



EU PROSPECTUS 2020

Medicine  
Pharmacy  
Physiotherapy

**RCSI**  
Leading  
the World  
to Better  
Health







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# 1. Who We Are

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Our mission is to educate, nurture and discover for the benefit of human health.

**At the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, everything we do is designed to serve patients.**

Our College was created – through the granting of a royal charter on 11 February 1784 – to set and support professional standards for surgical training and practice in Ireland. This surgical heritage continues to shape our approach to education, research and service today. At its very essence, surgery is the most exacting of disciplines, demanding professionalism, precision, skill and expertise at the highest level.

We are an innovative, world-leading international health sciences education and research College with undergraduate and postgraduate schools and faculties across the health sciences spectrum. We are home to numerous healthcare institutes as well as leading research centres that drive pioneering breakthroughs in human health. Located in the heart of Dublin, with international campuses in Bahrain and Malaysia – and a student community of over 60 nationalities – we have an international perspective on how we train tomorrow's clinical professionals today.





A deep, professional responsibility to enhance human health through endeavour, innovation and collaboration in education, research and service informs all that we do. We welcome students and researchers into programmes of academic excellence. They will establish lifelong relationships with a community of clinically led colleagues, who will nurture and support them, enabling them to realise their potential to serve our global patient community.

We are an independent, not-for-profit body and remain committed to institutional independence, service, academic freedom, diversity and humanitarian concern. Our independence enables us to chart our own course in the service of excellence in human health. Placing the patient at the centre of all that we do, our values of respect, collaboration, scholarship and innovation continue to unite and direct our purpose.



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Meet people from every corner of the globe and find the club or society that suits you.

## 2. Why Choose the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland?

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### A Singular Focus on Healthcare

Healthcare is all we do. Every decision, every lecture, each practical demonstration and research study focus on enhancing human health. You will be part of our dynamic community of inspirational international educators, experienced clinicians and ground-breaking researchers – all working to improve health outcomes.

We are unique in offering the entire medical education spectrum, from undergraduate and postgraduate to continuous professional development. This big-picture view helps us understand, more than most, what it takes to develop 21st-century healthcare professionals and we shape our offering accordingly.

### Reputation and Independent Pursuit of Excellence

RCSI is one of the top 250 (top 2%) universities worldwide in the 2019 Times Higher Education World University Rankings and ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> out of all universities in the Republic of Ireland.

Unlike most medical schools, which are part of large multi-faculty, government-funded universities, RCSI is an independent, not-for-profit institution. This independence allows us to pursue our own priorities in the pursuit of excellence in medical education, training and research. We set the pace that others follow. One example of this is our investment in 2017 in opening Europe's largest clinical simulation centre, developed to ensure that we continue to produce graduates with excellent communication and clinical skills.

### High-Impact Research

With our focus on clinical and patient-centred research, we are continually seeking out ground-breaking discoveries to address the health challenges of our time. Our research agenda drives scientific breakthroughs, innovations and insights that allow us to understand and respond quickly to the world's changing healthcare needs.

We have the highest research citation rate in Ireland and our field-weighted citation is double the world average. That means we do not just teach at RCSI, we are deeply committed to exploring and solving healthcare's greatest demands, as they exist today. Our insights enhance patient treatment and care, while attracting the very best healthcare professionals in their fields to teach at RCSI. We strategically invest in our researchers and research facilities to deliver on our mission of leading the world to better health.

### RCSI Key Research Themes

1. Biomaterials and Regenerative Medicine
2. Cancer
3. Neurological and Psychiatric Disorders
4. Population Health and Health Services
5. Surgical Science and Practice
6. Vascular Biology

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Our leading clinicians are  
your leading teachers.

### Early Patient Contact

From the start of your training, you will apply what you learn in the lecture theatre to patients and clinical situations in RCSI teaching hospitals. These early clinical experiences are a combination of patient case studies, consultation labs, medical actors, volunteer patients and high-fidelity clinical simulator technologies.

## Experiential Opportunities

During your time at RCSI, you can participate in our research summer school and clinical electives.

### Research Summer School

From year one, you can spend your summer as part of a medical research team conducting clinical or laboratory research while receiving a financial stipend from RCSI.

### Clinical Electives

You can also participate in electives involving direct patient clinical care in some of the world's leading hospitals or in developing parts of the world. Our dedicated team helps applicants source and manage these experiences through our network of strategic partnerships, including the Johns Hopkins Hospital Group, Columbia University Medical Center and the Mayo Clinic in the United States of America.





## Hands-On Teaching Environment

We are home to Europe's largest clinical simulation facility. From the earliest stages, you will combine classroom learning with hands-on experience in simulated and real clinical environments at RCSI teaching hospitals. You will learn anatomy through regional cadaveric dissection and benefit from being taught by working surgeons and healthcare professionals.

Our programmes provide you with the breadth of knowledge and range of skills you need to shape your career. RCSI's curriculum is constantly evolving to ensure that you have everything you need to be a successful doctor, physiotherapist, pharmacist or researcher. Our approach to teaching recognises the importance of balancing medical knowledge with experiential learning.

Internationally, RCSI has an outstanding reputation for innovation in surgical training, medical education and scientific research.

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We are home to  
Europe's largest clinical  
simulation facility.







## Global Impact

As a leading institution in healthcare, medicine and research, we advance health and well-being worldwide. We continuously seek ways to further our humanitarian goals and make an impact on a global scale. An example of this is our partnership with the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa, COSECSA.

RCSI and COSECSA have been working together to increase the number of trained surgeons and to improve the quality of surgical care in sub-Saharan Africa. The aim of the programme is to create a sustainable training institution, which can rapidly increase the number of surgical specialists and improve surgical care in the region.

In addition to our Dublin campus, RCSI also has universities in Bahrain and Malaysia. The RCSI Medical University of Bahrain is a constituent university of RCSI and is licensed by the Higher Education Council in

the Kingdom of Bahrain as an independent private university. Like RCSI Dublin, it is a not-for-profit health sciences institution focused on nursing and medicine programmes along with research to drive positive change in all areas of human health worldwide.

The RCSI and UCD Malaysia Campus (RUMC) is Malaysia's first accredited private medical school, owned and established by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and University College Dublin (UCD). This campus offers a medicine programme only. Students studying in this programme spend the first two years in Dublin and complete the remainder of the degree in Penang.

## 3. What You Will Experience

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### Life in Dublin

Dublin is a great city to experience as a student and RCSI's central location offers you a unique opportunity to study in the heart of the city-centre on the beautiful St. Stephen's Green. There are over 75,000 students living in Dublin, which offers you a lively social life and an opportunity to make many new friends.

Dublin boasts a host of outdoor activities, amenities and a vibrant nightlife for students. The city is packed with attractions for local and international students alike. Whether you are looking for coffee shops, restaurants, music, sports fixtures, museums or any form of entertainment, Dublin caters for every taste.

### City Campus Living

Our city-centre campus is located in the heart of Dublin and is built to meet the needs of your present and future.

Perfectly situated to provide you with a balanced life during your studies, the campus is easily accessed by public transport and surrounded by cultural hotspots, shops, cafés and restaurants.

You will study at our purpose-built facilities, including Europe's largest clinical simulator and our original buildings. Two centuries of graduates committed to improving patients' lives launched their careers in these exact spaces.











## Student Events

College life needs to be a healthy balance between study and recreation. Your workload will be demanding, but we also want you to experience the full spectrum of life at RCSI. Our numerous clubs and societies are active throughout the year and there are always fantastic student events to allow you to unwind after a busy week of study.

Some of the most memorable RCSI moments happen outside the classroom. During the year, you might raise vital funds for charity, achieve your sports goals and go to the best parties in town.

The events calendar is packed all year round. Popular events include the College Ball, International Food Night, the Chocolate Ball and the Teddy Bear Hospital. There is also a month-long series of events as part of RCSI Cultural Diversity Month, which showcases the culture, traditions, food, music and dance from RCSI students' home countries.

Our rugby team travels to France each year to compete against a Parisian medical school and our runners have competed in the Boston Marathon for over 20 years. If you like the great outdoors, the RCSI Climbing and Mountaineering Club organises a number of members' climbing trips to some of the highest peaks in Ireland.

## Clubs and Societies

Our clubs and societies allow you to become immersed in a mixed community of Irish and international students. While the academic programmes are demanding, it is essential that you take time away from the books to find a suitable study/life balance. We have more than 35 active clubs and 40 active societies. There is truly something for everyone.

Extracurricular activities help you develop strong interpersonal skills, values and attitudes. Our graduates often remind us of the importance of participating in student life and how it gave them the edge in their postgraduate training and chosen careers.

The student societies include drama, music, photography and publishing. Our careers societies include paediatrics, neuroscience, pathology and ophthalmology. Sports clubs include archery, athletics and climbing while team sports include soccer, rugby, hockey and basketball. The full list of clubs and societies is shown on the RCSI website.

## Facilities

### Library

The RCSI Libraries provide services to meet the learning and research needs of our healthcare practitioners. One library is located in our city-centre campus and there is another in Beaumont Hospital. You will have access to a wide range of study and social spaces, an extensive collection of biomedical resources and an expert library team. Library spaces are designed with students in mind, providing a high-tech learning environment to support both collaborative and individual study.

