



**RCSI** SURGICAL  
AFFAIRS

# SURGICAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME (SFP)





## SFP INTRODUCTION

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES IN IRELAND

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) is one of Ireland's longest established and most respected health sciences institutions. For more than two centuries the College has pushed the barriers of innovation, driving medical breakthroughs and delivering

world-class healthcare education. With students from over 80 countries, the College has a global perspective in its training of future clinical professionals.

RCSI is the accredited Postgraduate Training Body for the delivery of Surgical Training Programmes in the Republic of Ireland. It is recognised for this purpose by the Irish Medical Council (IMC) and the Health Service Executive (HSE). The RCSI is the advisory body for all matters in relation to Core and Specialist Training and makes recommendations for the awarding of the Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST) in Ireland.

Surgery International at the Department of Surgical Affairs in RCSI provides opportunities for international medical graduates (from outside

EU / EEA / Switzerland) to undertake 2 years of structured postgraduate surgical training in Ireland.

Under the International Medical Graduate Training Initiative (IMGTI), in conjunction with the HSE, RCSI delivers its Surgical Fellowship Programme (SFP). This programme provides surgical speciality training for international surgical trainees at RCSI training sites in Ireland.

RCSI welcomes applications from suitably qualified surgical trainees who have been nominated by their employer or other sponsoring agency. There is a robust application and selection process in place for a limited number of training positions in Ireland. The College looks forward to working closely with sponsors and intending candidates on the RCSI Surgical Fellowship Programme.

Professor Oscar Traynor MCh FRCSI  
Professor of Postgraduate Surgical Education

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# ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) has been at the forefront of educating healthcare professionals since 1784 when it was founded as the national training and professional body for surgery. Now it is Ireland's only focused health sciences institution, Ireland's largest medical school and one of the leading health sciences institutions in the world. There are more than 23,000 healthcare professionals in 97 countries worldwide who have been educated or trained by RCSI and more than 4,000 candidates are enrolled on the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at the College annually.



L-R Dr Ali Zahir and Dr Fozan Aldulaijan 2014 SFP Candidates

RCSI has campuses in Bahrain, Dubai and Malaysia. The College also partners with many other world-class academic institutions and has Collaborative Agreements in place with US universities including the University of California, University of Pennsylvania, University of Massachusetts and Johns Hopkins Medical School, and with colleges and universities in countries such as the United Kingdom, Australia, Norway and the West Indies.

**RCSI is ranked in the top 201-250 institutions worldwide in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings (2018-2019).**

Our strong performance in the THE World University Rankings is an affirmation of RCSI's strategic investment in the expansion of our educational and research activities to provide impactful research, excellence in education and international leadership in medical education. It is also testament to the strong commitment to excellence by our faculty, staff and students.

## RCSI INTERNATIONAL





# DEPARTMENT OF SURGICAL AFFAIRS, RCSI

The Department of Surgical Affairs at RCSI is to the forefront internationally in terms of delivering innovative and progressive postgraduate surgical training. Modern, cutting-edge curricula and methods of training/assessment are underpinned by continued investment in research and IT platforms.

The Department is responsible also for accrediting Training Posts in Irish hospitals, for certifying trainees who have completed Core and Higher Surgical Training programmes satisfactorily, and for assessing the training and experience of non-EU surgeons who wish to work in Ireland on behalf of the Irish Medical Council (IMC).

Surgical Affairs is mandated exclusively by the IMC to administer the statutory Professional Competence Scheme for the surgical profession in Ireland. RCSI is also

retained by the Health Service Executive (HSE) to provide a Professional Development Programme to non-consultant hospital doctors in surgical posts.

The Department also has a significant international profile running postgraduate examinations, training courses and certification programmes in the GCC, Middle East and South East Asia.



