



WORLD-CLASS POST CSCST FELLOWSHIPS IN IRELAND



# Aspire

FELLOWSHIPS

## APPLICATION AND OVERVIEW

2024 Aspire Post CSCST Fellowships

is now accepting applications for Aspire Post CSCST Fellowships  
to commence in July 2024.

Queries should be sent to:

Completed applications should be sent to:

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE:**

## Aspire Post CSCST Fellowships

The Aspire Post CSCST Fellowship Programme offers exceptional CSCST graduates the opportunity to work with a leading consultant on a 12 month tailored Fellowship Programme, which ensures fellows receive high-quality specialist and advanced clinical skills training to meet future healthcare needs. Post CSCST Fellowships offer an alternative to trainees now that Ireland's specialist clinical expertise and services have matured and developed. Those successful in securing a fellowship receive an SpR salary for the duration of the fellowship.

Since 2021, the NDTP has committed to funding 40 annual Post CSCST Fellowships across the acute, primary care and mental health specialities. These are internationally competitive posts which drive innovation and medical leadership, harnessing talented CSCST graduates in Ireland.

Successful fellows must hold a CSCST from an Irish Postgraduate Training Body and be within three years of completion of Higher Specialist Training in July 2024 or have entered the specialist division of the MCI register within two years.

The process of identifying fellowships and subsequent recruitment is managed through the relevant Postgraduate Training Bodies with input from the National Clinical Advisory Group Leads (NCAGL's) and National Clinical Programme (NCP's) as appropriate.



## 2024 Key Dates and Application Process

Interested consultants should complete the form on the following pages and return it to the relevant Postgraduate Training Body (as outlined on page 2) by July 31st. Please pay close attention to the evaluation criteria at the end of the document when creating your proposal.

Between August and September, the Postgraduate Training Bodies will establish a panel for the review and selection of fellowships with input from relevant faculty and NCAGL / NCPs.

### 2024 Programme Timeline

**May 17th - July 31st:** Call for proposals

**July 31st:** Final date for proposals

**July 31st - Sept 21st:** The Postgraduate Training Body establishes a panel for the review and selection of fellowships with input from relevant faculty and NCAGL / NCPs

**Sept 25th:** Fellowships will be confirmed

**Oct 2nd:** Fellowship positions will be advertised

**Dec 18th:** Final date for prospective fellows to apply for positions



## **Aspire Post CSCST Fellowship 2024-2025 Application Form**

**Title:**

(Please state the title of the proposed fellowship)

**Duration of the Fellowship:**

(It is expected that most fellowships will be of a 12-month duration, however fellowship proposals up to 24 months will be considered. (Please see further details on the duration of fellowships in the conditions section of this document.)

**Primary Location of the Fellowship (Employer):**

**Secondary Location(s) of the Fellowship (if applicable):**

Temple Street CHI, Cappagh Orthopedic Hospital, Santry Sporst clinic, Mater Provate Hospital, Central Remedial Clinic

**Primary Clinical Lead/Assigned Supervisor's Details:**

Name:

Organisation:

Phone:

Email:

## **Please provide an overview of the fellowship, what the applicant will be doing in the post, including research and audit:**

Max 500 words (25 marks)

1. The fellow will work with all the Consultant Hand Surgeons listed above, all of whom have completed fellowship in internationally renowned units worldwide. The fellow will have the unique opportunity to develop surgical skills beyond the normal scope of Plastic or Orthopedic Surgical training through regular theatre time with an appropriate case load. The case profile includes:

- o Surgical management of adult and paediatric brachial plexus pathology
- o Surgical management of spasticity
- o Surgical management of tetraplegic patients with complex functional deficits
- o Surgical management of nerve tumours
- o Lumbosacral plexus surgery

2. The fellow will have an active role within the North Dublin Upper Limb Surgery Service. Outside of surgery they will attend all specialty clinics for management of brachial plexus injuries, spasticity and spinal cord injuries / tetraplegia. Further elective workload is carried out by the supervising consultants in peripheral sites listed above. The fellow will be expected to attend all sites in order to gain exposure to all areas peripheral nerve surgery & upper limb surgery from a Plastic surgery and Orthopaedic surgery perspective.

3. The fellow will attend morbidity meetings, audit meetings, radiology meetings, as well as contribute to in-house Plastic Surgery Teaching Programme at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. In each six month period the fellow should undertake a minimum of 10 Case Based Discussions and 10 Procedure Based Assessments of upper limb operations. The fellow should also complete one Multi Source Feedback.

4. The fellow will be expected to complete at least one comprehensive audit in an area of peripheral nerve surgery. This will have clearly defined parameters, with a review at 6 months. The audit loop must be closed after relevant changes have been instigated and final results presented.

