



RCSI

BSc Advanced Therapeutic Technologies Code of Conduct

2025-2026

RCSI DEVELOPING HEALTHCARE LEADERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WORLDWIDE

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RCSI Code of Conduct

As an undergraduate BSc (Advanced Therapeutic Technologies) student of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), you are preparing for a career in the Biopharmaceutical and related Industries and/or in scientific research. During your education and training you are obliged to abide by a set of standards. The Code of Conduct (Code) outlines the defined standards and the principles by which you must abide in the academic, research, industry or other training environment. You must formally agree to abide by the Code. Every BSc (ATT) student is personally responsible under the Code for their own acts or omissions. This Code applies from the first day of registration, both on and off campus.

The Code applies throughout the students' time in RCSI, whether engaged in university activities or otherwise.

Repetitive breaches of the Code will be cumulative.

Sanctions are the responsibility of RCSI and will be applied through the RCSI Disciplinary regulations. A breach of the Code could render you liable to action under the RCSI Disciplinary Regulations with sanctions imposed on you up to and including expulsion.

The Code is based on six core principles:

1. Develop your professional competence, skills and standing to bring scientific related health gain and value to the community and society.
2. Act according to the highest ethical principles at all times.
3. Demonstrate professional responsibility and behaviour.
4. Develop and maintain a high level of competence.
5. Be accountable for own actions and self-care.
6. Be aware of your obligations under the Code of Conduct and do not do anything which constitutes a breach of the Code.

RCSI takes seriously any breach of the Code. If your behaviour fails to meet the standards outlined in the Code, for any reason, the matter may be reviewed in accordance with RCSI's Disciplinary Regulations.

The following information is to direct you on the proper use of the Code in terms of your relationships and interactions with staff, fellow students, work placement tutors/colleagues, patients, carers, and other individuals with whom you come into contact.

Principle 1

- **Develop your professional competence, skills and standing to bring scientific related health gain and value to the community and society**

As a BSc (ATT) undergraduate student it is your responsibility to acquire all necessary knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and behaviours to become a competent science practitioner and not impede other students in acquiring the same knowledge and skills. This should guide you in your academic education, training and during professional placements.



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As a BSc (ATT) student you must:

- 1.1. Take responsibility for your learning.
 - 1.1.1. Use every opportunity to learn. Attend classes. Be punctual. Be contactable. Plan and use your time effectively.
 - 1.1.2. Reflect on feedback about your performance and respond constructively.
 - 1.1.3. Make informed decisions.
- 1.2. Engage constructively in assessment.
 - 1.2.1. Read and be familiar with the Marks and Standards (M&S) for your programme.
 - 1.2.2. Follow guidelines, complete and submit your course work on time.
 - 1.2.3. Appropriately reference the academic work of others.
 - 1.2.4. Never misrepresent data, coursework or information that could result in the awarding of a grade not reflective of your competence.
- 1.3. Recognise and stay within the limits of your competence.
 - 1.3.1. Recognise your limitations and ask for help, where and when appropriate.

Principle 2

- **Act According to the Highest Ethical Principles at all times**

As a BSc (ATT) undergraduate student you are required to adhere to internationally recognised ethical principles and practices in the conduct of your undergraduate study, situated learning work placement and research. These include but are not limited to adherence to regulations; good stewardship of research on behalf of others; avoidance of plagiarism or misrepresentation; avoidance of research misconduct; appropriateness of authorship; duty of care to self and others; compliance with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and/or patient confidentiality where applicable; compliance with ethical approval practices and accountability.

As a BSc (ATT) student you must:

- 2.1. Be honest and trustworthy in all your activities.
- 2.2. Take responsibility for your work, studies and behaviour.
- 2.3. Commit to being honest in the collection, analysis and reporting of findings from your research or programme of study.
- 2.4. Not participate in, condone or allow yourself to be associated with dishonesty, misrepresentation or fraud.
- 2.5. Ensure any funds you are responsible for are used for the purpose they are intended.



