

Guidelines & Application Form for Equivalent Standards Route (RCSI Applicants) Commencing training on the 12th July 2021

This Equivalent Standards Route (ESR) – RCSI Application Guideline is specifically for applicants **who have completed** an RCSI Core or Basic Surgical Training Programme prior to 2021.

In lieu of the current COVID-19 pandemic, Surgical Affairs & the RCSI are adhering to government guidelines. The safety of applicants and staff is the RCSI's priority. Any changes to interview dates or formats due to the pandemic will be issued if applicable closer to the event date.

Equivalent Standards Route application closing date	19 th November 2020
Shortlisting dates:	January-February 2021 (dates TBC)
Interview dates:	15 th – 23 rd March 2021, RCSI
(If applicable):	
Operative Surgical Skills (OSS) Assessments	Tuesday, 9 February 2021.
Human Factors and Patient Safety (HFPS) Assessments	Tuesday, 9 February 2021.

- All applicants must hold the award of **RCSI** Certificate of Core Surgical Training (CST) or **RCSI** Certificate of Completion of Basic Surgical Training (CCBST).
- All applicants must be eligible to register with the Irish Medical Council (www.medicalcouncil.ie) or any other EU medical regulatory registration body. Please refer to: www.rcsi.com/surgery/training.
- Please see important information regarding allocation of training places for 2021 at <http://www.rcsi.ie/surgery/training>
- All guidance documents are available at: www.rcsi.com/surgery/training and each applicant is recommended to read these in advance of completing their application for Specialist Training.
- All applicants must have satisfactorily completed Operative Surgical Skills and Human Factors and Patient Safety Assessments. Any applicant who has completed an RCSI Core Surgical Training Programme or RCSI Basic Surgical Programme from 2011 will have completed an assessment as a mandatory requirement of the programme. This information will be on file with the Surgical Training Office.
- If you completed your Basic Surgical Programme prior to 2011 you may be required to undertake a Human Factors and Patient Safety and/or Operative Surgical Skills assessment. The Surgical Training Office will contact you in advance if this is required.
- Submit elogbooks for applicable programmes you have completed (Core/Basic Surgical Training etc), If you completed a RCSI Programme this information will be on file. **Please note:** To facilitate the assessment of your electronic logbook, RCSI require your logbook to be submitted via elogbook.org. If you have logged all your operations in elogbook.org you need to grant access to RCSI. If you used a different logbook it is necessary to create an account with elogbook.org and fill in your logbook historically (and grant access to RCSI for scoring purposes). Once this is complete, RCSI can use your Medical Council registration number to retrieve the operative records for analysis and comparison.
Any candidate who continued to use their RCSI logbook, RCSI will have access.
- Submit elogbooks for your most recent held posts following completion of Core/Basic Training). *As above re RCSI access.*

- Four Trainee Assessment Reports to support your Core/Basic Surgical Training experience. If you completed a RCSI Programme this information will be on file.
- One Trainer Assessment Report per six months (to include your most recent placement) for any time you have spent gaining clinical experience following Core/Basic Training.

Should RCSI require any further details on your Core or Basic Surgical Training Programme in advance of shortlisting we will contact you directly.

Application Scoring – Pre Interview (Shortlisting)

Core/Basic Surgical Training Programme

Trainee Assessment Reports x4	160 marks
RCSI Logbook	85 marks

Mandatory Assessments

MRCS*/DOHNS (ENT) Exam Score (Part B) <i>*pre 2012 MRCS 0 marks awarded</i>	85 marks
RCSI Operative Surgical Skills Assessment	85 marks
RCSI Human Factors and Patient Safety Assessment	85 marks

Post Core / Basic Surgical Training Programme (see appendix 1 & 2)

Academic Performance	75 marks
Clinical Experience	65 marks

** No pre academic scoring for Cardiothoracic Surgery full 75 marks are available at interview.*

Pre Interview Total **640 marks**

Specialty Selection Interview

Station 1: Quality and safety in surgical healthcare	80 marks
Station 2: Commitment to academic advancement and lifelong learning	40 marks
Station 3: Knowledge of current issues relevant to surgical practice	80 marks
Station 4: Decision making in surgery	80 marks
Station 5: Professionalism and probity in surgical practice	80 marks

Interview Total **360 marks**

Overall Total **1000 marks**

In total 75 marks are awarded for relevant Academic Performance and Commitment to Academic advancement over the totality of your career (post undergraduate). A further 40 marks will be awarded during the interviews where this component will be further assessed during the interview process.

A maximum of 75 marks may be awarded in this section. It is theoretically possible for applicants to accumulate more than 75 marks based on thesis; other higher degrees/awards, publications and presentations but the maximum mark which may be awarded stands at 75 marks.