We can assist you in evaluating, using and managing information as this is an integral part of your studies. The library team supports this through curriculum sessions,

a dedicated team at information desks, online guides and resources, plus one-to-one consultations throughout the year. As you progress through your programme, library staff are there to help you find and use information at all stages of your studies. The Library is also proud to preserve RCSI's unique historical materials, covering over two centuries of medical and healthcare history in Ireland. You have access to this wealth of medical history and the opportunity to engage with these collections through exhibitions, visiting the Heritage Collections Reading Room and/or undertaking research projects as part of the Research Summer School.



## Fitness Centre

The sports and fitness centre spans two floors and provides students with the very best facilities to help balance academia with a fit and healthy lifestyle. The extensive opening hours mean that it is open when it suits you, be it an early session to wake you up, a lunchtime workout to invigorate your afternoon's study or a late-night routine to finish your day.

The fitness centre caters for everyone, from complete beginners to regular exercisers, and is fitted out with premium gym equipment. We also have a full intervarsity regulation sports hall that can host many indoor sports and is freely accessible to all of our students.







### Simulation Centre

The largest clinical simulation facility in Europe was opened in 2017 and is located in our St. Stephen's Green Campus. It was built to ensure that RCSI can continue to graduate healthcare professionals with superior clinical skills, the teaching of which has become challenged by changes in how patients receive treatment in the hospital setting.

Improvements in healthcare delivery have ensured that more and more patients receive medical procedures on a day-case basis. While these rapid procedures are beneficial for the patient, they present a real challenge for medical schools, particularly in training early clinical and communication skills in clinical environments. Hospitals are often filled with patients who are older, more unwell and therefore less suitable for students to practice their early patient skills.

The Clinical Simulation Centre contains a virtual hospital, with wards, outpatients' clinics and a full operating theatre and trauma facility. This facility allows us to train our students using safe, structured and repeatable teaching models so students can develop confidence and competence in their patient management skills before engaging with real patients in the hospital setting.

This form of healthcare teaching represents a huge leap forward for clinical training, not just in RCSI but also internationally, cementing RCSI's place at the forefront of healthcare education.

## Student Opportunities

As part of our mission to create well-rounded, clinically distinguished healthcare professionals, we challenge our students to participate in academic opportunities and extracurricular activities. There is a range of opportunities open to you while studying at RCSI and participation can provide clarity around the area of healthcare that you wish to pursue after graduation. These activities will not only help to build your skillset, but will also give your professional career the best possible start.

### Research Electives

#### Research Summer School

RCSI provides you with opportunities to undertake clinical and laboratory research as part of a medical research team. Participation is strongly encouraged and you can take part from year 1 of your studies. You have the opportunity to work as part of a research team over an 8-week period while receiving a financial stipend from RCSI for your contribution. On completion of your project, you will have the opportunity to present your findings at the RCSI Annual Research Symposium, which takes place in April each year. Students can receive awards for their research, both at national and international meetings, in addition to having their research published in medical and scientific journals.

### Student Medical Journal

The RCSI Student Medical Journal (SMJ) publishes student research, ranging from basic laboratory science and clinical work to humanities analysis of medicine in society. The goal of the RCSI SMJ is to encourage student research, writing and submission for publication.

Publication in the journal ensures your research reaches a broad international readership through its print and electronic versions ([rcsismj.com](http://rcsismj.com)).

### Funded Research Opportunities

Each year, two Anatomy Summer Studentships in an institutional research laboratory are offered to RCSI undergraduates. They are designed to allow students to investigate aspects of anatomical research and its applications.

### Overseas Research Electives

Annually, a number of undergraduate RCSI students are funded to take part in two-month research programmes in an Erasmus\* country. This offers you the perfect opportunity to enhance your international experience of work and student life in another European country.

*\*The Erasmus Programme is a European Union (EU) student exchange programme.*





Photo Courtesy of Dr. Ben LaBrot, RCSI Class of 2006, Founder of The Floating Doctors

### Clinical Electives

Participation in clinical electives is very beneficial to students entering their final years at RCSI. Through a network of strategic partnerships, including Johns Hopkins Hospital Group, Columbia University Medical Center and the Mayo Clinic, the College offers a significant number of overseas clinical elective opportunities for students.

Electives are an enriching experience for students, who work with patients in some of the world's leading hospitals.

Clinical electives are allocated and managed by a dedicated and highly experienced team. They will provide you with advice throughout the process and administrative support during the application.



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*The RCSI collaborative elective programme is a unique opportunity for RCSI students to gain clinical experience in North America and Canada. As part of this initiative, I had the privilege of completing an oncology clerkship at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. This elective involved significant responsibility with day-to-day patient care and clinical decision-making. Although daunting at first, the team at Johns Hopkins provided me with continuous support and guidance throughout the placement, including daily one-to-one teaching sessions. This programme is a fantastic opportunity to advance your clinical acumen while also providing an opportunity to travel and make connections for your future career. The professional and clinical skills embedded in RCSI students have an international translatability that will allow you to excel and enjoy all your international electives.*

Alice Talbot,  
Clinical Elective,  
Johns Hopkins Baltimore

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## Student Welfare

RCSI is committed to helping you achieve your academic and professional goals. We recognise, however, that at times students can face personal challenges during their training.

### Welfare Team

Our dedicated welfare team provide direct confidential support, guidance and referral to specialist services. When required, interventions are designed to promote and restore student well-being. This service works collaboratively and pro-actively with you to promote positive behaviours and develop personal strategies that empower you to self-manage and sustain your well-being in future professional practice.

### Health Care

All undergraduate students of RCSI (including Graduate Entry Medicine students) are entitled to free General Practice consultations at our on-campus medical centre.

Our student scheme also helps you source the most appropriate health insurance plan on a reduced annual premium.

### Mental Health

As you learn about human systems, it is important you appreciate that you too are a human system and may be vulnerable when one element is underperforming or not working correctly. For this reason, RCSI places a special emphasis on our students' professional obligation to actively manage their personal health during their academic and clinical training.

If any of our students experience mental health challenges, help is available 24/7.





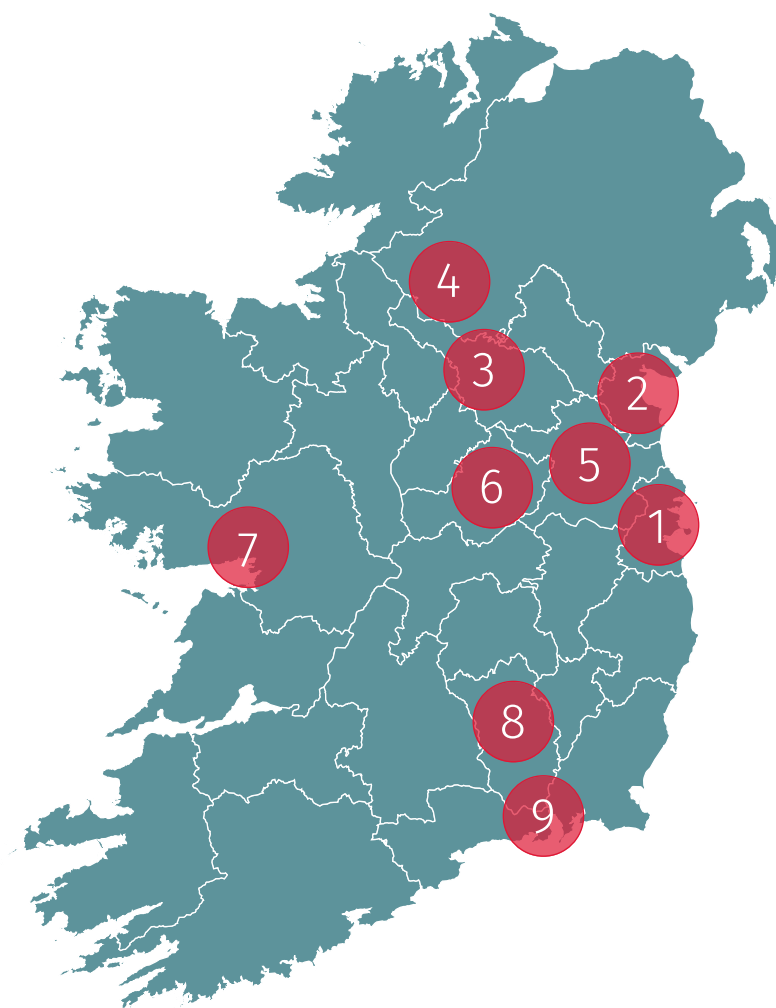




# Education and Clinical Network

## WHERE

1 Co. Dublin	6 Co. Westmeath
2 Co. Louth	7 Co. Galway
3 Co. Cavan	8 Co. Kilkenny
4 Co. Fermanagh	9 Co. Waterford
5 Co. Meath	



## RCSI Hospitals Group

As an RCSI student, you will attend a wide variety of public, private and specialist teaching hospitals and clinical sites where you will learn to hone your clinical and professional skills.

This is an overview of the RCSI teaching hospitals and clinical sites:

**1 Beaumont Hospital** is the largest academic teaching hospital in the RCSI Hospitals Group. Emergency and acute care services are provided across 54 medical specialities and Beaumont Hospital is a designated Cancer Centre and the Regional Treatment Centre for Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) and Gastroenterology. Beaumont Hospital is also the National Referral Centre for Neurosurgery and Neurology, Renal Transplantation and Cochlear Implantation.

**1 Connolly Hospital** is a major teaching and health-promoting hospital. Services include a 24-hour Emergency Department, acute medical and surgical services, acute psychiatric services, long-stay residential care, day care, out-patient care plus diagnostic and therapeutic and support services.

