

# FELLOWSHIP OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

## GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS





INTRODUCTION

We are a globally connected community of doctors learning together to improve people’s health. When you join as a Fellow it means that you are part of this prestigious global network of physicians collaborating to improve health.

It means that you have been recognised by your peers for your contribution to your specialty.

You will have opportunity to get involved in the College and the Faculties and Institutes in improving healthcare, designing the health service and shaping the future of medical education and training for the next generation of doctors.

THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR FELLOWSHIP

1	Submit completed application form	Your application must include two nominators – two individuals who are Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland in good standing.
2	Review and Recommendation to RCPI Council	A preliminary review is carried out to confirm eligibility and ensure all required information has been provided.  The RCPI Credentials and Awards Committee assesses applications against the criteria set out in these guidelines and makes recommendations to RCPI Council.  The Committee may engage with specialty or regional advisors to confirm information. You may be asked to submit further information during the process.
3	Approval by RCPI Council	All applications for Fellowship require the approval of RCPI Council.
4	Undertaking of Fellowship, Payment of Fees, Invitation to Ceremony	If your application is approved by RCPI Council, you will be contacted and invited to be admitted as a Fellow. You will be asked to complete a form of undertaking to abide by the rules and regulations of Fellows of the College and to pay the relevant fees. You will be invited to attend an admission ceremony or you may be admitted in absentia.
5	Admission to Fellowship	You will be admitted as a Fellow at an admission ceremony, which is ordinary held in our historic home, No 6. Kildare Street in Dublin. If you are unable to attend you will be admitted in absentia.

PATHWAYS TO FELLOWSHIP

There are six pathways to becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland:

- 1 Holding a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training from the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
- 2 Through being registered on the Specialist Division of the Register of the Medical Council of Ireland
- 3 Having successfully graduated from our International Clinical Fellowship Programme
- 4 Holding Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Membership of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine or Membership of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine
- 5 Holding Fellowship of another recognised College
- 6 Holding Membership of another Recognised College

There are specific criteria the applicants are required to meet under each of these pathways to Fellowship.

The criteria under each pathway are outlined on the following pages.

All applications must be submitted on the Fellowship Application Form.





**PATHWAY 1**

via **Holding a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training from the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (or faculties/institute of RCPI).**

Fellowship via this route is recognition of the fact that the individual has met the high standards required to successfully complete specialist training through the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. In the opinion of the College, doctors who achieve fellowship through this route have demonstrated excellence and are making a substantial contribution to their specialty.

**CRITERIA:**

- Hold a Certificate of Satisfactory Competition of Specialist Training from RCPI
- Be in good standing with RCPI (if the applicant holds MRCPi)
- Statement of Compliance with Local Professional Competence Requirements
- Submission of a Full CV
- Two nominators are required. Nominators must hold Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and be in good standing.

**PATHWAY 2**

via **Specialist Division of the Register of the Medical Council of Ireland.**

Fellowship via this route is demonstration of an individual's contribution to the medical profession, its standards and practice. It is recognition of the fact that the individual has achieved the standard to be included on the Specialist Division of the Registrar of the Medical Council of Ireland.

**CRITERIA:**

- Enrolled on a specialist professional competence scheme under the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
- Currently Registered on the Specialist Division of the Register of the Medical Council of Ireland
- Ordinarily hold a consultant or equivalent post for at least 12 months prior to applying for fellowship. Consultant post must be in a public or private hospital or in the broader healthcare system. A letter from the nominee's primary place of work will be required to confirm this. Locum or Temporary Posts are not eligible.
- Be in good standing with RCPI (if the applicant holds a MRCPi or a faculty membership or fellowship)
- Statement of why Fellowship is of Value
- Statement on current contribution to Irish medicine.
- Statement on the current or intended contribution to the Strategic Objectives of RCPI. This can include carrying out work on behalf of the College including training, examinations, education etc.
- Submission of a Full CV
- Two nominators are required. Nominators must hold Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and be in good standing.





PATHWAY 3

via Graduation from the International Clinical Fellowship Programme of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

Fellowship via this route is recognition of the fact that the individual has met the high standards required to successfully graduate from the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland's International Clinical Fellowship Programme.

CRITERIA

- Successfully graduated from the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland International Clinical Fellowship Programme of at least two year's in duration.
- In addition, provide evidence of **an additional two years of specialist training or specialty experience** that they have completed **following** the International Clinical fellowship Programme. If the International Clinical Fellowship Programme is more than two years in duration, these additional years can be counted towards this. Fellowship training outside of RCPI after the completion of the ICFP may be included or experience in a full-time specialist role. The 12-month period of time required in consultant post ( specified below) may also count towards this.
- Ordinarily hold a full-time consultant or equivalent post for at least 12 months prior to applying for fellowship. Consultant post must be in a public or private hospital or in the broader healthcare system. A letter from the nominee's primary place of work will be required to confirm this.
- Be in good standing with RCPI (if the applicant holds a MRCPI or a faculty membership or fellowship)
- A Full CV
- Two nominators are required. Nominators must be Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland in good standing.

PATHWAY 4

via Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Membership of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine or Membership of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine

Fellowship via this route is a demonstration of commitment to the College and an acknowledgement of an individual's contribution to medicine, its standards and practice. Fellowship of the College (FRCPI) is awarded to doctors who, in the opinion of the College, have made substantial contributions to their specialty/area of expertise, or who are senior members of the medical profession, and whose published works and attainments are of such distinction as to justify election

Note that individuals who hold Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI in General Internal Medicine, MRCPI in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, MRCPI in Paediatrics), Membership of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine (MFOM) and Membership of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine (MFPHMI) may be nominated to Fellowship via this route.