Marks in this section are not cumulative, and applicants will only be credited for the highest scoring degree. For example, if an applicant has an MD degree (45) and also a surgically relevant MSc degree (25) their total score in this section will be 40 marks.

1. Higher Degree by Thesis		55 marks
Awarded:	PhD	55 marks
	MD	45 marks
	MCh	35 marks
Submitted with verification:		15 marks

Applicants who have completed a thesis must submit a summary of the thesis with the application process. Applicants who have been awarded a Higher Degree by thesis through a non-Irish university **must** produce sufficient documentation to satisfy the shortlisting committee that their thesis is equivalent to a thesis which would be submitted to an Irish university.

2. Other Higher Degrees/Awards		35 marks
	• Taught Modular MCh (90 ECTS credits)	35 marks

A proportion of this 35 marks may be awarded for satisfactory completion of individual modules of a taught Masters or taught PhD programme. The mark awarded will be guided by the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

	• Other relevant Masters degrees (90 ECTS credits) (e.g. M.Sc., M.Ed., MBA)	35 marks
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A mark of up to 35 marks may be awarded for surgically relevant degrees which are obtained through full-time study of at least one year and are **relevant to the specialty**. The same mark (35) may be awarded for specialty relevant degrees which are obtained through part-time study of at least two years. A mark of 25 may be awarded for surgically relevant degrees which are obtained through part-time study of at least one year. The mark awarded will be guided by the ECTS.

	• Relevant Higher Diplomas (60 ECTS credits)	25 marks
	• Relevant Diplomas (45 ECTS credits)	18 marks
	• Relevant Certificates (30 ECTS credits)	12 marks

Each specialty will devise its own list of degrees and diplomas which are relevant to that specialty and for which marks will be awarded. As with the taught modular M.Ch (above) marks can be awarded for attainment of ECTS credits even if a full Degree/Diploma has not yet been awarded.

Marks are only awarded for degrees or diplomas which are awarded by universities or educational establishments recognised by the Irish Medical Council or by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Marks are not awarded for any degree which is obtained prior to commencement of undergraduate medical school. Likewise, marks are not awarded for any degree obtained as a matter of course during medical school. Degrees obtained during medical school may only be scored if the applicant has taken time out of medical school to obtain the degree on a full-time basis.

3. Publications

55 marks

- **Original peer reviewed scientific papers**

An applicant may submit any number of publications for consideration for scoring. However, the maximum mark of 55 in this section stands. Only publications in peer reviewed scientific journals will be considered. For most specialties, the marks allocated will be based on the impact factor of the journal as follows:

Impact factor < 1:	10 marks
Impact factor ≥ 2:	15 marks
Impact factor ≥ 3:	28 marks
Impact factor ≥ 4:	30 marks
Impact factor ≥ 5:	45 marks

The full mark described above will be awarded for first author or senior author; one half of that mark will be awarded for co-author. All publications for consideration **must have** a PMID number submitted with the application. If the publication is not yet on PubMed, there must be a letter of acceptance from the editor of the journal submitted with the application.

Some surgical specialties will produce a list of “premium journals” relevant to the specialty which will be marked as if their impact factor is >3

Applicants will be asked to submit their five most important publications. A sub-committee of the selection panel will then assess and grade the publications in order to allocate a suitable mark.

- **Invited Review Articles:** 15 marks 15 marks max, depending on Journal)
- **Book Chapters (Max two):** 15 marks First Author (must include ISBN number of book
8 marks Co-Author (must include ISBN number of book
A maximum of 15 marks may be awarded for book chapters
- **Case Reports (Max two):** 8 marks (irrespective of impact factor of journal, max 4 marks)

Applicants may not be rewarded twice for a presentation which is published automatically because it has been presented at a surgical meeting. No points will be awarded for abstracts or letters to the Editor.

4. Presentations at Scientific/Clinical Meetings

18 marks

A maximum of 18 marks may be awarded for presentations at scientific meetings. A mark of 4 marks may be awarded for presentation at each meeting (i.e. Max 5 presentations). Marks in this section may be cumulative up to the total of 18 marks. Marks are only awarded if the applicant has actually made the presentation at the meeting. No marks are awarded for being a co-author of a presentation. No marks are awarded for poster presentations. Marks will not be given twice for presenting the same material at more than one meeting. Each specialty will compile its own list of international and national meetings which are recognised for scoring under this heading.

5. Prizes for Research

18 marks

The maximum score under this section is 18 marks. Marks in this section may be cumulative, up to a maximum of 18 marks. Each specialty will compile its own list of recognised prizes

6. RCSI/Other Approved Education Programmes

10 marks

(Specialty & relevant clinical course)
2 marks each max 10)

e Logbook 10 marks per rotation	30 marks
Trainee Assessment Report (TAR) 1 per 6 month rotation	35 marks

Please note: the most recent posts will only be taken into consideration for scoring your clinical experience.

2021 Intake