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- 2.6. Only take credit for work that you have done or generated and, where appropriate, give due acknowledgment when referring to the work of others, including the use of generative AI.
- 2.7. Ensure research data is stored appropriately in line with RCSI/work placement employer policies and relevant legislation.
- 2.8. Demonstrate Academic Integrity while refraining from any activity which constitutes academic misconduct including plagiarism and contract cheating.

Principle 3

- **Demonstrate Professional Responsibility and Behaviour**

As a BSc (ATT) undergraduate student, you are part of the broader RCSI community and as such are expected to conduct yourself with honesty, integrity and professionalism. Demonstrating respect for the dignity, views and rights of others is fundamental in forming and maintaining appropriate relationships with academic and administrative staff, fellow students and other individuals with whom you come into contact. When engaged in any interaction with patients or members of the public, use of patient data, care of animals or humans involved in research, you must be guided by your responsibility to act in the best interests of all concerned without influence of any personal consideration.

As a BSc (ATT) student you must:

- 3.1. Learn how to work in partnership with others in RCSI, its associated centres/Industry partners and other locations.
 - 3.1.1. Behave in a trustworthy and professional manner.
 - 3.1.2. Act with civility, dignity and respect towards all with whom you come into contact for your studies/research, both at RCSI, its associated centres/Industry partners and all other locations.
 - 3.1.3. Maintain proper professional boundaries with all whom you come into contact through your studies/research, both at RCSI, its associated centres/Industry partners and all other locations.
 - 3.1.4. Recognise diversity and respect the cultural differences, values and beliefs of others. Behave in a manner that demonstrates respect for equality and diversity. Do not engage publicly in degrading comments about others that include culture, nationality, ethnicity, colour, race, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability, size, civil status or family status.
 - 3.1.5. Refrain from behaviour that includes intimidation, foul language, threats of violence or retaliation.
 - 3.1.6. Listen to, and respect the opinions of others and be non-judgmental in your attitudes towards them.
 - 3.1.7. Demonstrate appropriate respect for the knowledge, insight, experience and expertise of others and be aware of the limitations of your knowledge and skills.
- 3.2. Demonstrate professional and academic standards.
 - 3.2.1. Where ethical approval is required for the conduct of research, you must ensure that appropriate ethical approval has been obtained in advance of the study.
 - 3.2.2. Exercise appropriate care and confidentiality in the collection, recording and storage of research or other data including complying with GDPR.



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- 3.2.3. Maintain the confidentiality of any patient information obtained by you as part of your studies/research.
 - 3.2.3.1. Make sure that patients, or anyone close to them, cannot be identified. This includes conversations and discussions in person and virtual / social networking sites, texts or e-mails, recordings of interviews or assignments on e.g. smart-phones and/or YouTube, and pictorial records, e.g., photographs and/or video clips.
 - 3.2.4. Comply with the HR and IP policies of Situated Learning work placement Industry host.
 - 3.2.5. Keep clear, accurate records of all research in ways that will allow verification and replication of your work by others.
 - 3.2.6. Avoid any conflict of interest and make relevant parties aware of any potential risk of having your judgement influenced by your personal interests.
 - 3.2.7. Share your data and findings openly and promptly, as soon as you establish priority and ownership claims. This applies to dissemination in poster, written report, oral, thesis or other format.
 - 3.2.8. If you become aware of any incident of irresponsible research, you must inform the relevant authorities within RCSI.
- 3.3. Protect the reputation and identity of RCSI.
 - 3.3.1. Behave in a manner that does not bring yourself, others or RCSI into disrepute, including online activity and the use of social networking services.
 - 3.3.2. Avoid using the RCSI identity to promote self-interest that is not in keeping with the values, rules, statutes or interests of RCSI.
 - 3.3.3. Engage with third parties in relation to your programme of study only with the prior approval of the Programme Director(s).
 - 3.3.4. Decline gifts or incentives in any form and do not engage in any commercial exercise that might harm the reputation of the research endeavour of RCSI.

Principle 4

- **Develop and Maintain a High Level of Competence**

Competence, the overall integration of knowledge, skills and abilities into professional science practice, is dynamic and demands that you keep up to date with change in order to maintain and continually develop your competencies. As a BSc (ATT) undergraduate student you must do this by engaging in all programme content including the professional formation modules.

