



**FACULTY OF
PAEDIATRICS**

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION
International Clinical Fellowship Programme in

PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY



INTRODUCTION

The International Clinical Fellowship Programme (ICFP) offers overseas doctors the opportunity to undertake advanced, structured postgraduate medical training in Ireland. Designed for suitably qualified medical trainees, the programme provides a fixed period of supervised clinical training within Irish healthcare settings.

The primary aim of the ICFP is to strengthen individual clinical competence while contributing to long-term healthcare improvement in participants' home countries. Training is delivered through structured curricula developed by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, tailored to align with the clinical priorities of each participant's national health service.

Core elements of all programmes include:

- Patient care that is appropriate, effective and compassionate in dealing with health problems and health promotion.
- Medical knowledge in the basic biomedical, behavioural and clinical sciences, medical ethics and medical jurisprudence and application of such knowledge in patient care.
- Interpersonal and communication skills that ensure effective information exchange with individual patients and their families and teamwork with other health professionals, the scientific community and the public.
- Appraisal and utilisation of new scientific knowledge to update and continuously improve clinical practice.
- Capability to be a scholar, contributing to development and research in the field of the chosen specialty.
- Professionalism.
- Ability to understand healthcare and identify and carry out system-based improvement of care.

TRAINING PROGRAMME DURATION AND ORGANISATION OF TRAINING

The period of clinical training that will be provided under this International Clinical Fellowship Programme (ICFP) is up to 2 years.

- Each ICFP is developed by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland will be specifically designed to meet the training needs of participants to support the health service in their home country.
- All appointees to the ICFP will be assessed by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland to ensure that they possess the necessary requirements from a training and clinical service perspective.
- Each overseas doctor participating in the ICFP will be enrolled with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and will be under the supervision of a consultant doctor who is registered on the Specialist Division of the Register of Medical Practitioners maintained by the Medical Council and who is an approved consultant trainer.
- Appointees to the ICFP will normally be registered on the Supervised Division of the Register of Medical Practitioners maintained by the Medical Council in Ireland.
- Appointees will agree on a training plan with their trainers at the beginning of each training year.
- For the duration of their International Medical Graduate (IMG) programme and associated clinical placements, all participants will remain directly employed and directly paid by their sponsoring state at a rate appropriate to their training level in Ireland and benchmarked against the salary scales applicable to NCHD in Ireland.
- Successful completion of an ICFP will result in the participant being issued with a formal Certificate of completion for the Fellowship Programme by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. This Certificate will enable the participant's parent training body in their sponsoring home country to formally recognise and accredit their time spent training in Ireland.
- The training programme offered will provide opportunities to fulfil all the requirements of the curriculum of training.
- There will be posts in both general hospitals and teaching hospitals.
- Each post within the programme will have a named trainer/educational supervisor and programmes will be under the direction of the National Specialist Director of the relevant medical speciality to be confirmed by the College.
- Programmes will be as flexible as possible and consistent with curricular requirements, for example, to allow the Fellow to develop their subspecialty interest.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME

Here follows a summary of the areas of experience expected by an International Trainee undertaking the ICFP in Paediatric Dermatology.

1. CORE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

The Core Professional Skills define the standards of practice expected of all International Fellows training in Ireland. For RCPI's International Curricula, these skills are detailed by reference to the Irish Medical Council's [Eight Domains of Good Professional Practice](#), which describe the behaviours, responsibilities, and capabilities that support safe, effective, and patient-centred care.

The Core Professional Skills are developed through practice-based learning, supervision, review meetings, and structured educational activity. Fellows are expected to develop and demonstrate these skills throughout training, with evidence gathered through workplace-based assessments and ePortfolio documentation.

Collectively, the eight domains provide a framework for practice and support professionalism as an integrated component of postgraduate medical training and development.



