



# THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

## ETHICON FOUNDATION TRAVEL GRANTS, 2021

### Description

The Ethicon Foundation Fund was established in RCSI through the generosity of ETHICON to support the awarding of travel grants on an annual basis to surgical trainees of the RCSI. The purpose of the Fund is to promote international goodwill in surgery by providing financial assistance to allow travel overseas to visit centres of excellence for clinical training purposes. The experience to be gained from the overseas visit would not normally be available to the applicant in Ireland.

The number and value of grants awarded will be at the discretion of the Ethicon Advisory Board on an annual basis. The minimum value of each grant will be €1,000 and higher amounts at the discretion of the Selection Board..

The Board will meet in the spring of each year to consider the award of the grants and to make recommendations to the College.

### Criteria

Among the criteria the Board will consider in making its recommendations, will be the:

- Merits of the proposed centre in relation to the candidate's learning objectives.
- Candidate's curriculum vitae.
- Likely value to the Irish health service from the proposed overseas visit.

### Eligibility

Applications will be considered from the following:

- Surgical trainees who, at the date of application, are at an advanced stage of surgical training in the RCSI, and are Members or Fellows of the RCSI and in good standing.
- Fellows or Members of the RCSI in good standing who have completed surgical training in the RCSI within two years from the date of application.

Candidates are encouraged to plan as far in advance as possible as retrospective applications may be disqualified. The Advisory Board favours applicants who have already received academic distinction in their postgraduate education and applications which demonstrate that the applicant is using their initiative to obtain experience above and beyond that which they would likely derive from clinical experience in Ireland. The applicants must have clear and specific objectives for the proposed visit. The Board does not favour applications for travel grants from those wishing to attend conferences or scientific meetings.

### Application Process

Ethicon Foundation Travel Grants will be advertised early in each calendar year on the RCSI website as well as via email. It is the responsibility of the trainee to ensure that his/her completed application is received **in full** before the closing date.

The applicant must, before the indicated closing date, submit the following to Ms Ger Conroy (gconroy@rcsi.ie):

- A completed application form;
- A copy of their Curriculum Vitae.
- Written acknowledgement from the unit to be visited.

## Report

The award provides a contribution towards the cost of travel for the applicant only. Successful candidates will be asked to submit a report on return from their visit. The College reserves the right to publish this report.

The report should outline the following:

- Background to the country/area with some relevant health statistics.
- Challenges brought about by the above.
- Images/photographs.
- Conditions (especially contrasts with neighbouring facilities, where they exist).
- Personal reflections on the work and its impact on you and patients, the highs and lows.
- Support of those around you.
- If, and how, it challenged/stretched you, both professionally and personally.

Any subsequent publication based on work undertaken during the applicant's overseas visit should acknowledge the Ethicon Foundation Travel Grant and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Failure to submit a report and expenses within three months of the completion of travel will result in withdrawal of the Award

Candidates must inform the College of any change in their circumstances which will prevent them completing their overseas visit. The College may, on the advice of the Ethicon Foundation Fund Advisory Board, withdraw all or a proportion of the initial grant. Applicants will have 18 months, maximum, from date of award, to participate in the nominated travel. Failure to do so will result in withdrawal not only of the financial reward but also the actual award from the applicant's CV. Successful recipients must submit documented and receipted travel expenses.

## Closing Date for 2021 awards

For the 2021 awards, the closing date for receipt of applications is: **Friday 15th January 2021.**