**MEDICINE**

**Sector Background**

**Medicine**

There is currently a skills shortage for Doctors in Ireland. The first step to becoming a Medical Doctor is a recognised degree. On completion of the Medical Degree, candidates register with the Medical Council and then complete an Intern year as House Officer with one of the hospitals recognised for this purpose. Having completed their internship, many Doctors undertake further postgraduate training with a view to becoming a specialist in an area of medicine of particular interest to them as outlined in the next section.

**Physician Associate**

A relatively new healthcare professional is the Physician Associate (PA). They work as a member of a medical team under the supervision of a Doctor or Surgeon in a wide variety of workplaces. Physician Associates support Doctors in the diagnosis and management of patients, taking medical histories, performing examinations, making diagnoses and analysing test results.

**Typical Specialisms**

Click on the Medical Specialisms below for a link to full training information and career path details.

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Entry Routes

Undergraduate Medicine

There are five Undergraduate Courses in Ireland and students are awarded three degrees on graduating: Bachelor of Medicine (MB), Bachelor of Surgery (BCH) and Bachelor of Obstetrics (BAO). Some colleges offer courses in both five and six year options, and NUI Galway also offers a seven year PhD option. Courses that require two Leaving Certificate Laboratory Science subjects are five years in duration (RCSI, Trinity College Dublin, NUI Galway, UCC) and those that only require one Science Subject are six years in duration (NUI Galway, RCSI and UCD).

- Bachelor in Medicine, Bachelor in Surgery, and Bachelor in Obstetrics, Trinity College
- Bachelor in Medicine, Bachelor in Surgery, and Bachelor in Obstetrics, UCD
- Bachelor in Medicine, Bachelor in Surgery, and Bachelor in Obstetrics, UCC
- Bachelor in Medicine, Bachelor in Surgery, and Bachelor in Obstetrics, NUI Galway
- Bachelor in Medicine, Bachelor in Surgery, and Bachelor in Obstetrics, RCSI

School Leavers

For 2016 entry, school leavers must achieve a minimum of 480 points in the Leaving Certificate, meet the college specific entry requirements and sit the HPAT test. Further information on 2016 entry requirements to Undergraduate Medicine is available in this comprehensive document [here](#).

Mature Student Entry

Trinity College, UCD, UCC, NUI Galway, and RCSI provide an entry option for Mature students (aged 23 and above) on to the Undergraduate Courses above.

HPAT

All applicants to Undergraduate Medicine must sit the Health Professionals Admissions Test (HPAT). This is a two and a half hour multiple-choice test developed and used specifically to assist with the selection of medical students and other allied health courses. This test must be registered for by the 20th of January of the year of entry (students must have a CAO number to do this). It is taken on the last Saturday in February and the results are released at the end of June. The cost is currently €120.

Graduate Entry Medicine

In Ireland, Graduate Entry Medicine is currently offered by:

- Bachelor in Medicine, Bachelor in Surgery, and Bachelor in Obstetrics, UCD
- Bachelor in Medicine, Bachelor in Surgery, and Bachelor in Obstetrics, RCSI
- Bachelor in Medicine, Bachelor in Surgery, and Bachelor in Obstetrics, UCC
- Bachelor in Medicine, Bachelor in Surgery, and Bachelor in Obstetrics, University of Limerick.

Currently, candidates must hold, or expect to hold by 1st of July on the year of entry, a minimum 2:1 (Second Class Honours, Grade One, or equivalent) result in their first Honours Bachelor Degree
(NFQ Level 8) of any discipline. Applicants to Graduate Entry Medicine must sit the Graduate Medical Schools Admission Test (GAMSAT). The fee for this is currently €325.

**Physician Associate**

Graduates of the health sciences or those already in career in healthcare can apply to the new intensive 2 year Masters in Physician Associate Studies in Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI).

- **MSc. in Physician Associate Studies,** RCSI

### Relevant Links & Professional Associations

| Academy of Medical Laboratory Science | Medical Council |
| CORU Health & Social Care Professionals Council | Medical Careers for Ireland |
| Department of Health | Public Appointments Service |
| IMO - Irish Medical Organisation | Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland (RAMI) |
| Irish College of General Practitioners | Royal College of Physicians of Ireland |
| Irish Medicines Board | RCSI National Surgical Training Centre |