5. Both the Plastic Surgery and Orthopaedic Surgery services have an active research portfolio. In terms of research outputs, a minimum of one submitted original research article in a peer review journal and one oral research presentation is expected at the Irish Society for Surgery of the Hand meeting, as well as international meetings. Proper support will be ensured so that the fellow produces significant academic output, as well as the opportunity to shape policy and discourse at a national level.

6. The candidate must demonstrate diligent study of current hand syllabus as outlined by the Federation of European Societies of Surgery of the Hand (FESSH) and they will be encouraged to sit the FESSH European Board of Hand Surgery Diploma Examination.

7. The candidate is also expected to demonstrate engaged and effective education of undergraduates and postgraduates. They will also be expected to organise and coordinate a national education course in the area of upper limb surgery in the Pillar Centre for Transformative Healthcare at MMUH.

## **Outline the value of the proposed fellowship to the health services:**

Max 1000 words (45 marks)

Suggested headings:

1. Identified unmet patient need
2. Specialty and service priorities / particular workforce requirement
3. Niche area, particular skillset acquisition
4. Unavailability of such training in Ireland currently
5. The potential benefits to the Irish health service and patients
6. Consideration given to recently approved consultant posts

Peripheral nerve surgery accounts for a significant part of the annual caseload attending both Plastic Surgery and Orthopaedic Surgery departments in Irish Hospitals. The untreated conditions addressed in this fellowship result in significant morbidity to patients with peripheral nerve & spinal cord injuries causing a significant reduction in quality of life for patients. The morbidity and poor function associated with these conditions also requires increased input from allied health care specialties, physiotherapy, occupational health etc. This adds significant cost to the Irish health system. Surgical management of these conditions results in increased and improved function and quality of life for the patients, which reduces the burden on the health system. The North Dublin Upper Limb Surgery Service acts as both a tertiary and quaternary level service for the complex management of these peripheral nerve pathologies. It is a service that is recognised nationally for its excellence in a range of elective and emergency upper limb conditions. It is also recognised as a specialist spinal unit. It provides state of the art diagnostics, specialist primary and reconstructive surgery and expert rehabilitation and therapy services. The specialty provides a comprehensive service for management of brachial plexus injuries, spasticity and spinal cord injuries causing tetraplegia. The Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH) is the national centre for brachial plexus injuries and complex neuropathies. Further elective workload is carried out by the supervising consultants in other sites listed above. In their role as fellow, the successful candidate will be expected to attend all sites in order to gain exposure to all areas peripheral nerve surgery & upper limb surgery from both a plastic surgery and orthopaedic surgery perspective. While there are well developed pathways with ancillary services such as OT and physio there is a current shortage of surgeons specialised in management of peripheral nerve injuries. These complex surgeries are only performed by a small number of surgeons in Ireland. Having a fellow will increase capacity of this service to manage these patients. This fellowship will add the potential to train a fellow to a consultant standard to increase capacity to treat this patient group now and into the future. This will be of significant benefit to the Irish health system moving forward.

With the development of an Irish National Trauma Network, there will be significant demand for highly trained individuals who can manage complex upper limb and peripheral nerve surgery. Placement within the Mater network, will allow the fellow to gain valuable insights into the workings of such a network given the recently accredited level 1 trauma centre status of the hospital. This fellowship will deliver an internationally-competitive programme tailored to the context and requirements of our own health system in Ireland. It will be unique as there is currently no recognised postgraduate fellowship in peripheral nerve surgery available in Ireland. It is also unique in that it crosses two specialities, Plastic Surgery and Orthopaedic Surgery. This fellowship will produce a highly trained fellow with interface experience of the two specialities. This will equip them with a much sought after skill set, allowing them to contribute to the multidisciplinary hybrid care provided for patients with peripheral nerve injuries in a Level 1 Major Trauma Centre.

Should this position be endorsed by the receipt of the Aspire Award, it will carry significant prestige and attract experienced, high-impact clinicians. This will help retain specialist medical expertise in the public health system in advance of appointment to Consultant posts and ultimately will benefit the Irish patient population going forward.

**Please provide details of how the fellowship will protect/ prioritise the unique learning requirements of the fellow:**

Max 400 words (15 marks)

The structure of this fellowship has already received approval from the SAC in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery as an Out of Programme Training Year. It therefore satisfies all the learning requirements for a fellowship in Upper Limb Surgery. With formal structure that takes account the unique learning requirements of the fellow.

This fellowship is designed to equip the trainee with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to commence independent practice as an upper limb surgeon within a multidisciplinary team with specialist interest in peripheral nerve surgery. With increasing experience there will be opportunities to undertake unsupervised operating lists and clinics. The department provides a wide range of additional specialist surgery including orthopaedic trauma management (upper and lower limb), lower limb reconstruction as well as a busy microvascular workload; all of which the fellow will participate in according to their interest. Furthermore, the Mater Hospital has an NDTP sponsored microsurgery simulation facility and dedicated microsurgery teaching sessions, which the fellow will have access to.