2. SPECIALTY EXPERIENCE

Specialty-specific Training Goals and associated learning outcomes are detailed within the Paediatric Dermatology Fellowship Curriculum. Fellows will develop expertise through supervised clinical practice, regular trainer feedback and reflective learning, with experience documented in the ePortfolio. Training is designed to provide progressive responsibility across the breadth of tertiary paediatric dermatology practice. For Paediatric Dermatology, specialty experience would typically cover the following areas:

Training Goal One. Assessment and Management of Paediatric Dermatology Patients

Assessment and management of dermatological disease in neonates, children and adolescents.
Diagnosis and management of common inflammatory and infectious skin disorders.
Recognition of cutaneous manifestations of systemic disease, including genetic diseases with cutaneous signs.
Diagnosis and management of common and unusual skin lesions.
Longitudinal care of children with chronic dermatological conditions.

Training Goal Two. Complex and Rare Paediatric Dermatology

Supervised management of complex dermatological disorders, including epidermolysis bullosa, ichthyosis, genodermatoses, vascular anomalies, connective tissue disease and ectodermal dysplasias.
Participation in specialist tertiary referral clinics.

Training Goal Three. Dermatological Procedures and Therapeutics

Development of competence in paediatric dermatological procedures including skin biopsy, excision, curettage and cautery and cryotherapy.
Regular attendance at laser clinics (PDL and Nd:YAG), including completion of laser safety training and documentation.
Use of advanced therapies (including biologics and small molecules) for inflammatory skin disease and vascular anomalies.

Training Goal Four. Acute Paediatric Dermatology

Assessment and management of acute dermatological presentations, inpatient consultations and dermatological emergencies.

Training Goal Five. Multidisciplinary Care

Active participation in specialist multidisciplinary clinics, including Vascular Anomalies (VAC), Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), Rheumatology-Dermatology, Ichthyosis and Ectodermal Dysplasia clinics.
Attendance at multidisciplinary meetings including EB MDT, VAC MDT, Dermatopathology MDT and collaborative specialty MDTs.

Training Goal Six. Safeguarding, Psychosocial and Family-Centred Care

Recognise dermatological safeguarding indicators and engage child-protection pathways.

Training Goal Seven. Quality Improvement, Research and Education

Participation in audit, quality improvement, teaching and research activities.
Presentation of clinical cases and participation in service development.

3. ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION

In addition to experiential learning and trainer feedback, Fellows are expected to participate in the department's educational programme, including:

- Weekly Dermatology Journal Club and multidisciplinary case discussions/joint consults.
- Relevant national and international meetings, for example the Irish Association of Dermatologists (IAD), British Society for Paediatric and Adolescent Dermatology (BSPAD), European Society for Paediatric Dermatology (ESPD), and educational activities delivered through VASCERN and the European Reference Networks (ERNs).
- The Fellow will also be invited to attend national dermatology study days.

Alongside clinical skills development, International Fellows are expected to build proficiency in core professional competencies, including: Effective Communication, Leadership & Management, Patient Safety & Quality Improvement, Person-Centred Care, and Research. These activities aim to support the development of well-rounded, reflective practitioners capable of delivering high-quality, patient-centred care.

4. Assessment Guidelines

The progression of the International Fellow throughout the programme is monitored and evaluated through both formative and summative assessments.

Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment
• Focuses on continuous feedback and developmental growth. • Includes multiple opportunities for reflection, discussions, and skill evaluations throughout the training period. • Helps identify areas for improvement and supports ongoing learning.	• Provides a final judgment of competency at various stages of training. • Involves formal evaluations and workplace-based assessments. • Used to assess whether the Fellow meets the necessary standards to progress in training or achieve certification (e.g. examination).

International Fellows will engage in a range of formative and summative assessments designed to support skill development, clinical reasoning, and reflective practice such as Feedback opportunities (Informal discussion or informal observation) and Workplace Based Assessments (CBD, Mini-CEX, DOPS).

5. Indicative Overview of Expected Experience

This indicative overview outlines the broad areas of experience anticipated within the Fellowship and does not constitute a specified or required training schedule.

Area of Experience	Indicative Scope
Clinical activity	Supervised experience across paediatric dermatology outpatient, inpatient and multidisciplinary settings.
Procedural exposure	Age-appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, undertaken independently and under supervision.
Multidisciplinary and complex care	Participation in relevant MDTs and shared-care management of complex cases.
Educational activities	Engagement with study days, in-house teaching, and relevant Taught Programme elements as appropriate.
Assessment and review	Ongoing workplace-based assessment and structured periodic review, recorded on ePortfolio.