



RCSI SURGICAL
AFFAIRS

Specialty Progression Metrics

The pathway to appointment to Specialty training and the progression of candidates from Core Surgical Training to Specialty Training is competitive, with entry points at ST1 and ST3.

This document provides those with an interest in pursuing a medical career in surgery with the relevant progression metrics for the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 & 2021 of the Surgical Training Pathway in Ireland.

Within the document information is provided on the progression of trainees from each stage of training from Core Surgical Training (CST) ST1 to ST2 Specialty year and appointment to ST3 Specialty Training.

It includes metrics on those appointed to Specialty training via the Equivalent Standards route – (ESR). This route is open to those who have completed *core surgical training in another country as well as Ireland. ESR was introduced from the 2019 ST3 intake onwards.

This document is representative only and should not be used as a basis for preparing for selection; it may provide assistance to future trainees to support their training journey and experience.

We strongly advise that you always check with your chosen specialty for the latest recruitment, selection and *eligibility criteria, which is detailed on the RCSI website.

ST1

ST2

ST3

2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021

Specialty Progression from 2017 CST Pathway Intake

ESR Applicants are shown at ST3 Application stage

2017 CST Intake and Appointment	2018 Progression to ST2	2019 Applications to ST3	2020 Appointments to ST3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 129 applicants applied for CST 2017 › 63 candidates were offered a post on the programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 100% (58) of ST1 Trainees progressed to ST2 › 95% of Trainees commenced in their specialty of choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 51 (81%) CST Trainees applied for ST3 post › 22 ESR candidates applied for Specialty training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 32 (63%) CST Trainees & 7 (32%) of ESR applicants who applied for a ST3 post were successful 	
63	Cardiothoracic Surgery	4	Cardiothoracic Surgery 2 CST	Cardiothoracic Surgery 2 CST
	ENT	7	ENT 7 CST 1 ESR	ENT ENT 5 CST
	General Surgery	17	General Surgery 12 CST 1 ESR	General Surgery 9 CST
	OMFS	1	OMFS 1 CST	OMFS (Withdrawn) 0 CST
	Neurosurgery	2	Neurosurgery 2 CST 1 ESR	Neurosurgery 2 CST
	Paediatric Surgery	3	Paediatric Surgery 2 CST	Paediatric Surgery 1 CST
	Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery	5	Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery 4 CST 2 ESR	Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery 3 CST
	Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery	13	Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery 11 CST 11 ESR	Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery 5 CST 5 ESR
	Urology	8	Urology 7 CST 5 ESR	Urology 3 CST 1 ESR
	Vascular Surgery	3	Vascular Surgery 3 CST 1 ESR	Vascular Surgery 2 CST 1 ESR

Specialty Progression from 2018 CST Pathway Intake

ESR Applicants are shown at ST3 Application stage

2018 CST Intake	2019 Progression to ST2	2020 Applications to ST3	2020 Appointments to ST3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 110 applicants applied for CST 2018 › 60 candidates were offered a post on the programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 96% (58) of ST1 Trainees progressed to ST2 › 91.5% of Trainees commenced in their specialty of choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 40 (68%) CST Trainees applied for ST3 post › 22 ESR candidates applied for Specialty training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 30 (75%) CST Trainees & 12 (54%) of ESR applicants who applied for a ST3 post were successful 	
60	Cardiothoracic Surgery	5	Cardiothoracic Surgery 2 CST 2 ESR	Cardiothoracic Surgery 1 CST
	ENT	5	ENT 4 CST 4 ESR	ENT 4 CST 1 ESR
	General Surgery	13	General Surgery 6 CST 3 ESR	General Surgery 6 CST 3 ESR
	OMFS	2	OMFS 0 CST 0 ESR	OMFS 0 CST 0 ESR
	Neurosurgery	4	Neurosurgery 4 CST	Neurosurgery 2 CST
	Paediatric Surgery	1	Paediatric Surgery 1 CST	Paediatric Surgery 1 CST
	Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery	5	Plastic & Reconstructive surgery 4 CST 1 ESR	Plastic & Reconstructive surgery 3 CST 1 ESR
	Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery	11	Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery 8 CST 8 ESR	Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery 5 CST 4 ESR
	Urology	7	Urology 4 CST 4 ESR	Urology 3 CST 2 ESR
	Vascular Surgery	5	Vascular Surgery 4 CST 1 ESR	Vascular Surgery 4 CST 1 ESR