**1 The Rotunda Hospital** was founded in 1745 and is the oldest continuously operating maternity hospital in the world. The hospital delivers approximately 9,000 babies annually and provides pregnancy, neonatal and gynaecological care.

**2 Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital** provides acute medical and surgical services as well as maternity services to Louth, Meath and the surrounding areas including parts of north county Dublin.

**2 Louth County Hospital** provides acute and community care services to the population of Louth, Meath and Monaghan.

**3 Cavan & Monaghan Hospital** provides acute and community care services to the population of both counties and extends to counties Meath, Longford and Leitrim.

## Affiliated, Specialist and Private Hospitals and Clinical Sites

### 1 The National Maternity Hospital

provides obstetrics, gynaecology and neonatal services and delivers more than 9,000 babies each year.

### 1 The Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital

provides comprehensive care for women and infants at local, regional and national levels and delivers approximately 9,000 babies each year.

### 1 Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin

is an acute paediatric hospital. Major specialities at the hospital today include neonatal and paediatric surgery, neurology, neurosurgery, nephrology, orthopaedics, ENT and plastic surgery.

### 1 The Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital

is a public teaching hospital in Dublin. It is the National Referral Centre for both eye, ear, nose and throat disorders and provides specialist care in ophthalmology.

### 1 Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital

is Ireland's major centre for elective orthopaedic surgery and the largest dedicated orthopaedic hospital in the country.

### 1 The National Rehabilitation Hospital

provides complex specialist rehabilitation services to patients who require specialist medical rehabilitation.

### 1 St. Colmcille's Hospital Loughlinstown

provides a range of services to a diverse population covering South County Dublin and County Wicklow. Services include an injury unit, medical assessment unit, acute medical in-patient services, day surgery, outpatient care and diagnostic services.





❶ **Blackrock Clinic** is the leading and longest-established private hospital and clinic in Ireland. The clinic has consistently built an unparalleled reputation in new High-Tech surgical procedures, medical treatments and ground-breaking diagnostics.

❶ **Beacon Hospital** is one of the most advanced private hospitals in Europe, with over 1,300 consultants, nurses and healthcare professionals. It provides 24-hour world-class acute-care services, including orthopaedics, physiotherapy, cardiology, women's health, urology, cardiothoracic surgery, vascular surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery, ENT, neurology, general surgery, comprehensive cancer care and emergency medicine.

❶ **The Bon Secours Private Hospital Dublin** is an independent acute-care hospital in Glasnevin, Dublin, providing medical care to patients from Dublin and across Ireland since 1951.

❶ **Hermitage Medical Clinic** is a 112-bed private hospital in Lucan providing medical, surgical and advanced radiotherapy care to patients supported by the very latest medical technology and most advanced diagnostic equipment.

❶ **Cluain Mhuire Service** is a community-based adult mental health service covering a population of over 175,000 in the Dublin South East region.

❶ **Mental Health Services** are provided through the HSE across all regions.

❶ **St. Patrick's Mental Health Services** is Ireland's largest, independent, not-for-profit mental health service. It provides both community and outpatient care through its Dean Clinics and day-patient services through the Wellness and Recovery Centre.

❶ **ReproMed** Ireland provides an IVF unit in Dublin as well as fertility clinics in Dublin, Cork, Drogheda, Kilkenny and Limerick.

❶ **SIMS** provides some of the most advanced and successful testing technology and IVF treatments to patients.

❷ **The South West Acute Hospital, Enniskillen**, delivers a wide range of services including general medicine, surgery, maternity and paediatric medicine and is part of the Western Trust.

❷ **Our Lady's Hospital Navan** is part of the Louth/Meath Hospital Group and provides general acute hospital services and orthopaedic services to the region.

❷ **Regional Hospital Mullingar** provides a range of acute and specialist services to the population of Westmeath, Longford and the wider community.

❷ **Galway Clinic** is a state-of-the-art, 146-bed hospital that provides 24-hour healthcare services. Here, more than 140 highly skilled physicians and surgeons cover a wide variety of specialities.

❷ **St Luke's General Hospital Carlow-Kilkenny** is a large hospital providing acute healthcare services.

❷ **University Hospital Waterford** provides general medical, surgical and maternity care. It also provides the following speciality services: cardiology, trauma orthopaedics, ophthalmology, neurology, nephrology, rheumatology, urology, vascular surgery, ENT and neonatology, radiology, pathology and microbiology.





New Mill Street accommodation

## Living Space

When it comes to accommodation, there are options to live both on or off campus. Our on campus accommodation at Mercer Court and New Mill Street is popular with students who are joining College for the first time, particularly students from overseas.

On-campus accommodation provides you with an easier transition into life away from home and ensures you are part of

a community of students in the same situation. While taking on the practical responsibilities of living independently, you also have a wonderful opportunity to forge new friendships and networks.

Some of our Graduate Entry students prefer to live off campus and we have a dedicated Student Services team to ensure you find suitable accommodation in Dublin.



New Mill Street accommodation

## International Citizenship Programme

The International Citizenship Programme encourages you to reflect on and develop the skills, values and attitudes you will need to work effectively in a culturally diverse healthcare environment. This structured self-directed programme empowers you to avail of the rich multi-cultural opportunities for self-development through enriching extracurricular activities, interacting with others from diverse backgrounds and formally reflecting on your personal development through these activities, supported by staff mentors.

If you successfully demonstrate an 'International Outlook' in these areas, the programme leads to an International Citizenship Award.

## Volunteering

The REACH RCSI Programme is a unique community outreach and access programme that promotes recreation, education and community health. Students are encouraged to participate in various initiatives throughout the year, which include a second-level education homework club, science workshops, and sports and health programmes. These initiatives enhance the life chances of young students from socially disadvantaged areas who are traditionally underrepresented at university level education.

Approximately 50 RCSI students, from all programmes, volunteer each year. You can help by leading teams, encouraging the children taking part and running a variety of events and sports activities.



## 4. What You Will Become

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Choose RCSI for a life that can lead you anywhere

### Career Development

At RCSI, we see our role as more than providing you with an education. Joining RCSI is just the start of your career and we offer many career supports during your time with us to help you achieve your ambitions.

### Career Support

As a specialised healthcare College, we have a career development team that helps you to identify, map and action your pathway into your future healthcare career.

Our mission is focused on helping you identify your career goals and supporting you while you acquire the skills, knowledge and capabilities needed to achieve them. We want to empower you to respond, plan and take advantage of the opportunities that are available in the ever-evolving global healthcare sector. To achieve this, we work in partnership with RCSI staff and a wide range of organisations around the world.

We work with you to develop a career strategy and advise you, depending on your goals. We offer one-to-one appointments, along with small and large group briefings in addition to workshops tailored to your career aspirations.

### Career Discovery

**Passport for Success** is an RCSI initiative that helps you integrate into life at RCSI and understand what contributes to your academic success.

Every year, we work with you to plan your future career. We provide access to one-to-one sessions as well as careers workshops at important decision-making periods of your education cycle. The programme also advises on personal effectiveness, professionalism and exam revision.





Your journey will  
follow in the path of  
former students

## **Mentor Network**

The RCSI Mentor Network is a unique interactive portal where senior clinical students can connect directly with alumni working in careers that may be of interest to them. This initiative helps you to make informed career decisions as you move from undergraduate education to excellent post-graduate training opportunities in healthcare settings throughout the world. You can reach out to alumni to get advice and learn how best to succeed in your chosen career path. Our mentors are in North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Ireland and beyond.

## **Global Graduates**

### **Alumni Network**

The RCSI Alumni Network comprises leading health practitioners and researchers in over 97 countries. In these countries, our alumni are often directing national health policies, heading surgery at top-tier hospitals, breaking new scientific ground in disease prevention and bringing healthcare to the regions where it is needed most. When you graduate, you join this global network of leading healthcare professionals actively working towards better patient outcomes across the world.

## Alumni Profiles



**Ms Siun Walsh,  
Medicine, Class of 2005**

**Breast and General Surgeon  
Mater Misericordiae, Dublin.**

After two years of basic surgical training, Siun completed a lab-based MD through UCD, looking at novel therapeutic targets for triple-negative breast cancer. Following this, she was surgical tutor for RCSI in Beaumont Hospital for a year.

Siun then entered the higher surgery training scheme in general surgery as well as completing a fellowship in breast surgical oncology in Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York. Last year she was appointed as consultant breast and general surgeon in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin.



**Mr Tom Gallagher,  
Medicine, Class of 2003**

**Consultant Hepatobiliary (HPB) and Transplant Surgeon, St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin. Honorary Consultant Surgeon, Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin, Dublin.**

Mr. Gallagher graduated from RCSI in 2003 and subsequently undertook his general surgical training in Dublin. He quickly realised his passion for liver and pancreas surgery and, following completion of his training and the award of FRCSI, he travelled to Hong Kong and Edinburgh for fellowships in HPB surgery. He then undertook further training in abdominal transplant surgery in Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago, where he became a member of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons.

He was appointed to his current post in 2015 and has overseen the re-establishment of the national pancreas transplant programme as part of this role. He has also recently performed Ireland's first robotic pancreatic resections and is passionate about embracing technological advances in surgery wherever feasible and safe. In addition to his clinical commitments, Mr. Gallagher remains active academically.



