



Strategic Academic Recruitment MD Programme

November 2015

RCSI DEVELOPING HEALTHCARE LEADERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WORLDWIDE

Background

The informing principle of RCSI's Research Strategy is *the promotion of Translational Health and Medical Research and Training - "Bench research informed by bedside problems, translated into diagnosis and treatment and into the community"* ([Research Strategy](#)). To implement its strategy and fund research, the College has invested significant funds in research infrastructures, human resources, and projects since 2002, and has been able to attract and retain world-class researchers through joint funding support from RCSI, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the Health Research Board (HRB). These sustained investments have led to significant national and international funding awards and have facilitated the enhancement of facilities at RCSI Stephen's Green and Beaumont Hospital sites and the expansion of the RCSI research community.

During the summer of 2015, RCSI launched its Strategic Academic Recruitment Programme (StAR) with the objective of significantly enhancing its international research profile and output. StAR involves the funding of 40 research positions at Research Lecturer and Associate Professor. These positions are under the following research themes or major research areas:

- *Biomaterials, Drugs, Stem Cell Delivery, Therapeutics*
- *Neurological and Psychiatric Disorders*
- *Cancer*
- *Infection, Immunity and Inflammation*
- *Respiratory Diseases*
- *Population Health and Health Services Research*
- *Cardiovascular Diseases*
- *Health Professions Education*

The MD programme is an important aspect of StAR as it will support clinical research, strengthen translational research and greatly benefit the RCSI Hospitals Group while contributing to improving the quality of patient care.



Programme Details

The MD (Doctor of Medicine) degree by dissertation is a substantial body of work representing a minimum of two calendar years of research activity and holds a major place among the higher doctorates at level 10 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Those recruited to the MD programme as part of StAR will have minimal teaching requirements. However, it is expected that they will continue to be involved in clinical aspects of patient care to ensure that they bring this important element to the research programme and to prevent deskilling as medical doctors. Successful applicants will be based on a hospital or primary care site, enhancing clinician-scientist research interactions, but may spend some time in a relevant RCSI laboratory or other research setting.

RCSI considers the MD to be a key element in the professional training of clinicians, and in order to qualify for an MD a candidate must provide evidence of an original contribution to any area of medicine, surgery or medical sciences. Those appointed to this programme will be granted €15,000 annually to support fees, consumables and associated research costs and an annual salary of €63,000.

Supervision of MD Students in RCSI

RCSI is committed to supporting an effective supervisory system for students registered to ensure that the student optimises their research and career potential through the programme.

A Principal and Subsidiary Supervisor (Co-Supervisor) are nominated by the MD candidate and agreed by the School of Postgraduate Studies. The primary aim of nominating two supervisors is to maximise formal decision-making with respect to the student's progress, to provide advice and additional support covering scientific, clinical and other aspects, and to deliver pastoral care. The respective responsibilities of each supervisor is clearly designated and understood by both supervisors and the candidate. Supervision includes the provision by the MD student of an Annual Report, the purpose of which is to confirm that the student should continue to be included in the MD register and that progression in to the second year is appropriate and justified. Final examination is by written thesis and an oral viva examination, by independent external and internal examiners.

Further details on MD supervisors: [rcsi.ie/MD programme](http://rcsi.ie/MD_programme)



Requirements

Appointment to the MD Programme is on a competitive basis. It is expected that interested applicants will have:

- previously undertaken research or audit projects at undergraduate and/or postgraduate level,
- presented at national or other meetings,
- publications confirming the quality of research activity.

The proposed research project should reflect one of the major research themes listed above. Applicants will be expected to have made contact with potential supervisors and to have agreed the focus of, and in broad outline the nature of, the research they wish to carry out.

Applicants for whom English is not their first language must have a minimum English standard of IELTS of 6.5 unless their medical degree has been taken through English.

Application Process

Applications are now invited from interested registrars/specialist registrars. Applicants should liaise with potential supervisors (ideally one clinical and one scientific) and a draft research proposal (250 words) should be submitted with an up-to-date CV to star@rcsi.ie by the Monday **14th December 2015**.

Shortlisting of applicants will be undertaken by the panel of assessors. All shortlisted candidates will be interviewed. An indicative timescale is given below.

Applications Open	20 November 2015
Applications Close	14 December 2015 (17:00 GMT)
Interviews (Skype may be used)	Early-January 2016
Post Commences	July 2016

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