

ALLIED HEALTHCARE

Sector Background

This category includes all medical treatment areas and therapies which aim to relieve, manage and cure patients with particular conditions. Most of the professions in this sector involve specific training programmes that can be completed through undergraduate and postgraduate study. In this sector, Statutory Registration with CORU is required for: Dietitians, Occupational Therapists, Optometrists, Physiotherapists, Podiatrists and Speech and Language Therapists regardless of whether they work in the private or public sector or are self-employed.

Occupational Therapy

Occupational Therapy is a client-centred health profession concerned with promoting health and well-being through occupation. It involves the assessment and treatment of physical and psychological conditions in patients to maximise their levels of independence in everyday life. Occupational Therapists work with a wide variety of people whose problems may be congenital or the result of an accident, ageing or lifestyle to help them make the most of their lives and activities.

Speech & Language Therapy

Speech & Language Therapy involves the diagnosis and treatment of people of all ages with speech, language and communication difficulties such as childhood speech and language disorders, stammers, acquired speech and language disorders (from brain injury or disease), voice disorders, and also those with eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties.. The therapist works closely with patients and their families to establish a treatment programme to help each patient communicate as effectively as possible. They also work with clients who cannot communicate through normal means to develop alternative forms of communication, or use specialised computer devices.

Physiotherapy

Physiotherapy involves the health care of people of all ages who have lost movement or ability following an accident or illness, helping them to resume as active and independent a life as possible. Physiotherapy is aimed at the prevention, treatment and alleviation of a wide range of disorders and conditions such as arthritis, spina-bifida, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis and injuries as a result of accidents. Physiotherapy treatment can involve gross motor development, postural management, hydrotherapy, orthotic assessment and monitoring, sensory integration, exercise, electrotherapy and mobilisation. It also involves education and advising patients and their carers.

Dietetics

Dietetics involves the treatment of medical conditions and promotion of healthy eating through the provision of impartial and practical nutritional advice and the devising of eating plans based on the science of nutrition. Dietitians use the most up-to-date public health and scientific research on food, health and disease and other related disciplines such as biochemistry, physiology and social science to promote health, prevent disease and aid in the management of illness.

Optometry

Optometry provides a first entry point for visual problems into the healthcare system. Optometrists (formerly known as ophthalmic opticians) employ the use of advanced instrumentation in determining ocular health, visual acuity, depth and colour perception and the ability to focus and co-ordinate the eyes. Optometrists are responsible for the detection of eye diseases that may require medical attention. Conditions such as diabetes or multiple sclerosis are often first detected by an Optometrist. However, Optometrists do not provide secondary or tertiary care as it is not their function to provide treatment of eye diseases or other medical conditions affecting the eye. It is, however, their function to examine for signs of such conditions as part of the eye examination and, if found, to make an appropriate referral to a medical practitioner.

Podiatry

Podiatry is a science-based healthcare profession that specialises in the assessment, promotion, maintenance, and restoration of lower limb and foot health. Patient management ranges from nail and skin pathologies, management of patients with disease that can compromise the viability of the foot and lower limbs, mechanical correction of gait and posture, sports injuries and minor surgery through to more complex surgical techniques. Interventions not only include 'hands on' treatment – Podiatrists also offer advice on how to prevent problems; for example advising someone who is at risk of amputation on how to manage their condition to prevent such an outcome.

Typical Roles

Some Allied Healthcare Profession roles include;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Occupational Therapist ● Speech & Language Therapist ● Physiotherapist ● Osteopath 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dietitian ● Optometrist ● Podiatrist ● Audiologist
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Entry Routes

Occupational Therapy

The CORU Occupational Therapists Registration Board approves the following qualifications as attesting to the standard of proficiency required for registration:

Undergraduate Study

- [Bachelor in Science in Occupational Therapy](#) from Trinity College Dublin
- [Bachelor of Science \(Occupational Therapy\)](#) from University College Cork
- [Bachelor of Science \(Occupational Therapy\)](#) from the National University Ireland, Galway

Graduate Study

- [Master of Science in Occupational Therapy \(Professional Qualification\)](#) from University of Limerick

All applicants to MSc. Occupational Therapy must sit the [Health Professionals Admissions Test](#) (HPAT).