**Stephen O'Donoghue,  
Pharmacy, Class of 2011**  
**Clinical Pharmacist, Singapore.**

Stephen graduated in 2011 with a BSc Pharmacy (Hons.) and successfully completed his pre-registration training in the Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital and graduated with a MPharm from the RCSI. He worked for a period of time in Ireland in both community and hospital pharmacy. In 2014, he got the opportunity to move to Singapore and work in a government hospital. In 2016, after spending a few years working in internal medicine teams, he turned his attention to antimicrobial stewardship. Stephen's current role focuses on appropriate antibiotic use at hospital and national level, writing guidelines and driving policy change within the hospital on correct antibiotic usage, training and teaching pre-registration pharmacy students and research.



**Avril Copeland,  
Physiotherapy, Class of 2010**

**Founder & CEO of Innerstrength Ltd.**

Avril is the CEO and co-founder of eHealth company Innerstrength. It develops digital tools that facilitate health professionals and patients to work together for the prevention and treatment of chronic conditions.

Born in Dublin, Avril has always been very involved in sport and exercise. She represented Ireland in both hockey and expedition adventure racing, most recently competing for Ireland at the Adventure Racing Championships, a 700 Km race through the Andes and Amazon Rainforest in Ecuador.

After graduating with a clinical distinction from RCSI, she went to work at Beaumont Hospital. It was during her time in Beaumont that she saw the need for more supports to be put in place to help patients achieve their potential after discharge. It was this realisation that sowed the seed for the idea to start Innerstrength.



**Dr Sinead Cronin,  
Medicine, Class of 2011**

**General Practitioner, Eldon Family Practice.**

Sinead graduated from RCSI in 2011 and life has been very busy since. She completed her internship in Beaumont Hospital and then went on to train as a general practitioner. Having completed her GP training, she now practises in a busy Dublin GP practice and has returned to RCSI to teach with the Department of General Practice.



**Dr Philip O'Halloran,  
Graduate Entry Medicine, Class of 2008**

**Neuro Oncology Fellow,  
Toronto Western Hospital.**

Phil is a science graduate from UCC and he went on to graduate from Graduate Entry Medicine at RCSI in 2008. While studying at RCSI, Phil was a keen sportsman and captained the RCSI rugby team as well as the winning Beaumont Hospital cup team in 2007. He was also awarded sports man of the year in 2007.

Following his intern year in Beaumont Hospital, Phil ranked first in the National Surgical Selection allowing him pursue a career in Neurosurgery. He went on to do his neurosurgical training at Beaumont and was awarded a PhD from RCSI, in the field of translational Neuro-Oncology, which included a research fellowship at the European Institute of Molecular Imaging in Germany. This represented a significant body of work and Phil became only the 3rd Neurosurgeon in Ireland to graduate with a PhD.

In 2012 Phil also founded the Brain Tumour Biobank, to further enhance the understanding of the molecular biology of different types of brain tumours. Phil is currently a surgical Neuro-Oncology Fellow in the University of Toronto, Toronto Western Hospital.





Begin your  
journey at **RCSI**  
and join us in  
**Leading the  
World to Better  
Health**

## 5. Our Programmes

NFQ: Level 8  
Award: MB, BCh, BAO, (NUI & RCSI)  
LRCPI & LRCSI  
Awarding Body:  
National University of Ireland

### Medicine — Undergraduate

RCSI is committed to producing clinically skilled doctors with the most relevant and robust experience required to work in today's health systems. Throughout your time at RCSI, you have the opportunity to develop your clinical, communication and professional skills in a safe, simulated environment in Europe's largest and most modern clinical simulation facility and by training in Ireland's leading hospitals.

We also provide you with many opportunities to build your career outside of the classroom through research and clinical electives as well as sub-internships.

During Foundation Year at RCSI, you study the principles of foundation sciences, communication and how to work as part of a team.

You obtain a solid grounding in the biomedical sciences and professionalism plus the necessary IT skills to operate efficiently within the College's virtual learning environment (VLE).

This prepares you for success in both your future medical studies and career.

#### Foundation Year

#### Semester 1

Fundamentals of Medical Physics

Fundamentals of Medicinal & Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Fundamentals of Human Biology

Musculoskeletal Nervous, Skin, Special Senses, Reproduction & Endocrine Systems

Cardiovascular, GIT, Immune, Excretory & Respiratory Systems

Professionalism in the Health Sciences

Biomedical Laboratory Sciences

#### Foundation Year

#### Semester 2

Diseases, Diagnostics and Therapeutics

Medicinal & Pharmaceutical Chemistry II

Musculoskeletal Nervous, Skin, Special Senses, Reproduction & Endocrine Systems

Cardiovascular, GIT, Immune, Excretory & Respiratory Systems

Professionalism in the Health Sciences

Biomedical Laboratory Sciences



In Year 1, you will learn about the normal body structure and function, including anatomy dissection. You are also introduced to professional clinical practice and contact with patients.

Tutorials and practicals serve to reinforce and enhance your understanding of the fundamental concepts covered in lectures and test your basic understanding through applied problems in a practical context.

## Year 1

## Semester 1

Fundamentals of Biomedicine and Pharmacology

Introduction to Professional Clinical Practice

Musculoskeletal Biology

Cardio Respiratory Biology

## Year 1

## Semester 2

Gastrointestinal Biology

Nervous System Biology

Renal and Endocrine Biology

Introduction to Professional Clinical Practice



Year 2 of the medicine programme focuses on the abnormal bodily functions. Semester 1 is primarily based in Beaumont Hospital and involves teaching from a wide variety of specialties, including Clinical Microbiology, Pathology, Immunology, Professionalism, Therapeutics in addition to the medical and surgical sub-specialties. Teaching includes lectures, small-group tutorials, workshops, case-based multi-disciplinary teaching sessions with various hospital specialists, clinical skills, interprofessional education with the School of Pharmacy and online technology-enhanced learning.

The foundations of microbiology, pathology and immunology introduce the essential building blocks so you can manage patients with infection and disease appropriately. After that, students work through the different body systems where the focus is on disease of each system, its diagnosis, management and prevention.

Inter-professional, case-based teaching with the RCSI School of Pharmacy takes place in the cardiovascular module. This involves both undergraduate medical and pharmacy students collaborating in small groups to effectively devise an appropriate management plan for a patient with a complex infection (endocarditis) and learn their distinct collaborative roles in patient management.

## Year 2

## Semester 1

Foundations in Microbiology

Foundations in Pathology

Immunology & Skin

Respiratory Disease

## Year 2

## Semester 2

Gastrointestinal Disease

Nervous System Disease

Renal & Endocrine Disease

Cardiovascular Disease



In Year 3, half of your time will be spent in a hospital setting attached to clinical teams. You will also be provided with opportunities to complete a selected research project and undertake modules focused on evidence-based health, population-based health, quality improvement, leadership and precision medicine.

In years 4 and 5, you are attached on a rotational basis for 7 weeks and participate fully with clinical teams in both urban and rural settings.

You will be fully immersed in the specialties of General Practice (learn alongside a general practitioner in a GP surgery), Paediatrics (you will be placed in one of the Paediatric units throughout the country), Obstetrics and Gynaecology (you will be attached to a Maternity Unit and expected to assist on the labour ward), Psychiatry (you will attend a Psychiatry service under the supervision of a local psychiatric service). In the Medicine and Surgery rotation, you will also have the opportunity to enhance your prescribing skills and undertake placements in Otolaryngology and Ophthalmology.

The final year prepares the student towards becoming a working clinician. This year provides you with significant clinical exposure via attachments, electives and the sub-internship, through which you are trained and assessed as you undertake the roles of the near-graduating doctor. This clinical experience runs in parallel with a teaching programme focused on knowledge and skills in these areas. Preparation for practice in medicine and surgery will occur in our major teaching hospitals, including 25% of elective modules in disciplines and on locations of your choosing.

## Year 3

## Semester 1 - 2

Clinical Medicine & Surgery

Evidence-Based Health

Health Psychology

Musculoskeletal & Ocular Disease

Public and International Health

Student Selected Project

Tomorrow's Health Professionals

## Year 4

## Semester 1 - 2

Medicine & Surgery (ENT)

General Practice

Psychiatry

Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Paediatrics and Neonatal Medicine

## Year 5

## Semester 1 - 2

Medicine and Surgery





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*Choosing RCSI as my first choice to study Medicine is one of the best decisions I have ever made.*

*When you're on campus in RCSI it's very much like a family, compared to being in a big university. There is someone who knows you by name and they know what's going on for you. There's always someone to check in with and make sure you're getting on in every aspect of life - not just academics. Everyone is in high-intensity courses from day one and you could very easily slip under the radar socially in a bigger college, but not in RCSI where Student Service's care for the student body is second to none.*

*The most rewarding experience for me at RCSI has been the Research Summer School. It's an opportunity to learn outside of the classroom and see our knowledge applied in the real world. I did research with a team from RCSI & the Rotunda Hospital and then travelled to Las Vegas to present it at an international conference. You won't get that opportunity at other colleges as an undergraduate student.*

*Not everywhere is like RCSI. It has a very patient-focused environment. You get the opportunity to learn as part of a multidisciplinary team and you don't get that anywhere else. RCSI wants us to all to excel in our own area; the goal for every student is to reach our full potential and RCSI supports every student to excel to the best of their ability.*

Emer Rose Kealy,  
Medicine

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# Graduate Entry Medicine

NFQ: Level 8  
Award: MB, BCh, BAO, (NUI & RCSI)  
LRCPI & LRCPI  
Awarding Body:  
National University of Ireland

RCSI was the first medical school in the Republic of Ireland to introduce a Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM) programme in 2006, enabling students from a range of undergraduate backgrounds to study medicine.

