



**RCSI**

UNIVERSITY  
OF MEDICINE  
AND HEALTH  
SCIENCES

**RCSI** LEADING THE WORLD TO BETTER HEALTH

# PHYSIOTHERAPY

RCSI.COM/DUBLIN

RCSI, UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

CANADIAN  
PROSPECTUS

## 01 WHO WE ARE

**The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland is a Medicine and Health Sciences University located in the heart of Dublin, with international campuses in Bahrain and Malaysia.**

We have been educating North American students for almost half a century with over 20% of our international students coming from the US and Canada.

We are an innovative, world-leading international health sciences education and research university with undergraduate and postgraduate schools and faculties across the health sciences spectrum. At undergraduate level, we offer Medicine, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy programmes with both direct entry and graduate entry. RCSI's BSc in Physiotherapy is a four-year degree programme for School Leavers and three years in duration for Graduate Entry students.

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Meet people from every corner of the globe and find the club or society that suits you.





The programme is open to applications from students from all over the world and, as with other programmes at RCSI, we have a very international student body.

You will be a fully qualified Physiotherapist upon completion of our programme. Many of our alumni have gone on to practice back in Canada as well as many other countries across the world.

I have had such a great experience here at RCSI to date. **The classes are great and the professors really care about your success.** The school is relatively small, but that's what creates a great sense of community within the student population, and it's one of many things I really like about RCSI.

JAMES WRIGHT, CANADA  
PHYSIOTHERAPY,  
CLASS OF 2023



## **O2 WHY CHOOSE RCSI UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

### **A SINGULAR FOCUS ON HEALTHCARE**

Healthcare is all we do. Every decision, every lecture, each practical demonstration and research study focuses on enhancing human health. You will be part of our dynamic community of inspiring international educators, experienced clinicians and ground-breaking researchers – all working to improve health outcomes.

We are unique in offering the entire medical education spectrum, from undergraduate and postgraduate to continuous professional development.

This big-picture view helps us understand, more than most, what it takes to develop 21st-century healthcare professionals, and we shape our offering accordingly.

### **REPUTATION AND INDEPENDENCE**

RCSI is one of the top 250 (top 2%) universities worldwide in the 2021 Times Higher Education World University Rankings and ranks 2nd out of all universities in the Republic of Ireland. RCSI ranked Number ONE in the world for Good Health and Well-being in impact rankings.

Unlike most health sciences schools, which are part of large multi-faculty, government-funded universities, RCSI is an independent, not-for-profit institution. This independence allows us to pursue our own priorities in the pursuit of excellence in healthcare education, training and research.

### **HIGH-IMPACT RESEARCH**

We have the highest research citation rate in Ireland and our field-weighted citation is double the world average. That means we do not just teach at RCSI, we are deeply committed to exploring and solving healthcare's greatest demands, as they exist today.

Our insights enhance patient treatment and care, while attracting the very best healthcare professionals in their fields to teach at RCSI. We strategically invest in our researchers and research facilities to deliver on our mission of leading the world to better health.

### **EARLY PATIENT CONTACT**

You will apply what you learn in the lecture theatre to patients and clinical situations in RCSI teaching hospitals. These early clinical experiences are a combination of patient case studies, consultation labs, medicine and healthcare actors, volunteer patients and high-fidelity clinical simulator technologies.

### **EXPERIENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Our Physiotherapy students have the opportunity to participate in the RCSI Research Summer School and to volunteer with RCSI charity partners in South East Asia.



Our leading clinicians are your leading teachers.

## HANDS-ON TEACHING ENVIRONMENT

We are home to Europe's largest clinical simulation facility. From the earliest stages, you will combine classroom learning with hands-on experience in simulated and real clinical environments at RCSI teaching hospitals.

Our Physiotherapy programme will provide you with the breadth of knowledge and range of skills you need to shape your career. RCSI's curriculum is constantly evolving to ensure that you have everything you need to be a successful physiotherapist. Our approach to teaching recognises the importance of balancing medical knowledge with experiential learning.

## GLOBAL IMPACT

As a leading institution in healthcare, medicine and research, we advance health and well-being worldwide. In addition to our Dublin campus, RCSI also has universities in Bahrain and Malaysia. We continuously seek ways to further our humanitarian goals and make an impact on a global scale. An example of this is our partnership with the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa, (COSECSA).



O3 OUR PROGRAMME

NFQ: **Level 8**  
AWARD: **BSc (Hons) (NUI, RCSI)**  
AWARDING BODY:  
**National University of Ireland**

PHYSIOTHERAPY

Our internationally recognised RCSI Physiotherapy programme is designed to provide you with training, education and rehabilitation in a variety of clinical settings. Upon completion of the Physiotherapy programme, you will be a fully qualified Physiotherapist.