2018

Specialty Progression from 2019 CST Pathway Intake

ESR Applicants are shown at ST3 Application stage

2019 CST Intake	2020 Progression to ST2	2021 Applications to ST3	2021 Appointments to ST3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 120 applicants applied for CST 2019 › 60 candidates were offer posts on the programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 98% (59) of ST1 Trainees progressed to ST2 › 98.25% of Trainees commenced in their specialty of choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 51 (86%) CST Trainees applied for ST3 post › 14 ESR candidates applied for Specialty training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 32 (62%) CST Trainees & 5 (22%) of ESR applicants who applied for a ST3 post were successful 	
60	Cardiothoracic Surgery	3	Cardiothoracic Surgery 2 CST 1 ESR	Cardiothoracic Surgery 1 CST 0 ESR
	ENT	9	ENT 9 CST 2 ESR	ENT 4 CST 1 ESR
	General Surgery	13	General Surgery 10 CST 0 ESR	General Surgery 9 CST 0 ESR
	OMFS	2	OMFS 0 CST 0 ESR	OMFS 0 CST 0 ESR
	Neurosurgery	1	Neurosurgery 0 CST 2 ESR	Neurosurgery 0 CST 1 ESR
	Paediatric Surgery	3	Paediatric Surgery 1 CST	Paediatric Surgery 1 CST
	Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery	6	Plastic & Reconstructive surgery 6 CST 1 ESR	Plastic & Reconstructive surgery 4 CST 0 ESR
	Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery	12	Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery 9 CST 4 ESR	Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery 5 CST 3 ESR
	Urology	8	Urology 6 CST 4 ESR	Urology 3 CST 0 ESR
	Vascular Surgery	4	Vascular Surgery 4 CST 0 ESR	Vascular Surgery 2 CST 0 ESR

2019

Specialty Progression from 2020 CST Pathway Intake

ESR Applicants are shown at ST3 Application stage

2020 CST Intake	2021 Progression to ST2	2022 Applications to ST3	2022 Appointments to ST3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 162 applicants applied for CST 2020 › 60 candidates were offer posts on the programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 98% (59) ST1 Trainees progressed to ST2 › 88% of Trainees commenced in their specialty of choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 48 (81%) CST Trainees & 19 ESR candidates applied for Specialty Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 38 (79%) CST Trainees & 10 (52%) ESR applicants who applied for a ST3 post were successful 	
60	Cardiothoracic Surgery	5	Cardiothoracic Surgery 5 CST	Cardiothoracic Surgery 3 CST
	ENT	8	ENT 5 CST 5 ESR	ENT 3 CST 3 ESR
	General Surgery	12	General Surgery *11 CST	General Surgery 10 CST
	OMFS	0	OMFS 0	OMFS 0
	Neurosurgery	2	Neurosurgery 1 CST 1 ESR	Neurosurgery 1 CST 1 ESR
	Paediatric Surgery	0	Paediatric Surgery 0	Paediatric Surgery 0
	Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery	7	Plastic & Reconstructive surgery 5 CST 5 ESR	Plastic & Reconstructive surgery 3 CST 3 ESR
	Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery	13	Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery *9 CST 5 ESR	Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery 8 CST 2 ESR
	Urology	8	Urology *8 CST 3 ESR	Urology 3 CST 1 ESR
	Vascular Surgery	4	Vascular Surgery 2 CST 1 ESR	Vascular Surgery 2 CST 1 ESR

*No intake for Paediatric Surgery or Oral Maxillofacial Surgery

* Candidates withdrew prior to interview

Specialty Progression from 2021 CST Pathway Intake

ESR Applicants are shown at ST3 Application stage

2021 CST Intake	2022 Progression to ST2	2023 Applications to ST3	2023 Appointments to ST3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 250 applicants applied for CST 2021 › 80 candidates were offered a post on the programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 95% (76) ST1 Trainees progressed to ST2 › 77% of Trainees commenced in their specialty of choice 	› This data will be available in March 2023	› This data will be available in March 2023
80	Cardiothoracic Surgery	5	Cardiothoracic Surgery
	ENT	9	ENT
	General Surgery	20	General Surgery
	OMFS	0	OMFS
	Neurosurgery	4	Neurosurgery
	Paediatric Surgery	4	Paediatric Surgery
	Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery	8	Plastic & Reconstructive surgery
	Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery	13	Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery
	Urology	8	Urology
	Vascular Surgery	5	Vascular Surgery

2021

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Disclaimer: Data and information provided is intended for informational purposes only and is accurate as of July each year in line with reporting metrics. It should not be considered as recommendations or guidance in relation to making a Medical career choice.