**RCSI** **SURGICAL AFFAIRS**



## RCSI SURGICAL SPECIALTIES INCLUDE

- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- General Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Paediatric Surgery
- Plastic Surgery
- Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery
- Urology
- Vascular Surgery

## RCSI TRAINING HOSPITALS IN IRELAND INCLUDE

- Beaumont Hospital
- Connolly Hospital
- Cork University Hospital
- Letterkenny General Hospital
- Mater Misericordiae Hospital
- Mid-Western Regional Hospital
- Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital
- Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin
- Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Hospital
- Sligo University Hospital
- South Infirmity Victoria University Hospital
- St. James's Hospital
- St. Luke's Hospital
- St. Vincent's University Hospital
- Tallaght Hospital
- Temple Street Children's University Hospital
- University Hospital Galway
- University Hospital Waterford
- Wexford General Hospital

# TRAINING FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES IN IRELAND

The International Medical Graduate (IMG) Training Initiative provides a route for overseas doctors wishing to undergo structured postgraduate medical training within the public health service in Ireland. The initiative is managed and governed by representatives of the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies and the Health Service Executive (HSE).

This initiative enables overseas trainees to undertake a fixed period of active training in clinical services in Ireland. The purpose of the IMG Training Initiative is to enable doctors to access clinical experience and training with a view to enhancing and improving the individual's medical training and learning and, in the long-term, the health services in their own countries.

This IMG Training Initiative facilitates access to two years of structured clinical training as developed by participating Training Bodies to specifically meet the clinical needs of participants as defined by their home country's health service.

Training under this initiative is provided in clinical departments approved for postgraduate specialist training in Ireland. IMG's must register with the Irish Medical Council under the Supervised Division for the duration of the programme and return to sponsoring hospital / country on completion of their time on the SFP.

## RCSI IMG PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The RCSI Surgical Fellowship Programme (SFP) has been established under the auspices of the IMG Training Initiative. The programme is modelled on the latter years of Specialty Training in Ireland in terms of curriculum, delivery and assessment.

**Fellows participate in the scheme in two distinct locations:**

### 1. WORKPLACE-BASED EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Fellows train in leading teaching hospitals that are accredited to deliver surgical training in their specialty. They are attached to two or more Consultant Trainers and fully participate in the clinical work of the Consultant's team.

### 2. OFF-SITE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

The curriculum of the SFP is module-based. Off-site components are delivered at the National Surgical Training Centre at RCSI's campus in Dublin City Centre.

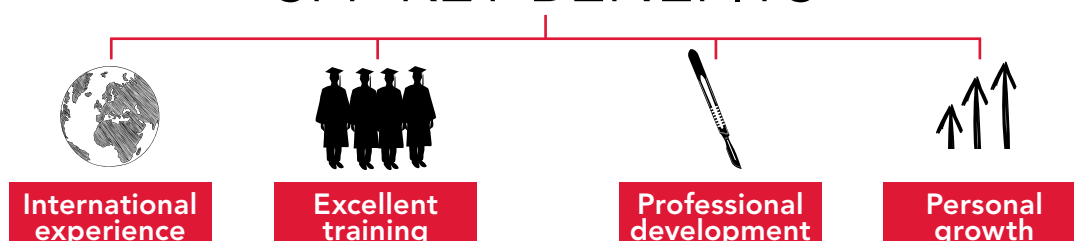


These include:

- Core Knowledge and Clinical Judgement
- Surgical Technical Skills
- Personal Skills and Human Factors

The SFP is aimed at International Medical Graduates who wish to develop sub-specialty expertise. Candidates are nominated by their sponsoring hospital and those selected to the programme spend two years in clinical training in Ireland. Candidates have a fully immersive experience. Fellows will return to their sponsoring hospital on completion of the SFP, with the skills, experience and professional attributes necessary to take up senior appointments.

## SFP KEY BENEFITS



# OTHER SUPPORTS



Professional services and relocation support and expertise provided by RCSI partners; Castel Education. The services provided by Castel will ensure you have a smooth and seamless transition to Ireland which allows you to focus on your clinical training programme.

