



Online Postgraduate Diploma/MSc in Human Factors in Patient Safety General FAQs, 2025 intake

Who can apply for the online Postgraduate Diploma/MSc in Human Factors in Patient Safety programme?

This is an inter-professional online programme which is open to all healthcare professionals involved in the care of patients all around the world. This includes but not limited to: surgeons, emergency medicine physicians, physician associates, anesthesiologists, obstetricians, nurses and midwives, radiologists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, radiographers, social workers, dietitians, occupational therapists, other allied healthcare professionals and quality managers.

Is this a full-time or part-time course?

The programme is designed to suit the busy schedules of all health professionals and is a part-time online programme of study. The part-time programme is delivered over one year (PG Dip) or two years (MSc) using blended learning modalities. All didactic teaching is offered online, and students can access it from home in their own time.

What are the entry requirements for the Human Factors in Patient Safety programmes?

You must hold a Bachelor of Medicine (MB) or a primary degree in a health or social sciences field with a qualification achieved at the level of 2.2 honours. You must also provide evidence of at least two years' work experience in healthcare.

What is the structure of the programmes?

There are five taught modules which are delivered by experts in human factors in patient safety (in year one) plus advanced research methods and a research dissertation (in year two) for those that decide to undertake the Masters (MSc) in Human Factors in Patient Safety.

You can exit with a Postgraduate Diploma following the successful completion of 60 credits in year one.

Who accredits the programmes and are they recognised by regulatory bodies in Ireland or elsewhere in the world?

The Postgraduate Diploma and MSc in Human Factors in Patient Safety are accredited by the National University of Ireland and are Level 9 qualifications on the NFQ ([Irish National Framework of Qualification](#)). They are internationally-recognised on other regional frameworks such as the [European Qualifications Framework \(EQF\)](#) and the [Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area \(QF-EHEA\)](#).



Is it possible for someone to acquire a Postgraduate Diploma or Masters in Human Factors in Patient Safety with distant learning?

Yes, the programme is fully online. In year one, we have approximately 14 days of online interactive teaching which is delivered via our online learning platform – BlackBoard Collaborate within Moodle and can be accessed in the students own time.

What are the fees for the programmes?

Fees for the academic year 2025 are as follows:

- Postgraduate Diploma: €6,150 (Year 1)
- MSc: €4,000 (Year 2)

***Note** for NCHDs working in the HSE full-time: You may be able to combine CPD-SS funding and TSS funding to cover up to €2,740 of the cost of this programme. You can check if you are eligible for this funding by emailing cpdss@rcsi.com.

***Note** for nurses working in the HSE: You may be entitled to a specialist qualification allowance, payable to nurses employed directly on duties in specialist areas appropriate to the qualifications. [Please see here for more details](#).

How can I manage payment for this programme?

Payment can be made by instalments. Once enrolled in the programme, we can adjust your payment schedule as long as all fees are paid by the end of the term.

Is there tax relief on fees paid available?

You may qualify for tax relief on fees paid. Further information is available at revenue.ie.

Are there any scholarships available for this programme?

There are no scholarships currently available, however full or partial funding may be available from your hospital to cover the cost of this programme. Further information is available from your line manager.

How can I apply for the Human Factors in Patient Safety programmes?

All applications are processed online. [You can commence your application here](#).

What is the closing date for applications for the Human Factors in Patient Safety Postgraduate programmes?

Applications for 2025 intake are now open and will close on Wednesday, 6 August 2025 or sooner if places are filled, so we advise you to apply as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

All applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and places offered accordingly (offers may be made subject to meeting all application criteria at a later time).



Will, there be any face-to-face elements to this programme?

All classes will be delivered online. There will be no face-to-face elements to this programme.

Will the graduation ceremony for this programme be held online or face-to-face?

Graduation ceremonies will be held face-to-face on RCSI campus with the possibility to graduate in-absentia and have the parchments sent by post.

How will online assessment for this programme work?

Assessment for this programme will consist of:

- A written assignment that is uploaded to Moodle
- Group projects and presentations that are presented during our online interactive days via Blackboard Collaborate
- Discussion board posts which are uploaded weekly onto the module page

What documents do I need to submit my application?

Application checklist:

- CV
- Copy of passport
- Copy of educational transcripts
- Proof of sponsorship (where applicable)
- A 500-800 word response to the question 'Why is healthcare still not safe'. References are optional and are not included in the word count.
- Letter from current employer
- Evidence of English language qualification* (where applicable)