Our small class sizes provide you with access to hands-on, one-to-one practical and clinical training with academic staff. You will study alongside your future colleagues in Medicine and Pharmacy, ensuring the multidisciplinary nature of patient care is reflected in your education.

For approximately two-thirds of the programme, you will be based on RCSI’s main campus in Dublin city centre, learning clinical skills, which you will put into practice for the remaining one-third when you are primarily based in a clinical setting. Your placement blocks are interspersed with blocks of learning in the academic setting to facilitate real-time assimilation of new knowledge. This education model allows for the immediate real-world application of students’ developing clinical skills, under the supervision of dedicated clinical tutors. It is an option to complete some of these placements in your home country, our practice education team has supported our North American students in this regard.

As an RCSI Physiotherapy graduate, you will be career ready and in high demand with a highly portable degree.

Foundation Year provides you with a solid grounding in the biomedical sciences and professionalism plus the necessary IT skills to operate effectively within the University’s virtual learning environment (VLE).

The course is delivered as a series of stand-alone 5-credit modules taught in a single semester, and integrated, systems-based modules, delivered across 2 semesters. The Introduction to Physiotherapy Practice module provides you with an appreciation of the array of clinical specialties and settings in which physiotherapists work. It also presents the first opportunity for a clinical visit.

Elective opportunities facilitate your growing awareness of the crucial roles that communication, culture, collaboration, critical thinking, medical ethics, information literacy, project management and self-reflection play in the professional practice of physiotherapy. They also provide students with an opportunity to work collectively with the Medicine and Pharmacy students.

FOUNDATION YEAR SEMESTER 1

- Fundamentals of Medical Physics
- Fundamentals of Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- Fundamentals of Human Biology
- Musculoskeletal System, Nervous System, Skin, Special Senses, Reproduction and Endocrine Systems
- Cardiovascular, Respiratory, Immune, Gastrointestinal and Excretory Systems
- Professionalism in the Health Sciences
- Biomedical Laboratory Sciences

FOUNDATION YEAR SEMESTER 2

- Disease Diagnostics and Therapeutics
- Introduction to Physiotherapy Practice
- Musculoskeletal System, Nervous System, Skin, Special Senses, Reproduction and Endocrine Systems
- Cardiovascular, Respiratory, Immune, Gastrointestinal and Excretory Systems
- Professionalism in the Health Sciences
- Biomedical Laboratory Sciences

## YEAR 1

## SEMESTER 1

Year 1 provides you with a sound base of scientific knowledge that underpins the practice of physiotherapy.

You gain an understanding of the structure, function and inter-relationship of systems in the human body by studying Anatomy and Physiology.

Year 1 also focuses on acquisition of the knowledge and basic skills required to assess and treat people with common musculoskeletal conditions.

Anatomy

Neuromusculoskeletal I

Physiology

Methods of Enquiry

Physics

## YEAR 1

## SEMESTER 2

Neuromusculoskeletal II

Anatomy II

Health, Behaviour and Patient Safety

Professional Development I

Clinical Placement 1

## YEAR 2

## SEMESTER 1

Year 2 builds on what you have already studied by further consolidating the knowledge and skills of physiotherapy practice.

The focus this year is on the application and analysis of problems and their effects in core clinical areas, e.g. cardiovascular/respiratory, neurology and musculoskeletal.

You gain an understanding of the research process and develop an ability to appraise and evaluate research and scientific literature. Blocks of clinical education alternate with academic modules in a variety of clinical settings. In the clinical environment, you develop an understanding of the context of physiotherapy practice.

Advanced Musculoskeletal I

Neuroscience Psychology

Neuroscience Anatomy

Respiratory/Cardiovascular I

Neurology I

Professional Development II

Clinical Placement 2

## YEAR 2

## SEMESTER 2

Advanced Musculoskeletal II

Respiratory/Cardiovascular II

Neurology II

Research Methods I

Clinical Placement 3

Clinical Placement 4





## FINAL PHYSIOTHERAPY

## SEMESTER 1

Final year focuses on the integration of the knowledge you've already obtained in the programme and understanding an advanced level of practice. Modules in final physiotherapy cover more specialised areas of practice, e.g. sports physiotherapy, women's health, care of the elderly and paediatrics.

Your ability to evaluate and undertake research is also developed further by completing a research protocol.

In the clinical setting, you encounter a more diverse and complex range of client groups in your final year. Throughout the programme, clinical education is a central element, and you will undertake 1,000+ hours on a full-time block basis. This helps you gain essential clinical experience under the supervision of physiotherapy clinical tutors and senior physiotherapy clinicians.

**International graduates of the RCSI Physio programme have a one-year stayback visa option should you wish to practice in Ireland.**

Physiotherapy Across the Lifespan I (sports physiotherapy, women's health, paediatrics)

Research Methods II

Clinical Placement 5

Clinical Placement 6

## FINAL PHYSIOTHERAPY

## SEMESTER 2

Complex Clinical Case Management

Physiotherapy Across the Lifespan II (Care of the Elderly)

Research Methods II

Clinical Placement 7



## CAREER SUPPORTS

RCSI has been educating North American students since the 1970's. We understand that for most North American students, the priority is to get back to North America after graduation.