## 1. Pre-arrival

- Irish Medical Council Registration
  - Castel's team of registration specialists will guide you through registration with the Irish Medical Council in preparing your application, the documents required and an overall review of your application before submission.
  - If you have not met the English Language requirement for Irish Medical Council registration, Castel Education offers a dedicated one to one online video based tuition (Castel Connected) to prepare you for your IELTS examination.
- Visa and Atypical Working Scheme application advice and support
  - Castel's immigration specialists will advise you on your personal Visa application and also Visa

process for any immediate family together with the Atypical Working Scheme permit.

## 2. Post-arrival

- Meeting at airport, welcome pack and transfers
  - Upon your arrival in Ireland Castel will provide you with airport pick-up, transfer to short stay accommodation and your personal information pack.
- Accommodation advice
  - Castel's services will facilitate your accommodation arrangements in Ireland with a short stay upon arrival if required; arrange viewings of suitable long-term accommodation in your chosen area and a review of your lease agreement.
- Setting up bank accounts and utilities as required
  - Castel can advise on banking, mobile phone, health insurance, car rental and general utilities as required.
- Information on services for local schools, mosques, leisure facilities etc.
  - Castel will engage with schools in the area you have chosen to reside to establish availability, application process at pre-school and primary school level.

## 3. Other supports as required

# TESTIMONIALS



"My time spent on RCSI's Surgical Fellowship Programme was really a great experience and opportunity. The RCSI support and guidance made my dream real to work in the Liver Transplant Unit in St. Vincent's Hospital. In particular RCSI provided invaluable assistance in moving to Ireland which was most helpful for me and my family". **Dr Nabeel Mansi. HPB Fellowship 2013, St Vincent's Hospital, Dublin.**

"As a 2013 candidate on the Surgical Fellowship Programme in Ireland I was honoured to receive a place on the programme and am most grateful for the opportunities it provided me. As a surgical graduate in Saudi Arabia, I always dreamed of going to Europe to continue my surgical journey and working to become a consultant colorectal surgeon. Being at RCSI and Beaumont hospital helped me realise my dreams and I had the opportunity to work directly with one of the best colorectal surgeons in Dublin. Without a doubt, my fellowship training played a key role in achieving my educational visions. I cannot deny the great support from my first day in Dublin from RCSI, not only educationally but also social support and encouragement". **Dr Ameera Balhareth. Colorectal Fellowship 2014, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin.**



"The Surgical Fellowship Programme in RCSI offered me a well-rounded skill set in colorectal surgery including first-rate multi-tasking skills. My training was very helpful in improving my skills in managing surgical services and it also provided me with an opportunity to build my operative speciality skills and apply these new skills in practice. RCSI's city centre location is very convenient and accessible, particularly beneficial when becoming established in a new city". **Dr Mohammed Tahtouh. Colorectal Fellowship 2014, Tallaght Hospital, Dublin.**





# APPLICATION PROCESS

1. The Surgical Fellowship Programme will commence in January and July each year.
2. Each candidate should meet the following application criteria before applying for a place on the programme:
  1. Undergraduate Medical Degree from a recognised institution\*
  2. Completed residency / structured postgraduate training programme
  3. Board-level specialty Certificate or equivalent
  4. Full Current Registration with Registration Authority of Sponsor country
  5. MRCS Part A & B exam successfully completed or as a minimum accepted alternative to PRES Level 2 exam as follows:
    - Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) Part 1
    - United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE) Step 1 and 2
    - Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination (MCCEE)
    - Australian Medical Council MCQ (AMC)
  6. English language test results must be current and dated within the last two years of submitting Irish Medical Council application:
    - IELTS certificate with overall score of 7.0 and a minimum of 6.5 in each of the four domains; or
    - OET Certificate with overall grade of B with a minimum of B in each of the four domains; or
    - Completion of their medical degree in the any of the following countries – Ireland, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, or United States
  7. Evidence of Financial Sponsorship
3. Successful candidates will be shortlisted and invited to make a full application. Thereafter they will be required to attend an interview with RCSI Interview Board.

**\* Recognised by the World Health Organisation**



Candidates who wish to make an expression of interest application can do so at any time by clicking [here](#)

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