



Higher Surgical Training – Intake 2026

Eligibility for Registration – Guidance

The NCHD Contract requires all junior doctors participating in a structured training programme to hold Trainee Specialist registration. To establish eligibility for registration in the Trainee Specialist Division, applicants must first be eligible for registration in the General Division.

Given the Training Bodies' role in the selection of trainees to training programmes and the subsequent proposal of such trainees to employment positions within the health service, it is required that all applicants to training programmes would either hold or be eligible to hold registration on the General or Trainee Specialist Division.

In that context all applicants must indicate at time of application their eligibility to hold registration on the General or Trainee Specialist Division. Please note candidates who do not currently hold Medical Council registration must make an application to the Medical Council immediately.

The Medical Council have advised that the following candidates can be automatically considered eligible for the General and Trainee Specialist Divisions:

1. Doctors who are currently or previously registered on the General or Trainee Specialist Division
2. Doctors who are eligible for registration in the General Division
3. Doctors who graduated from an Irish Medical School and successfully completed their internship in Ireland or will have completed their internship by July 2025
4. Doctors who have successfully completed their medical qualification in one the following EU countries:
 - Austria
 - Belgium
 - Bulgaria
 - Croatia
 - Cyprus
 - Czech Republic
 - Estonia
 - Finland
 - France
 - Germany
 - Greece
 - Hungary
 - Latvia
 - Netherlands

- Romania
- Spain
- Switzerland
- Slovak Republic

Candidates who qualified in an EU member state other than one of the above will be required to provide, in addition to their medical degree, additional documentation stated in the EU Directive 2005/36/EC, in order to establish eligibility for registration in the General Division. Example, a doctor who qualifies in Poland will be asked to provide a LEK and an internship in addition to his/her medical degree when applying for registration.

Please note the Medical Council cannot confirm a doctor's eligibility for general registration until an application for registration has been submitted to the Council and assessed. Note that it will take between 6 to 8 weeks before an application is fully examined and confirmation of a doctor's eligibility for trainee specialist registration cannot be provided before that time. Candidates are advised to apply to the Medical Council for registration and following submission of an application contact the Medical Council to seek an email confirming eligibility for registration in the General Division. This email confirming eligibility must be submitted with your application.

Applicants who have qualified outside the EU must pass or be exempt from the PRES to establish eligibility for registration in the General Division.

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