical training in Malaysia for 20 years and continues to do so to this day. In partnership with RCSI and University College Dublin, PMC offers the very best medical training as well as an unrivalled student experience which makes PMC graduates highly sought-after. What better mix of contrasting experiences can you possibly have than spending time in both the vibrant city of Dublin as well as the tropical paradise of Penang?

The next few years are a very exciting time for PMC as we develop more programmes, especially catering to a growing demand for postgraduate courses, and continue to grow and enhance the campus in Penang. There couldn’t be a better time to come and join us.

I warmly welcome you to become a part of our vibrant and exciting community where you will enjoy a wonderfully rewarding student life, experiencing the best of Irish education in an ASEAN setting.”
About Penang Medical College

Penang Medical College (PMC) is a partnership with two of the oldest and most respected medical schools in Ireland, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and University College Dublin (UCD). PMC students undertake their pre-clinical studies at either RCSI or UCD, where they gain a comprehensive understanding of the biomedical sciences necessary to enter clinical training. The pre-clinical training takes two and a half years to complete. Upon successful completion of their pre-clinical studies, students return to pursue their clinical training in Penang. During their period of clinical training in Penang (a further two and a half years), the students remain registered as full-time students of either RCSI or UCD.

Clinical training is undertaken at the PMC Campus as well as at the Penang General Hospital, the Seberang Jaya Hospital and other approved clinical centres in Penang.

Upon graduation, students of PMC will be conferred with the MB BCh BAO degrees of the National University of Ireland (NUI). Consequently, graduates enjoy all the rights and privileges afforded to those graduates who completed the full medical programme in Ireland.

Although the pre-clinical courses in RCSI and UCD are structured slightly differently, all PMC students learn the same basic knowledge and skills, during their time in Ireland. All students then follow a single curriculum when they move to Penang to complete the final two and a half years of the programme.
**About Penang**

Penang, "The Pearl of the Orient", lies off the north-western coast of Peninsular Malaysia. The State comprises the island of Penang covering an area of about 293 sq. km. and an area of approximately 753 sq. km. on the mainland known as Seberang Perai (Province Wellesley). They are linked by the Penang Bridge, the longest bridge in South East Asia. Penang was established as the first British trading port in the Far East in 1786 and today is a bustling metropolitan community which combines the best of the East and West. This is reflected in its heritage buildings as well as in the lifestyles, food and customs of the people. The capital, Georgetown, is a centre for commerce, education and culture and is a UNESCO world heritage site. Penang has an International Airport with worldwide destinations.

With a population of approximately 1.5 million (704,000 on Penang Island), Penang retains its charming appeal and distinctive character. Its multi-racial population contributes to a wealth of social and cultural attractions. Much of its charm also lies in its famous golden beaches and calm warm seas. As well as being home to Penang Medical College, the State is also the location of one of the oldest universities in Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia.

It was purely by chance, while planning my life beyond secondary school that I came across an advertisement by Penang Medical College promoting their twinning programmes with Irish universities RCSI and UCD. It was immediately the best decision to obtaining international experience while guaranteeing a job opportunity back home and so I headed off to Europe for the first time with all the excitement of a four year old.

The sharp wit of our surgeon prosectors, enthusiasm of the Student Services officers and sheer volume of student participation in College events, all experienced in the first week of college, promised an experience that if nothing else would be unforgettable. Since then, I’ve hijacked classes in a penguin costume, ran around Dublin 2 looking for stage lights and made enough friends to start a whole new football league. I’ve also had the pleasure of taking part in an anatomy quiz for the Harold Browne medal, which I intend to shoot for again this year. I think what RCSI does so well is its balancing act in committing to the highest standards of education and research, while reminding us all not to take life too seriously!

As students, we are continually challenged to seek answers outside of the classroom and to realise that more often than not, there is no one way to solve a problem, which is highly important in an ever expanding field like medicine. At the same time, the more hardworking students tirelessly organise regular free and easy events to coax the rest of the student body out of the library and into the sun, to remind us of the lives we fight so hard for. I look forward to an even more exciting year at the College, and intend to increase my participation in the research opportunities RCSI has to offer.

*Jin Ji Li*
Malaysia
Penang Medical College student
**Curriculum**
The medical programme in PMC is normally 5-years in duration. However, some students may be required to complete a Foundation Year (depending on their academic qualifications on entry to the programme). The Foundation Year is designed to provide students with the appropriate knowledge to enter into the 5-year course. Students have a choice of completing the Foundation Year in either Penang or Dublin.

Incoming students who are exempt from Foundation Year will be assigned to either RCSI or UCD to undertake a comprehensive, systems-based and outcomes-focused pre-clinical programme in Dublin. The duration of study in Ireland for these students is two and a half years (5 academic semesters) and the main focus is on the biomedical and early clinical sciences and clinical skills. All students will have exposure to early patient contact.

PMC students complete their pre-clinical training in either RCSI or UCD, and consequently undertake exactly the same course as those students who are completing the full medical programme in each of the Irish medical schools. PMC students are an integral component of the Irish medical school class and sit the same examinations and are subject to the same assessment standards as the partner medical school students.

Upon returning to Penang to commence the final two and a half years of their clinical training, the students are based exclusively on clinical sites and undertake the following clinical attachments: Medicine and Surgery, Primary Care (General Practice), Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics and Psychiatry. In addition, all students will complete an integrated clinical programme to include the clinical ‘sub-specialties’ of Anaesthesiology, Ophthalmology, ENT, Legal Medicine/Ethics, Public Health Medicine and Radiology.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FOUNDATION YEAR</strong></td>
<td><strong>FOUNDATION YEAR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>DUBLIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>DUBLIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>DUBLIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>PENANG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>PENANG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PMC Medical Graduate**

- Biomedical and early clinical sciences studied in Dublin. Includes early patient contact.
- Extensive clinical training completed in Penang.
**Student Life at Penang Medical College**

The beautiful island of Penang is a wonderful place to live and study. It is a bustling metropolitan location with a multiracial population of more than 700,000 people offering a wealth of social and cultural attractions.

PMC recognise that student life involves more than study, and involvement in sporting, cultural and other social activities is strongly encouraged and supported. There are a large number of student clubs and societies covering a wide variety of activities. All students are encouraged to be part of the Students Association, who in addition to organising student events, represent the broader interests of the student population and act as advocates for student issues within PMC.

"From initially just knowing about Ireland’s reputation of having the best medicine schools, I grew to love this place beyond that. Pairing up RCSI and PMC for the twinning program was exactly what I had in mind when I first decided to do Medicine.

Having pre-clinical course abroad in RCSI I would honestly claim as the best two and a half years of my life. I’ve not only learnt in depth of medicine in the most interesting yet challenging ways, but I’ve learnt to see the world from a whole different view. In the midst of clock-ticking studying, I still got a chance to travel to some nearby countries such as the United Kingdom, Norway, Italy, Turkey and Morocco.

Moreover, I was still actively involved in a few societies such as Penang Medical College Students Association (PMSCSA), and Archery Club, despite the queuing revisions and assignments. There were more amazing experiences I had in Dublin and the list could go on and on, but to cut it short, I would definitely give it an absolute yes for studying abroad."

\[This has definitely broaden my perspective about the world, and something that I could not have learnt back home.\]

Aliana Misha Nazli
Malaysia
Penang Medical College student