This accelerated programme is designed for students with an undergraduate degree who wish to return to education and pursue a career in medicine.

Year 1 of the programme is delivered through systems-based modules, teaching you about how the body works in the healthy state.

Surgical grand rounds, weekly cases and clinical skills training provide clinical context in the 1st semester. In the second semester, students attend hospital placements on Wednesday afternoons providing an opportunity for application of their clinical skills.

After end-of-year exams, you will also complete a hospital placement for the month of June.

## Year 1

## Semester 1

Fundamentals of Biomedicine

Musculoskeletal Biology

Blood: Haematology and Immunology

Molecular Medicine

Health, Behaviour and Patient Safety

Gastrointestinal Biology

Clinical Competencies

## Year 1

## Semester 2

Cardiorespiratory System

Renal and Endocrine Biology

Nervous System Biology

Evidence-Based Health/Public Health & Epidemiology

Clinical Competencies

Clinical Attachment

## Year 2

## Semester 1

Cardiology

Respiratory

Gastrointestinal and Hepatology

Clinical competencies

Again in Year 2, the programme is delivered through systems-based modules but during this year you gain an understanding of the basic pathological and microbiological principles underlying human disease, along with detailed teaching on clinical aspects of relevant human conditions within each module.

Each module comprises small-group tutorials encompassing weekly cases, clinical skills (including relevant history-taking and examination) and radiology.

Simulation scenarios using our state-of-the-art simulators also facilitate clinical teaching.

During Year 2, you complete two one-month clinical attachments that provide you with the opportunity to become an active member of a clinical team within the hospital, and learn about the multiple aspects of patient management within this setting.

Years 3 and 4 of the GEM programme are delivered in RCSI affiliated teaching hospitals located throughout Ireland, providing you with different learning opportunities. You are attached on a rotational basis for 7 weeks and participate fully with the clinical teams in both urban and rural settings.

You will be fully immersed in the specialties of General Practice (learn alongside a general practitioner in a GP surgery), Paediatrics (you will be placed in one of the Paediatric units throughout the country), Obstetrics and Gynaecology (you will be attached to a Maternity Unit and expected to assist on the labour ward), Psychiatry (you will attend a Psychiatry service under the supervision of a local psychiatric service). In the Medicine and Surgery rotation, you will also have the opportunity to enhance your prescribing skills and undertake placements in Otolaryngology and Ophthalmology.

The final year prepares the student towards becoming a working clinician. This year provides you with significant clinical exposure via attachments, electives and the sub-internship, through which you are trained and assessed as you undertake the roles of the near-graduating doctor. This clinical experience runs in parallel with a teaching programme focused on knowledge and skills in these areas.

## Year 2

## Semester 2

Renal, Endocrine, Genitourinary and Breast

Central Nervous System and Locomotors

Haematolymphoid and Tropical Medicine

Clinical competencies

## Year 3

## Semester 1 - 2

### Rotations:

Medicine & Surgery (ENT)

Paediatrics and Neonatal

General Practice

Psychiatry

Obstetrics and Gynaecology

## Year 4

## Semester 1 - 2

### Rotations:

Medicine & Surgery



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*Choosing to return to college and study Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM) has undoubtedly been one of the biggest life-decisions I've made. I've always had an interest in studying medicine. Having completed my primary degree, I found that I was still very curious about medicine as a career. I ultimately felt that I would forever regret not pursuing medicine. I've never once looked back.*

*I was particularly drawn to RCSI because of the dedicated graduate entry teaching in years 1 and 2. GEM students have dedicated teaching facilities and the class is 70-80 students strong. Modules are taught via a systems-based approach, which I found very intuitive. Assessments equally evaluate academic capacity and clinical ability.*

*What I didn't fully appreciate before applying, but certainly found invaluable, was the early clinical exposure. GEM students are given the opportunity to learn in a hospital setting as early as their second term – this is unrivalled by any other Irish medical programme. I found that I was able to link lecture learning with newfound clinical knowledge, which really solidified the important stuff!*

Ian Brennan,  
GEM

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# Pharmacy

NFQ: Level 9  
Award: MPharm (NUI, RCSI)  
Awarding Body:  
National University of Ireland

RCSI's 5-year globally recognised MPharm programme offers you a range of career options in areas such as community and hospital pharmacy, the pharmaceutical industry, medical research and development, regulation and academia. Clinically focused from the outset, the patient is at the core of everything you learn from first year right through to final year. You will have the opportunity to develop these clinical and professional skills while studying alongside your future colleagues in Medicine and Physiotherapy, ensuring the multi-disciplinary nature of patient care is reflected in your education at RCSI.

Year 1 is an introduction to the foundation material that provides you with the fundamental skills and knowledge in basic science and practice.

You will also be introduced to the systems-based modules which are delivered by multi-disciplinary teams.

## Year 1

## Semester 1

Pharmacist: Beginning the Professional Journey - Health, Body and Function

Physical and Chemical Properties of Drugs and their Dosage Forms 1

Professional Development 1

## Year 1

## Semester 2

Gastrointestinal Health: Medicines and Patient Care

Cardiovascular Health: Medicines and Patient Care

Physical and Chemical Properties of Drugs and their Dosage Forms 2

Professional Development 1



Year 2 is wholly integrated around the organ systems model introduced in Year 1.

The actions, interactions and use of medicines and pharmaceutical care are all delivered through this integrated, systems-based approach. There is an emphasis on the pharmacist as a caregiver.

## Year 2

## Semester 1

Respiratory Health: Medicines and Patient Care

Musculoskeletal and Haematological Health: Medicines and Patient Care

Central Nervous System: Medicines and Patient Care

Professional Development 2

## Year 2

## Semester 2

Immunology: Defence and Management Response

Infection: Optimising Prevention and Treatment Strategies

Sensory and Protective Structures: Health and Potential for External Delivery

Professional Development 2

Year 3 continues with the systems-based model of teaching. You will extend your knowledge and experience of the actions and interactions of medicines, and pharmaceutical care.

You will participate in a series of Rotational Hospital Pharmacy Placements (RHPP) across a range of hospital sites. As part of RHPPs, you will undertake Mental Health First Aid training, an International evidence-based programme.

You will have the opportunity to participate in elective placements, which take place in Ireland and countries such as China, Japan and the US.

## Year 3

## Semester 1

The Liver and Kidney: Health, Function and Medicines Handling

The Endocrine System: Hormones as Signals and Regulators

Men's and Women's Health: Tailored Care

Professional Development 3

## Year 3

## Semester 2

Stages of Life: The Changing Body and Medicines Handling

Cancer: Prevention and Control

The Drug Life Cycle: Discovery and Beyond

Professional Development 3



The pharmacy practice placement runs throughout the first semester of Year 4, and you are based entirely off campus during this time.

You will have an opportunity to select an optional module designed to reflect your special interests in Semester 2.

You also complete a research project as part of the 'Scientific Research Skills' module.

The placements in Year 4 and 5 of the programme form part your statutory placements that are required to register as a pharmacist in Ireland.

## Year 4

## Semester 1

Online module: Organisation and Management Skills

Online module: Professional Skills Development

Online module: Professional Practice

Professional Development 4

## Year 4

## Semester 2

Global and Population Health

Optional Module – Students choose 1 elective from 5 available

Scientific Research Skills

Professional Development 4

## Year 5

## Semester 1

Patient Care and Society

Decision-Making in Complex Care

Leadership in Pharmacy: Building the Future

Professional Development 5

## Year 5

## Semester 2

Online module: Supply of Medicines and Organisation and Management Skills

Online module: Leading the Safe and Rational Use of Medicine

Online module: Professional Practice and Public Health

Online module: Clinical Research Skills Professional Development 5

The MPharm year of the programme concentrates on preparing you for practice. The placements in both Years 4 and 5 give you an opportunity to engage with a range of employers across a spectrum of practice settings. You participate in three taught modules during the first semester while also completing Professional Development 5.

From January to August, you will be on patient-facing placements. This is your final opportunity to cement the knowledge, skills and competence you have been acquiring since Year 1.

Year 5 concludes with the Professional Registration Examination (PRE).

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*Studying Pharmacy at RCSI has been the best decision for me. I love that our class groups are relatively small and that we know our lecturers on a first-name basis. If you are struggling with the material, our lecturers are so helpful. Our modules are taught through a systems-based approach, which I really like because it helps to tie in all different disciplines that we learn about.*

*One of my favourite aspects of the course is the patient-centred care lab that we do every week. These give you a chance to role play as a pharmacist and as a patient. We also receive feedback from our lecturers, which all helps us towards our OSCEs (Objective Structured Clinical Examinations).*

*RCSI provides you with so many opportunities to create the future that you want for yourself. I am a recipient of the Kiran Pathak Pharmacy Scholarship and I have had so many opportunities afforded to me as a result. I have just completed the Research Summer School and I absolutely loved it. In the future, I would like to pursue a career in research or regulation and my time at the Research Summer School gave me a great insight into what research was like.*

Hazel Walsh,  
Pharmacy

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# Physiotherapy

NFQ: Level 8  
Award: BSc (Hons) (NUI, RCSI)  
Awarding Body:  
National University of Ireland

Our internationally recognised RCSI Physiotherapy programme is designed to provide you with training, education and rehabilitation in a variety of clinical settings. Our small class sizes provide you with access to hands-on, one-to-one practical and clinical training with academic staff. You will study alongside your future colleagues in Medicine and Pharmacy, ensuring the multi-disciplinary nature of patient care is reflected in your education.