To maximise your success in this regard, RCSI faculty and students work together to ensure that candidates are completely ready when applying for positions back home upon graduation.

The University provides a variety of resources, many of which sit with the CoMPPAS Office (Centre of Mastery: Personal Professional & Academic Success), to assist you throughout your studies.


## CoMPPAS TEAM

The CoMPPAS office is home to a dedicated multi-disciplinary team of specialists working collaboratively to facilitate and empower students to achieve their personal, academic and professional goals. The services provided by CoMPPAS are available to all students, allowing them to maximise their potential and enhance their performance. Careerhub is our online platform which provides access to your career portfolio, resources, events, workshops and consultations. This provides the platform for us to work with you individually to develop a bespoke career strategy.

Everything is designed around your needs as a student and particular supports are given to our students wishing to return and practice in North America. Not only do the CoMPPAS Team at RCSI support you throughout your journey at the university, they also provide support to our graduates for up to 3 years post-graduation.



Upon graduation I am planning to move back to Canada to practice. I have always been set on practicing in the private MSK setting; however, since going on a recent placement in a stroke rehabilitation ward **my eyes have opened up to the possibility of neurological physio.**



JAMES WRIGHT, CANADA  
PHYSIOTHERAPY,  
CLASS OF 2023

## 04 APPLICATION ESSENTIALS

All North American candidates who are domiciled in the USA or Canada in the year in which they are applying to RCSI should apply through our Admissions partner, The Atlantic Bridge Programme.

The Atlantic Bridge Programme, based in California, manages the applications process for all North American applicants on behalf of RCSI. Our intention is to provide applicants with an enhanced application service by basing our admissions service in North American time zones. The Atlantic Bridge website **atlanticbridge.com**

provides comprehensive information for North American applicants, including information on Entry Requirements, Financial Aid, Residency, Moving to Ireland and a useful FAQ section. US and Canadian nationals who are not domiciled in North America in the year in which they are applying, apply directly to RCSI using the Non EU online application system managed by the RCSI Admissions Office at **rcsi.com/Dublin**. Applications through Atlantic Bridge (AB) are available from July 1 with a normal application deadline of November 15. A late application deadline is available up until February 15.

### PHYSIOTHERAPY

Programme	<b>Physiotherapy Bsc</b>
Duration	4 Year Course The Graduate Entry Physiotherapy programme is 3 years in duration.
Minimum Academic Entry Requirements <i>A full list of entry requirements for the 5 and 6-year programme is available on the RCSI website.</i>	<p><b>CANADIAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA</b> Applicants must present a minimum average score of 80% in Grade 12, including competitive grades in two of the following subjects: Chemistry or Biology and Physics, Mathematics or Calculus.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA</b> Applicants must present a minimum overall average score of 80% in Grade 12, including competitive grades in two of the following subjects: Chemistry or Biology and Physics, Mathematics or Calculus.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) DIPLOMA</b> Applicants must attain a minimum score of 32 IB Diploma points (inclusive of bonus points) to include three subjects at Higher Level and three subjects at Standard Level. Subjects taken must include English, Mathematics* and at least one laboratory science subject. <i>*Both Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches and Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation are acceptable for application to RCSI</i></p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS</b> Students who hold (or expect to hold by July prior to entry) a competitive GPA* from a four-year undergraduate bachelor degree, preferably in a science-related field, are eligible to apply as graduate entry students. <i>* The Admissions Committee review all transcripts on an individual basis and there is some flexibility on the GPA score as course load and scoring systems can vary from one application to another. Graduate entry students, complete the course in 3 years</i></p>

LARISA SLIPENKYJ  
PHYSIOTHERAPY, CANADA  
CLASS OF 2019

**I am from Canada and I am a graduate of RCSI's Physiotherapy Class of 2019.** The question I get asked the most when I tell people I chose to study in Ireland is "why"? I always knew that I wanted to study abroad and RCSI offered me the best opportunity to do this.

The physiotherapy program offers small class sizes, a well balanced mix of theoretical learning and hands on experience. Dublin is a great city to live in and it was easy finding suitable accommodation. The placements are delivered in different cities throughout Ireland giving you an opportunity to live and experience all of Ireland.

The 3 years I spent at RCSI went quickly but by the end of my course I felt confident with the skills and theory I learned to begin working. RCSI education is considered to be similar to Canadian physiotherapy schools which provides an easier transition back to Canada. Most of all, I made lifelong friends that provide me with a great excuse to keep going back to visit. **I was welcomed into the warm and supportive community at RCSI, and I will always refer to Dublin as my second home.**










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## CONNECT WITH US

Chat to our current students today  
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