As a BSc (ATT) student you must:

- 4.1. Commit to developing, and continuously improving, your professional knowledge and competence.
- 4.2. Learn from experience and grow from the knowledge gained from errors to avoid repeating them.
- 4.3. Ensure that you are aware of continuing professional development requirements.
- 4.4. Make a judgment as to whether you are competent to carry out a particular role or function.



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- 4.5. Acknowledge any limitations of competence and refuse in such cases to accept delegated or assigned research/work functions, particularly when engaged in activities that involve patients, patient information or animals.
- 4.6. Take measures to develop and maintain the competence necessary for professional and research practice.
- 4.7. Ask for help and support when experiencing difficulties related to your learning and research.

Principle 5

- **Be Accountable for Own Actions and Self-Care**

As a BSc (ATT) undergraduate student, you must recognise the importance of self-care and take responsibility for your own health, especially if it may impact negatively on other people. You must commit to being accountable for your own actions.

As a BSc (ATT) student you must:

- 5.1. Comply with all relevant RCSI health and safety requirements.
- 5.2. Be aware of any conditions of your funders/sponsors/employers (e.g. Government or other funder/employer) and abide by the conditions of your contracts and/or agreements with them. Familiarize yourself with and abide by intellectual property rights; regulations; relevant contractual agreements regarding disclosure of data and confidential information.
- 5.3. Be aware of your own health and how it impacts on you, on others, and your academic, research or professional responsibilities.
- 5.4. Seek prompt and appropriate professional advice about your general wellbeing, i.e. your physical or mental health, substance use or other issues which may impact on your ability to complete your studies or interact with staff or colleagues.
- 5.5. Inform appropriate RCSI staff if you are being affected by a major life event that is affecting your studies e.g. bereavement.
- 5.6. Inform appropriate RCSI staff of any disability or medical condition that might affect your ability or role as an undergraduate student that might put yourself, your colleagues or research subjects at risk or have an impact on animal welfare.
- 5.7. Inform appropriate RCSI staff if you take medicines that may:
 - 5.7.1. Impair your judgement.
 - 5.7.2. Impact on the safety of others.
 - 5.7.3. Impact on your ability to use laboratory, research facilities or research equipment.
 - 5.7.4. Impact your ability to follow procedures.



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5.8. Respect the confidentiality of your colleagues/fellow students but appropriately disclose information of concern, to include information regarding 5.4 above.

5.9. Co-operate with formal investigations about yourself or others.

Principle 6

- **Be aware of your obligations under the Code of Conduct and do not do anything which constitutes a breach of the Code**

It is the responsibility of all BSc (ATT) undergraduate students to make every reasonable effort to ensure that everything they do conforms with the principles laid down in the Code of Conduct.

As a BSc (ATT) student you must:

6.1. Ensure you are aware, apply and adhere to the principles of the Code of Conduct.

6.1.1. Promote and support the principles of the Code of Conduct by example.

6.1.2. Refrain from any activity that would negatively affect the reputation of the University.

6.1.3. Report breaches of the Code of Conduct to the appropriate member of staff.

6.2. Obey the law.

6.2.1. Personally and promptly disclose to the Associate Director for Academic Affairs the details of any criminal investigations;¹ charges for a criminal offence; pending prosecution for a criminal offence; conviction for a criminal offence (save for “spent” convictions) which may arise during your studies whether within or outside the Republic of Ireland.

6.3. Comply with University Policies, Rules and Regulations, and those of other organisations linked to your studies.

6.3.1. Respect all university and professional placement policies, procedures and property. Never willingly cause damage to such property, remove property from the premises in which it is located, or make use of property for personal reasons.

6.3.2. Ensure that you are contactable.

6.3.3. Supply accurate information in response to lawful requests and update that information as necessary.

6.3.4. Co-operate with honesty and openness in formal investigations about yourself or others.

¹ Criminal investigations include being arrested or interviewed under caution by a police officer whether in the Republic of Ireland or elsewhere.