As an RCSI Physiotherapy graduate, you will be career ready and in high demand with a highly portable degree.

Foundation Year provides you with a solid grounding in the biomedical sciences and professionalism plus the necessary IT skills to operate effectively within the university's virtual learning environment (VLE).

The course is delivered as a series of stand-alone 5-credit modules taught in a single semester and integrated, systems-based modules, delivered across 2 semesters. The Introduction to Physiotherapy Practice module provides you with an appreciation of the array of clinical specialties and settings in which physiotherapists work. It also presents the first opportunity for a clinical visit.

Elective opportunities facilitate your growing awareness of the crucial roles that communication, culture, collaboration, critical thinking, medical ethics, information literacy, project management and self-reflection play in the professional practice of physiotherapy. They also provide students with an opportunity to work collectively with the Medicine and Pharmacy students.

## Foundation Year

## Semester 1

Fundamentals of Medical Physics

Fundamentals of Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Fundamentals of Human Biology

Musculoskeletal System, Nervous System, Skin, Special Senses, Reproduction and Endocrine Systems

Cardiovascular, Respiratory, Immune, Gastrointestinal and Excretory Systems

Professionalism in the Health Sciences

Biomedical Laboratory Sciences

## Foundation Year

## Semester 2

Disease Diagnostics and Therapeutics

Introduction to Physiotherapy Practice

Musculoskeletal System, Nervous System, Skin, Special Senses, Reproduction and Endocrine Systems

Cardiovascular, Respiratory, Immune, Gastrointestinal and Excretory Systems

Professionalism in the Health Sciences

Biomedical Laboratory Sciences



Year 1 provides you with a sound base of scientific knowledge that underpins the practice of physiotherapy. You gain an understanding of the structure, function and inter-relationship of systems in the human body by studying Anatomy and Physiology.

Year 1 also focuses on acquisition of the knowledge and basic skills required to assess and treat people with common musculoskeletal conditions.

## Year 1

## Semester 1

Anatomy  
Neuromusculoskeletal I  
Physiology  
Methods of Enquiry  
Physics

## Year 1

## Semester 2

Neuromusculoskeletal II  
Neuroscience Anatomy  
Health, Behaviour and Patient Safety  
Professional Development I  
Clinical Placement 1

Year 2 builds on what you have already studied by further consolidating the knowledge and skills of physiotherapy practice.

The focus this year is on the application and analysis of problems and their effects in core clinical areas, e.g. cardiovascular/respiratory, neurology and musculoskeletal.

You gain an understanding of the research process and develop an ability to appraise and evaluate research and scientific literature. Blocks of clinical education alternate with academic modules in a variety of clinical settings. In the clinical environment, you develop an understanding of the context of physiotherapy practice.

## Year 2

## Semester 1

Advanced Musculoskeletal I  
Neuroscience Psychology  
Respiratory/Cardiovascular I  
Neurology I  
Professional Development II  
Clinical Placement 2

## Year 2

## Semester 2

Advanced Musculoskeletal II  
Respiratory/Cardiovascular II  
Neurology II  
Research Methods I  
Clinical Placement 3  
Clinical Placement 4



## Final Physiotherapy

## Semester 1

Final year focuses on the integration of the knowledge you've already obtained in the programme and understanding an advanced level of practice. Modules in final physiotherapy cover more specialised areas of practice, e.g. sports physiotherapy, women's health, care of the elderly and paediatrics.

Your ability to evaluate and undertake research is also developed further by completing a research protocol.

In the clinical setting, you encounter a more diverse and complex range of client groups in your final year. Throughout the programme, clinical education is a central element, and you will undertake 1,000+ hours on a full-time block basis. This helps you gain essential clinical experience under the supervision of physiotherapy clinical tutors and senior physiotherapy clinicians.

Physiotherapy Across the Lifespan I

Research Methods II

Clinical Placement 5

Clinical Placement 6

## Final Physiotherapy

## Semester 2

Complex Clinical Case Management

Physiotherapy Across the Lifespan II (Care of the Elderly)

Research Methods II

Leadership in Professional Practice in Physiotherapy

Clinical Placement 7

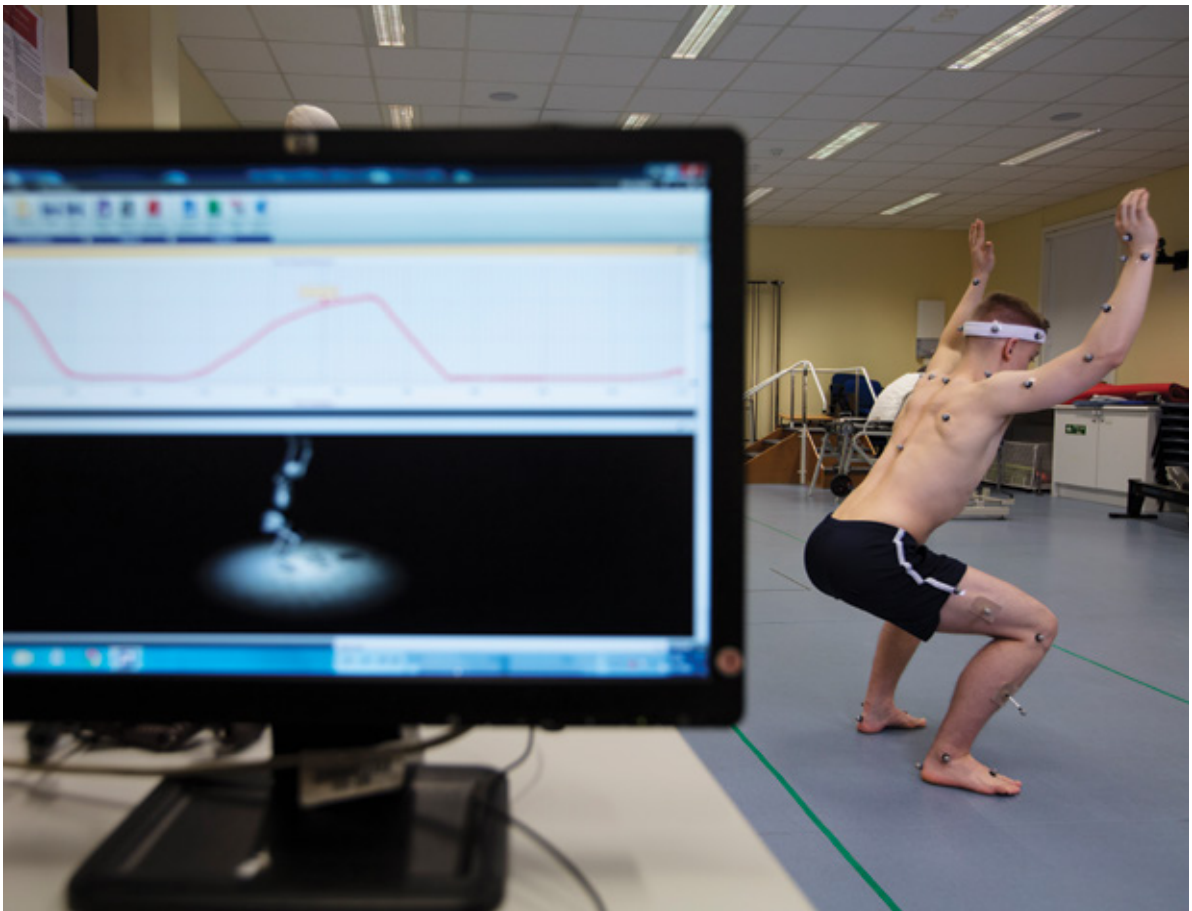
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*Choosing to study in RCSI has undoubtedly been one of the best decisions in my life thus far. The small class sizes in the School of Physiotherapy really enable students to learn to the best of their abilities. The quality of teaching in RCSI is excellent, with all lecturers among the highest qualified in their chosen fields.*

*Throughout my time in RCSI, I was always made feel like an individual student rather than just another student who made up the numbers. As well as this, the fact that RCSI is the only third-level institution in Ireland solely dedicated to healthcare means that like-minded people surround you. From day one you are taught in an inter-professional manner, collaborating with both pharmacy and medicine students on assignments and workshops, allowing us to prepare for what lies ahead in our careers as future healthcare professionals.*

David Power,  
Physiotherapy

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## 6. Application Essentials

### School of Medicine

#### How to Apply as an EU Applicant

RCSI offers a five- and a six-year medical programme to school leavers and mature (+23yrs) entrants. Graduates with a minimum second-class honours (2H1) Level 8 undergraduate degree and competitive GAMSAT score may enter the four-year Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM) programme.

School Leavers, Mature and Graduate entrants apply through the Central Applications Office (CAO) [cao.ie](http://cao.ie)

RCSI's CAO course code for School Leavers and Mature entrants is RC001. The RCSI CAO course code for Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM) is RC101. Applications for all medicine courses are made to CAO normally between November and February 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### 2020 Entry Requirements

##### CAO School Leavers - RC001 - (39 Places)

Undergraduate entry to medicine is based on achieving a minimum of 480 points and meeting the minimum entry requirements in the same sitting of the Irish Leaving Certificate Examination. EU students presenting qualifications other than the Irish Leaving Certificate must attain the equivalent to 480 points minimum in their school leaving examination. The points for entry to medicine (RC001) in 2019 were 729\* (combined points + HPAT score) - \*not all applicants with 729 points secured a place.