Outside Ireland

Studying in the UK at undergraduate and postgraduate level is a popular option for Irish students. See the list of approved courses [here](#).

Speech and Language Therapy

The following qualifications have been approved by the CORU Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board as attesting to the standard of proficiency required for registration as Speech and Language Therapists:

Undergraduate Study

- [Bachelor of Science in Clinical Speech and Language Studies](#), Trinity College Dublin.
- [Bachelor of Science \(Speech and Language Therapy\)](#), University College Cork
- [Bachelor of Science \(Speech and Language Therapy\)](#), National University of Ireland, Galway

Graduate Study

- [Master of Science in Speech and Language Therapy \(Professional Qualification\)](#), University of Limerick.

All applicants to MSc. Speech & Language Therapy must sit the [Health Professionals Admissions Test](#) (HPAT).

Outside Ireland

Studying Speech & Language Therapy in the UK at undergraduate and postgraduate level is a popular option for Irish students. [Search UCAS Postgraduate courses](#).

Physiotherapy

Undergraduate Study

In Ireland, there are four Undergraduate courses that qualify students to work as a physiotherapist:

- [Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy](#), Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- [Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy](#), University College Dublin
- [Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy](#), Trinity College Dublin
- [Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy](#), University of Limerick

Graduate Study

There are two courses in Ireland that allow students to study Physiotherapy as a Graduate course after completing an undergraduate degree:

- [MSc. Physiotherapy](#), 2 Year Graduate Entry Course, University College Dublin
- [MSc. Physiotherapy](#), 3 Year Graduate Entry Course, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Many Irish students also attend Undergraduate and Graduate Entry (Pre-Registration) Physiotherapy courses in the UK. [Search the full list](#).

Dietetics

Undergraduate Study

The following qualifications are approved by the CORU Dietitians Registration Board as attesting to the standard of proficiency required for registration as Dietitians:

- [Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition and Dietetics](#), Dublin Institute of Technology and Trinity College Dublin

Graduate Study

- [MSc. in Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics](#), University College Dublin – 2 Year Graduate Entry currently pending CORU registration approval

Outside Republic of Ireland

As with all of the Allied Health profession courses, Irish students often avail of UK opportunities to study at both [undergraduate and postgraduate level](#).

Examples of popular Graduate MSc. Dietetics courses are:

- [MSc. Dietetics](#) University of Ulster, Coleraine, Northern Ireland
- [MSc. Dietetics](#) Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, Scotland

Optometry

There is only one course in Ireland that qualifies students to work as an Optometrist

- [BSc. Optometry](#) Dublin Institute of Technology

Outside Ireland

Studying Optometry in the UK at undergraduate and postgraduate level is a popular option for Irish students. [Search UCAS Postgraduate courses](#).

Podiatry

There is only one course in Ireland that qualifies students to work as a Podiatrist:

- [Bachelor of Science in Podiatry](#) NUI Galway

This undergraduate programme is a four-year full-time course and leads to a professional and academic qualification in Podiatry. This is a relatively new course and many Irish students travelled to the UK to study Podiatry prior to its introduction here.

Outside Ireland

Studying Podiatry in the UK at undergraduate and postgraduate level is a popular option for Irish students. [Search UCAS Postgraduate courses](#).

Relevant Bodies & Professional Associations

<u>Association of Occupational Therapists in Ireland</u>	<u>Irish Nutrition & Dietetic Institute</u>
<u>Association of Optometrists Ireland</u>	<u>Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists</u>
<u>CORU Health & Social Care Professionals Council</u>	<u>Opticians Board</u>
<u>HSE Job Search</u>	<u>Public Appointments Service</u>
<u>Irish Association of Speech & Language Therapists</u>	<u>Society of Chiropodists & Podiatrists Ireland</u>