A Consultant Hand Surgeon will act as educational supervisor. The Fellow's educational supervisor will be available to discuss cases, debrief incidents and provide on-going support to the post-holder. Regular meetings between the post-holder and their educational supervisor are essential.

Proper support will be ensured so that the fellow produces significant academic output, as well as the opportunity to shape policy and discourse at a national level. A well-defined and well-resourced fellowship programme has the potential to deliver innovative research and high-value intellectual property which can be spun into the Irish health system. This will be prioritised for the incumbent fellow.

**Outline how this post CSCST fellowship would provide a quality experience, protected training time and less of a focus on service delivery commitment:**

Max 400 words (15 marks)

Current Specialist Registrars in MMUH operate on a caseload far in excess of that required to fulfil their indicative number of procedures. The current number of registrars and the large caseload coming through the department will ensure that there are an adequate number of cases available for both fellow and specialist trainees without the need for the fellow to provide cross cover in any cases outside the remit of the fellowship. It is understood that the opportunities of the Fellow will not in any way interfere with the training of the Specialist Trainees in Plastic or Orthopaedic Surgery but will add to the experience of the other trainees in the department. It is also understood at a departmental level that the unique training position of the fellow is recognised, respected and protected. There will be no requirement or expectation to fulfil service provision roles or roles outside the fellowship description.

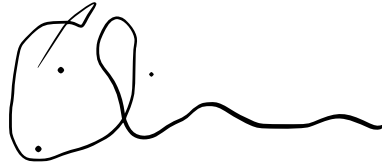


**Supervisor's Declaration:**

- **I confirm that I have read and understood the terms and conditions of the Aspire fellowship**
- **I confirm I have engaged with Medical HR and Finance in the proposed primary clinical site regarding this fellowship proposal**

**Signature of the Clinical Lead/Assigned Supervisor:**

(Electronic signature is acceptable)

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'S' followed by a long, wavy horizontal line.

## Evaluating Fellowship Proposals

The process of identifying fellowships and subsequent recruitment will be managed by the Postgraduate Training Body with input from NDTP and the National Clinical Advisory Group Leads (NCAGL's) and National Clinical Programmes (NCP's) as appropriate.

Postgraduate training bodies will evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

1. Quality of the fellowship proposed
2. An identified unmet patient need\*
3. Specialty and service priorities/particular workforce requirement\*
4. Niche area, particular skillset acquisition
5. Unavailability of such training in Ireland currently
6. The potential benefits to the Irish Health Service and patients
7. Consideration should be given to recently approved consultant posts
8. Protection/prioritisation of the unique learning requirements
9. Protected training time and less focus on service delivery commitment.
10. Geographic distribution as relevant to the model of care or workforce planning

Please note: An overview of the core curriculum to be offered and evidence that there will be opportunities for audit and research must be included in the application.

\*The Postgraduate Training Body will liaise with the National Clinical Advisory Group Leads (NCAGL's) National Clinical Programmes (NCP's) for the specialty (where available) to inform these principle



## **Conditions of the Aspire Post CSCST Fellowship**

Approval is provided in respect of fellowships commencing in July 2024.

- All approved post CSCST fellowships must provide a structured certifiable educational experience to candidates within 3 years post CSCST from an Irish Postgraduate Training body or candidates who entered the Specialist Division of the Register (IMC) within the last 2 years.

### **Duration of fellowship:**

- The duration of the Post CSCST Fellowship should be outlined within the application (funding provided is for a 12-month period from July 2024 however it is noted that funding partnerships with host institutions may be developed to allow for 24-month Fellowships – this can only be progressed with the prior agreement of HSE NDTP).
- A previously funded Aspire fellowship could be considered for renewal if aligned with service requirements and workforce demands subject to review and endorsement by the review panel.

### **Training requirements:**

- The post CSCST fellowship post must be evaluated and approved by the appropriate training body and have a supervisor assigned, with authority and accountability for the fellowship post.
- The Post CSCST Fellowship should align with workforce opportunities.
- The Post CSCST Fellowship must not impinge on the training of pre-CSCST trainees
- Where appropriate, the fellowships should fulfil training body requirements for Medical Council specialist registration (e.g. Intensive Care Medicine) and HSE employment requirements for consultant posts.
- Aspire fellows are entitled to apply through the relevant training body for the HSE Specialist Training funding scheme and through their employer for the HSE Clinical Course / Exam Refund Scheme and TSS. Both of these Programmes are funded by NDTP and accessed through the NER.

# Aspire<sup>\*</sup>

FELLOWSHIPS



NATIONAL  
DOCTORS  
TRAINING  
& PLANNING