For entry to the six-year medical programme, applicants must present a minimum of six recognised Irish Leaving Certificate subjects to include Irish, English, Maths, another language, one laboratory science (Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physics / Chemistry or Agricultural Science), one other recognised subject and HPAT. Six-year medical programme applicants must present a minimum H5 grade in two subjects and a minimum O6 / H7 grade in the remaining four subjects.

CAO School Leavers presenting the minimum subjects for the six-year medical programme with Chemistry (H4 grade) and another laboratory science (must be Physics or Biology H4 grade) will enter the five-year medical programme.

HPAT scores are valid for one year only and must be presented in the same year of admission. Pre-2020 Leaving Certificate results (or equivalent) may be presented and combined with a 2020 HPAT score.

CAO school leavers must achieve all minimum subjects grades required and the five- or six-year medical programme academic entry requirements in one sitting of the their Leaving Certificate or equivalent (GCE A Level / IB etc).

#### HPAT-Ireland

The HPAT-Ireland test measures a candidate's logical reasoning and problem-solving skills as well as non-verbal reasoning and the ability to understand the thoughts, behaviour and / or intentions of people. It does not test academic knowledge and candidates do not require special understanding of any academic discipline. However, some familiarity with the question types typically presented in HPAT-Ireland is an advantage and therefore a practice booklet with worked answers is supplied to all candidates. HPAT test results are combined with the Leaving Certificate Examination (or other equivalent EU school leaving examination) points score in selecting applicants for admission to all undergraduate medical school programmes in Ireland.

The HPAT-Ireland test is a 2½ hour paper-based test, consisting of three modules or sections:

1. Logical Reasoning and Problem Solving.
2. Interpersonal Understanding.
3. Non-Verbal Reasoning.

All questions are in multiple-choice format with 4 or 5 possible responses, from which the candidate is asked to choose the most appropriate response. There is only one correct response.

Further details regarding the test, can be found here: [hpat-ireland.acer.org](http://hpat-ireland.acer.org)

#### Application Procedure

In addition to their application to the CAO [cao.ie](http://cao.ie), students must also apply directly to ACER to complete the HPAT-Ireland test. Applicants for the test apply online to ACER: [hpat-ireland.acer.org](http://hpat-ireland.acer.org)

The application fee covers online registration for the test, a practice booklet with worked answers, materials required for the paper test, provision of test results and the transfer of results to the CAO. Only bona-fide applicants may apply to sit the test i.e. current or past school leavers.

## CAO Applications

Applications are available via CAO from early November until 1<sup>st</sup> February at [cao.ie](http://cao.ie). Applicants must also register for the HPAT- Ireland admission test by early January the year of admission. To apply, go to [hpat-ireland.acer.org](http://hpat-ireland.acer.org)

## Equality of Access to Higher Education in Ireland

RCSI participates in the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) and Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) admissions schemes.

RCSI offers 6% of CAO Medicine places (RC001) to School Leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds (HEAR) and 6% of CAO Medicine places (RC001) to School Leavers with disabilities (DARE) on reduced points. For more information on HEAR & DARE, go to [accesscollege.ie](http://accesscollege.ie)

## Fees

RCSI is part of the “Free Fees Initiative” funded by the Higher Education Authority (HEA). Currently all QQI Level 8 degrees are funded by the “Free Fees Initiative”. Students who have previously attended third-level education under the “Free Fees Initiative” are liable for tuition fees.

## Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM) - RC101 - (30 Places)

Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM) applicants must hold or expect to hold on year of admission a minimum second-class honours grade one (2H1) result in their first honours bachelor degree (QQI Level 8), a competitive GAMSAT score (60\* in 2019) and apply online to CAO on [cao.ie](http://cao.ie)

## GAMSAT

The purpose of GAMSAT is to assess a candidate's ability to understand and analyse material, to think critically about issues and, in the case of the Written Communication section, to organise and express thoughts in a logical and effective way. GAMSAT questions are based on material drawn from a variety of sources. They typically require candidates to read and think about a passage of writing, interpret graphical displays of information, use mathematical relationships and apply reasoning skills to tables of data.

GAMSAT is divided into three separately timed sections designed to assess performance in the areas of:

1. Reasoning in Humanities and Social Sciences.
2. Written Communication.
3. Reasoning in Biological and Physical Sciences.

Practice tests and further information on GAMSAT is available [gamsat.acer.org](http://gamsat.acer.org)

## Mature Entry Medicine - RC001 - (15 Places)

RCSI welcomes applications from Mature applicants. Mature applicants must be 23 years of age on or before 1st January prior to admission and meet matriculation requirements (Irish Leaving Certificate or equivalent accredited QQI Access to Science Programme). Mature applicants often present a third-level qualification but this is not an essential requirement for consideration. The aim of the Mature Entry Pathway is to widen access and provide an opportunity for individuals who may not otherwise find it possible to join a medical programme. The Mature Entry Pathway attempts to select students in a holistic manner and focuses on life experience, such as volunteer work or relevant work experience, in addition to the candidate's academic background.

Mature applicants must present HPAT and apply online to CAO on [cao.ie](http://cao.ie) before 1<sup>st</sup> February.

HPAT scores assist in the selection of a large number of Mature applicants. RCSI will review applicants' HPAT scores to shortlist and invite competitive Mature applicants to submit a CV, personal statement and references supporting their application directly to RCSI. There is no minimum HPAT score cut-off; the minimum HPAT score is determined each year by the group of Mature RC001 applicants who apply. Once a Mature applicant has been invited to submit their documents, the shortlisting for interviews commences. Shortlisted candidates are called for a structured interview, which takes place in May each year. There are 15 Mature Entry Medicine places (RC001). HPAT scores are valid for one year only and must be presented in the same year of admission.

## Tuition Fees

Full details of tuition fees for Graduate and Mature Entry are available on the undergraduate fees and funding section of the RCSI website.

## Open Days

RCSI hosts a number of dedicated Medicine Open Days, Open Evenings and RCSI Student Experience visits throughout the year. Full details and registration is available on [rcsi.com](http://rcsi.com)

## How to Apply as an EU Applicant

RCSI offers a five-year Pharmacy programme to School Leavers, Graduates, Pharmacy Technicians and Mature (+23yrs) entrants. School Leavers apply through the CAO using the course code RC005. Graduates, Pharmacy Technicians and Mature Entrants apply directly to RCSI using the online application, which is available on the Undergraduate Pharmacy section of the RCSI website from 1<sup>st</sup> November until 1<sup>st</sup> February each year.

### 2020 Entry Requirements

#### CAO School Leavers – RC005 - (30 Places)

CAO applicants must present a minimum of six recognised Irish Leaving Certificate subjects to include Irish, English, Maths, another language, Chemistry (H5) and one other recognised subject. A minimum H5 grade in Chemistry, a H5 grade in another subject and a minimum O6 / H7 grade in the remaining four subjects. The points for entry to pharmacy (RC005) in 2019 were 565.

#### CAO Applications

CAO applications are available via CAO from early November until 1<sup>st</sup> February. Late applications for School Leavers are accepted through the CAO until 1<sup>st</sup> May. The RCSI course code for Pharmacy is RC005.

### Equality of Access to Higher Education in Ireland

RCSI participates in the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) and the Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) admissions schemes. RCSI offers 6% of CAO Pharmacy places (RC005) to School Leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds (HEAR) and 6% of CAO Pharmacy places (RC005) to School Leavers with disabilities (DARE) on reduced points. For more information on HEAR & DARE, go to [accesscollege.ie](http://accesscollege.ie)

#### Fees

RCSI is part of the “Free Fees Initiative” funded by the Higher Education Authority (HEA). Currently all QQI Level 8 degrees are funded by the “Free Fees Initiative”, however, the 5th and final year of the MPharm programme (QQI Level 9 degree award) is not funded by the HEA. Therefore, all students must pay for their final 5th Year of the MPharm programme. Students who have previously attended third-level education under the “Free Fees Initiative” are liable for tuition fees.

## Graduate Entry Pharmacy (15 Places)

RCSI welcomes applications from Graduates. The pharmacy programme for Graduates is five years in duration. Applications are made online directly to RCSI.

Candidates must hold or expect to hold on year of admission a minimum second-class honours result in their first honours bachelor degree (QQI Level 8). Applicants will be selected for admission on the basis of open competition using:

- Basic eligibility (competitive degree)
- Confidential references
- Life experience, extracurricular activities, relevant work / voluntary experience, work-life balance
- Structured interview.

A science background is not a prerequisite and academic excellence in the humanities and social sciences is recognised. If a candidate presents a non-scientific degree they must present the NUI matriculation requirements in their Leaving Certificate.

#### Mature Entry Pharmacy (2 Places)

Mature applicants must be 23 years of age on or before 1<sup>st</sup> January prior to admission to be eligible to apply for Mature Entry Pharmacy. Mature applicants are selected for admission on the basis of open competition and interview.

The aim of the Mature Entry Pathway is to widen access and provide an opportunity for individuals who may not otherwise find it possible to join a pharmacy course through the traditional CAO points-based system.

The Mature Entry Pathway focuses on life experience, such as volunteer work or relevant work experience, in addition to the candidate's academic background. Mature applicants are advised to gain knowledge of the breadth of pharmacy and should offer educational experience in a subject relevant to pharmacy (normally in the sciences) as minimum requirements before applying. As the demand for Mature Entry to Pharmacy is competitive, the candidates applying determine the entry criteria for a given year and these can vary.



