CORE SPECIALIST TRAINING IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE (CSTEM)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions
Core Specialist Training in Emergency Medicine (CSTEM)

This document contains information on the following range of topics:

- **General information**
- **Eligibility**
- **Irish Medical Council registration**
- **The CSTEM training programme**
- **The online application**
- **Technical troubleshooting & queries**

General

Q: Is there a fee for the CSTEM training programme?

A: No, but there is an application fee of 50 Euro (non-refundable), payable via credit card at point of submission of online application.

Q: Is there an application fee?

A: Yes, it is 50 Euro (non-refundable), payable via credit card at point of submission of online application.

Q: Can I get a scholarship/fellowship for CSTEM?

A: There are no scholarships or fellowships available for this programme. Each trainee is employed by the HSE and receives a contract in advance of commencement on the programme and their employment date (Second Monday of July annually) from the allocated Hospital.

Q: Is there limit on how many times I can apply to CSTEM?

A: No, there is currently no limit to number of times you can apply to the CSTEM Programme.

Q: Should I have my MRCEM completed before I apply for the programme

A: No, however, you must have passed all elements of MRCEM by Year 3 of CSTEM to be eligible to progress to advanced training in Emergency Medicine (ASTEM).

Q: I have missed the application deadline, what can I do?

A: No applications can be submitted after the deadline. If you have missed the deadline you must wait to apply the following year. We advise all applicants to ensure you have all your documentation prepared well in advance of the published deadline including structured reference forms as part of the online application.

Eligibility

Q: Am I eligible for CSTEM?

A: Please see eligibility criteria documentation on the webpage HERE .

Q: Can I join the programme without a Medical Degree?

A: No, you must hold a full Medical Degree to apply for CSTEM.

Q: Do I need to complete an intern year?

A: Yes, please see more details with regard to Registration on the Irish Medical Council website at www.medicalcouncil.ie .

Q: I completed my Medical Degree in English in non-English speaking country. Do I still need to provide IELTS or OET results?

A: Please see documentation in relation to this HERE.

Q: I am a non-EU national, am I eligible for CSTEM?

A: Please see eligibility criteria documentation on the webpage HERE.

Medical Council Queries

Q: How can I apply for Medical Council Registration (IMC)?

A: Please visit the Irish Medical Council website www.medicalcouncil.ie for information re eligibility for Registration.

Q: Do I need to pay my registration fee for the IMC before applying?

A: No, you must prove you are eligible for the General Division of the Register, not that you have already registered. An email from the IMC is sufficient proof of your eligibility status.

Q. Why do you ask for an IMC number?

A. While we do not require registration with the IMC to have been completed by the time of application to CSTEM, it can be a lengthy process. To ensure that there will be no delays in completing registration before commencement on the programme, your application to the IMC must be started by the time of application. It also serves as a unique identifier for applicants.

Q. My application with the IMC is still pending, how do I input an IMC number?

A. You will have received an application number with your application to the IMC. This number will become your IMC number for life once your registration is complete. This is a 6-digit number and should be inputted where the application requests an IMC number.

References

Q: Do I need referees?

A: Yes, it is mandatory to have two referees, you will be required to submit their details once you start your online application, your referees will then receive a template to complete and submit online. No applications can be submitted without 2 referees returned electronically.

Q: Where do I find the reference forms?

A: The reference forms are hosted on our online application site. You will be instructed to provide contact details for your referees and they receive a link via email to complete a reference form for you. Please confirm that each referee is happy to complete a reference for you prior to including them on your application.

Q: Are there stipulations as to who the referees can be?

A: Where possible your referees should be from clinical posts with one being from your current or most recent post.

The Application

Q. Is there a certain Document Format for Online Applications?

A. Allowed file extensions: "jpg", "jpeg", "jpe", "png", "gif" "txt", "doc", "docx", "pdf", "xls", "xlsx", "rtf" If you upload a PDF this will increase the size of the document.

Q. Is there a limit to characters when uploading a document?

A. Yes, please limit to 150 characters including file name and file path

Q. What is your degree entry method if you attended an international university?

A. Please choose 'other' and state direct entry or graduate entry etc as appropriate

Q: What proof is required when submitting presentations?

A: An invitation or email from the meeting or conference team confirming your presentation slot.

Q: What supporting documents are required for Research in Progress?

A: A letter or email of confirmation from your supervisor (must be Consultant level, not another trainee)

Q: How do I provide proof of audit?

A: A letter from you consultant stating the nature/name of the audit and confirming your participation or published abstract from a national meeting programme including your name as a listed author or a published paper from a journal listing you as an author.

Q. Can I list an audit with an expected finish date?

A. Audits in progress cannot be added to the audit section, however can be included in the additional information section of the application or as research in progress.

Q. How are different aspects of the application marked (i.e. MRCEM status, master's degree, audits, presentations, etc.)?

A. There are no defined scores awarded on the application but would demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning which would be taken into account under "Dedication to Emergency Medicine" during interview.

The Training Programme

Q: Can a CSTEM trainee avail of the HSE Flexible training scheme?

A: The HSE Flexible Training scheme is open to trainees from CSTEM year 2 onwards.

Q: How many places are available on the CSTEM Programme?

A: 26 Training places are available each year (subject to review year on year by RCSI, NDTP/HSE)

Q: Can I defer my place?

A: No deferrals are permitted.

Q: Will my CSTEM cert be accepted to apply directly to higher training in other countries?

A: You would need to check this with the the training body in the country where you are applying for Specialty training.

Q. Are year one posts allocated competitive? When do you submit your preferences for these?

A. Yes, they are competitive, there is an electronic match based on ranking from interview scoring. Candidates rank choices from the full list of rotation sets 1 – 26 if they receive a round one offer following interview.

Q. Can I get credit for completing a different training programme and do less than two years on CSTEM?

A. No, you must complete the full three year programme

Some technical questions:

Q: Can I do my application on a smart phone?

A: No, we strongly advise that you use a laptop/desktop for optimum performance.

Q: Can I do my application in my hospital?

A: We recommend you don't try to do your application in the hospital as there can be firewall /internet speed issues.

Q: Is there a recommended browser for the CSTEM online application site?

A: For optimum performance on the CSTEM application site we recommend using Google Chrome

Q: I am having an issue accessing the site or uploading my documents, what should I do?

A: If you are experiencing technical issues we recommend you try a couple of things such as clear your cache on your computer; switch to incognito mode on your browser. (You can readily find information online on how to do this)

Q. When attempting to register for CSTEM Online I am receiving the error: "a duplicate user account was found with mismatching information" What should I do?

A. If you are attempting to register with an RCSI email that is, or has been, associated with one of the college portals (student portal, library portal, tutor portal, etc.) you will receive this error message. Please contact cstem@rcsi.com providing a screenshot of the error and your RCSI email address in order to have your Portal User Account reset and enable you to proceed.

Q: I'm having a technical issue with my application and the suggestions listed have not helped, what should do?

A: Please take some screen shots of the error messages or relevant pages & email them to: cstem@rcsi.ie

If you query is not answered above please contact us via email at: cstem@rcsi.ie