Mature applicants often present a third-level qualification, but this is not an essential requirement for consideration. In order to satisfy minimum eligibility, Mature Pharmacy applicants must meet NUI matriculation requirements, which must include Irish, English, Maths, a foreign language, Chemistry (H3 grade) and Biology (H3 grade), and / or an equivalent accredited (QQI) Access to Science Programme. Mature Pharmacy applicants must present minimum H3 grades in both Higher Level Chemistry and Higher Level Biology (pre-2017 Leaving Certificate HB3 grades in both Chemistry and Biology). Mature Pharmacy applicants may satisfy these criteria by presenting two science results (H3 grades) obtained in more than one sitting of the Leaving Certificate.

### Pharmacy Technician Entry (2 Places)

RCSI welcomes applications from qualified Pharmacy Technicians. The pharmacy programme for qualified Pharmacy Technicians is five years in duration.

Applications are made online to RCSI. Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Must be 23 years of age on or before 1st January prior to admission
- Must meet NUI matriculation requirements which must include Irish, English, Maths, a foreign language, Chemistry and Biology
- Must present minimum H3 grades in both Higher Level Chemistry and Higher Level Biology (pre-2017 Leaving Certificate HB3 grades in both Chemistry and Biology)
- Candidates may satisfy these criteria by presenting two science results obtained in more than one sitting of the Leaving Certificate.
- The Pharmacy Technician qualification which an applicant holds must be of at least Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications (QQI Level 6).

Graduate, Pharmacy Technician and Mature entry applicants are selected for admission on the basis of open competition using the following criteria:

- Academic eligibility (see above)
- Confidential references and life experience (work-life balance, extracurricular activities, relevant work / voluntary experience)
- Structured interview.

Graduate, Pharmacy Technician and Mature Entrants apply online to RCSI between November and February.

### Tuition Fees

Full details of tuition fees for Graduate, Pharmacy Technician & Mature Entry are available on the undergraduate fees and funding section of the of the RCSI website.

### Degree Awarded

Graduates of the RCSI Pharmacy programme receive the award Master of Pharmacy both by the National University of Ireland (NUI) and RCSI. This professional qualification allows graduates to apply to be registered as a pharmacist nationally, throughout the European Union and internationally.

### Open Days

RCSI hosts a number of dedicated Pharmacy Open Days, Open Evenings and RCSI Student Experience visits throughout the year.

Full details and registration is available at [rcsi.com](https://www.rcsi.com)

## How to Apply as an EU Applicant

RCSI offers a four-year BSc Physiotherapy programme to School Leavers and Mature entrants and a three-year programme to Graduate entrants.

The BSc Physiotherapy degree at RCSI is a qualification for people who want to practice physiotherapy in the Irish healthcare system or in private practice. RCSI Physiotherapy Graduates are automatically eligible for membership of the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists. School Leavers apply through the Central Applications Office (CAO) website using the course code RC004. Graduates and Mature entrants apply directly to RCSI using the RCSI online application, which is available on the Undergraduate Physiotherapy section of the RCSI website from early November until 1<sup>st</sup> February each year.

## 2020 Entry Requirements

### CAO School Leavers – RC004 - (15 Places)

CAO applicants must present a minimum of six recognised Irish Leaving Certificate subjects to include Irish, English, Maths, another language, one laboratory science (Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physics / Chemistry or Agricultural Science) and one other recognised subject. Applicants must achieve a minimum H5 grade in two subjects and a minimum O6 / H7 grade in the remaining four subjects. The points for entry to physiotherapy (RC004) in 2019 were 542.

### CAO Applications

Applications are available via CAO from 1st November until 1<sup>st</sup> February. Late applications for School Leavers are accepted until 1st May. The RCSI course code for Physiotherapy is RC004.

## Equality of Access to Higher Education in Ireland

RCSI participates in the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) and Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) admissions schemes. RCSI offers 6% of CAO Physiotherapy (RC004) places to School Leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds (HEAR) and 6% of CAO Physiotherapy (RC004) places to School Leavers with disabilities (DARE) on reduced points. For more information on HEAR & DARE, go to [accesscollege.ie](https://www.accesscollege.ie)

## Fees

RCSI is part of the “Free Fees Initiative” funded by the Higher Education Authority (HEA). Currently all QQI Level 8 degrees are funded by the “Free Fees Initiative”. Students who have previously attended third-level education under the “Free Fees Initiative” are liable for tuition fees.

### Graduate Entry Physiotherapy (15 Places)

RCSI welcomes applications from Graduates. The physiotherapy programme for Graduates is three years in duration. Applications are made online to RCSI. Candidates must hold or expect to hold on year of admission a minimum second-class honours result in their first honours bachelor degree (QQI Level 8).

Applicants will be selected for admission on the basis of open competition using:

- Basic eligibility (competitive degree)
- Confidential references
- Life experience, extracurricular activities, relevant work / voluntary experience, work-life balance
- Structured interview.

A science background is not a prerequisite and academic excellence in the humanities and social sciences is recognised. If a candidate presents a non-scientific degree they must present the NUI matriculation requirements in their Leaving Certificate.

### Mature Entry Physiotherapy (1 Place)

Mature applicants must be 23 years of age on or before 1st January prior to admission to be eligible to apply for Mature Entry Physiotherapy. Mature applicants are selected for admission on the basis of open competition and interview.

The aim of the Mature Entry Pathway is to widen access and provide an opportunity for individuals who may not otherwise find it possible to join a physiotherapy through the traditional CAO points-based system.

The Mature Entry Pathway focuses on life experience, such as volunteer work or relevant work experience, in addition to the candidate's academic background. Mature applicants are advised to gain knowledge of the breadth of physiotherapy and should offer educational experience in a subject relevant to physiotherapy (normally in the sciences) as minimum requirements before applying.

As the demand for mature entry to physiotherapy is competitive, the candidates applying determine the entry criteria for a given year and these can vary.

Mature applicants often present a third-level qualification, but this is not an essential requirement for consideration. In order to satisfy the minimum basic eligibility, mature applicants must meet the NUI matriculation requirements to include Irish, English, Maths, another language, one laboratory science (Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physics / Chemistry or Agricultural Science) and one other recognised subject. Applicants must achieve minimum H5 grades in two subjects and minimum O6 / H7 grades in the remaining four subjects or equivalent accredited (QQI) Access to Science Programme.

### **Tuition Fees**

Full details of tuition fees for Graduate & Mature Entry are available on the undergraduate fees and funding section of the RCSI website.

Graduate and Mature Entrants apply online to RCSI between November and February.

### **Degree Awarded**

Graduates of the RCSI Physiotherapy programme receive the award of BSc Physiotherapy both by the National University of Ireland (NUI) and RCSI as well as professional recognition by the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists.

### **Open Days**

RCSI hosts a number of dedicated Physiotherapy Open Days, Open Evenings and RCSI Student Experience visits throughout the year.

Full details and registration is available at [rcsi.com](https://www.rcsi.com)





## **RCSI Access**

RCSI is committed to widening access and to the creation of a socially inclusive learning environment. Students with disabilities, socio-economically disadvantaged students and members of the Traveller Community continue to experience barriers to reaching their full educational potential.

To widen access, RCSI participates in the Higher Education Admissions Route (HEAR), which supports socio-economically disadvantaged students, and the Disability Access Route to Education (DARE), which supports students applying with a disability. RCSI offers 6% of CAO places on reduced points to both the HEAR and DARE Schemes.

School Leavers applying through the CAO who provide the necessary evidence relating to their socio-economic circumstances and/or disability are eligible to compete for places allocated on reduced points through the HEAR and DARE schemes. Please note that the normal College matriculation and entry requirements apply to HEAR and DARE applicants.

Further information on HEAR & DARE is available here: [accesscollege.ie](https://accesscollege.ie)

## **RCSI Access Scholarships**

In addition to the 6% HEAR and 6% DARE reduced points places, RCSI also provides three Access Scholarships:

- The Aim High Medicine Scholarship (RC001)
- The Kiran Pathak Pharmacy Scholarship (RC005)
- The Traveller Community Access Programme (TCAP) Medicine, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy Scholarships.

These three Access Scholarships provide reduced points entry, financial support and opportunities for students who might otherwise be unable to attend third-level education due to social disadvantage or financial constraints.

## **Academic Excellence Scholarships**

In addition to Access Scholarships, RCSI wishes to acknowledge academic excellence through the Consilio Manuque Medicine Scholarships (RC001).

## **Consilio Manuque Medicine Scholarships**

“Consilio Manuque”, meaning Scholarship and Dexterity, is RCSI’s motto. The purpose of the Consilio Manuque Medicine Scholarships is to foster academic excellence. They are awarded to the students with the highest combined Leaving Certificate and HPAT score entering the five-year medical degree programme (RC001). The Consilio Manuque Medicine Scholarships are generously funded by our global network of RCSI Alumni. Scholarships of €5,000 will be awarded to the recipients each year for the duration of the five-year medical degree programme.

## **How to Apply for RCSI Scholarships**

School Leavers interested in applying for the Aim High Medicine, Kiran Pathak Pharmacy, Traveller Community Access Programme or Consilio Manuque Scholarships must apply through the CAO by 1<sup>st</sup> February and submit the relevant scholarship application forms directly to RCSI. Additional information and scholarship application forms are available from the RCSI Admissions Office email: [admissions@rcsi.com](mailto:admissions@rcsi.com)

## 7. Connect With Us



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E: [admissions@rcsi.com](mailto:admissions@rcsi.com)  
T: +353 1 4022228  
W: [rcsi.com/dublin](http://rcsi.com/dublin)





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