The College also recognises that individuals who have achieved Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland may have pursued a number of career pathways – both within medicine and outside of medicine. Therefore, Fellowship of the College via this route is also open to those individuals who have successfully achieved Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and who may have, for example, pursued a career in another area of medicine (such as general practice or psychiatry) or in an area outside of medicine (such as journalism, sports, music, literature, arts, sciences).

Whatever the career pursued, the individual must have achieved excellence in their area of expertise, distinguished themselves and contributed significantly to their area of expertise, have published works and attainments of distinction to justify them being considered for Fellowship.

The specific criteria required in order for a nomination form to be considered are as listed opposite:

CRITERIA

Members who have pursued a career in medicine	Members who have pursued a career in another area of medicine (eg. general practice, psychiatry)	Members who have pursued a career outside of medicine (eg. journalism, science, art, music)
Medical qualification.	Medical qualification.	Medical qualification.
Holder of Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland or Membership of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine or Membership of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine for at least 4 years.	Holder of Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland or Membership of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine or Membership of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine for at least 4 years.	Holder of Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland or Membership of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine or Membership of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine for at least 4 years.
Be in good standing with RCPI.	Be in good standing with RCPI.	Be in good standing with RCPI.
Statement of compliance with local professional competence requirements.	Statement of compliance with local professional competence requirements.	Statement of compliance not required.
Ordinarily hold a consultant or equivalent post for at least 12 months prior to nomination being made. Consultant appointments must be in a public or private hospital or in the broader healthcare system. A letter from the nominee's primary place of work will be required to confirm this. Locum or temporary posts are not equivalent or eligible.	Holding a consultant post is not required but the nominee will be required to outline their career choice and progression, how they have contributed significantly to their area of expertise, and how they are distinguished in their area of expertise.	Holding a consultant post is not required but the nominee will be required to outline their career choice and progression, how they have contributed significantly to their area of expertise, and how they are distinguished in their area of expertise.
Description of why Fellowship is of value.	Description of why Fellowship is of value.	Description of why Fellowship is of value.
Evidence of postgraduate specialist training achieved during career to date. If there is no evidence of structured postgraduate specialist training, the nominee must provide information on what training they have undertaken during their career to date. Nomination forms received with no evidence of structured training programme undertaken by the nominee will require an additional level of assessment by the Credentials Subgroup.	Evidence of postgraduate specialist training achieved during career to date. If there is no evidence of structured postgraduate specialist training, the nominee must provide information on what training they have undertaken during their career to date. Nomination forms received with no evidence of structured training programme undertaken by the nominee will require an additional level of assessment by the Credentials Subgroup.	History of postgraduate specialist training not required.
A full Curriculum Vitae (See <i>Information to be Included in a Curriculum Vitae</i> document).	A full Curriculum Vitae (See <i>Information to be Included in a Curriculum Vitae</i> document).	A full Curriculum Vitae (See <i>Information to be Included in a Curriculum Vitae</i> document).
Two nominators required to complete and approve nomination. Nominators must hold FRCPI and must be in good standing.	Two nominators required to complete and approve nomination. Nominators must hold FRCPI and must be in good standing.	Two nominators required to complete and approve nomination. Nominators must hold FRCPI and must be in good standing.

PATHWAY 5

via Fellowship of Another  
Recognised College

This route to Fellowship acknowledges the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland's affiliation with a number of other institutions and colleges (listed below)

Doctors who apply for Fellowship via this route are asked to demonstrate their commitment to the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland or their contribution to Irish medicine. They are also asked to demonstrate that published works and attainments are of such distinction that as to justify being admitted as a Fellow.

Alternatively, individuals of distinction in their fields internationally who have outstanding achievements in the science or practice of medicine may apply through this route, if they are Fellows of one of the institutions or colleges listed for this pathway.

Finally, doctors who are in positions such as officers of these institutions or colleges may apply through this pathway, if nominated by the President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

Individuals who hold Fellowship of the following institutions or Colleges may be nominated for Fellowship via this pathway, if they meet the criteria for applicants applying through this pathway:



Institutions in Ireland

- Faculty of Occupational Medicine, RCPI
- Faculty of Paediatrics, RCPI
- Faculty of Pathology, RCPI
- Faculty of Public Health Medicine, RCPI
- Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, RCPI ( Members of the Institute are considered equivalent to Fellows here)

Colleges outside of Ireland

- Academy of Medicine, Malaysia
- Academy of Medicine, Singapore
- American College of Physicians
- Australian Faculty of Public Health Medicine
- College of Medicine, South Africa
- Faculty of Occupational Medicine (UK)
- Faculty of Public Health (UK)
- Hong Kong Academy of Medicine/ Hong Kong College of Physicians
- Royal Australasian College of Physicians
- Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (UK)
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (UK)
- Royal College of Pathologists (UK)
- Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh
- Royal College of Physicians, London
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Canada
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow

The specific criteria required for an application to be considered are as listed opposite:

CRITERIA

Medical qualification.

Holder of Fellowship of the recognised College for at least 12 months prior to nomination being made.

Be in good standing with the College where Fellowship was obtained.

Statement of compliance with local professional competence requirements.

Ordinarily hold a consultant or equivalent post for at least 12 months prior to nomination being made. Consultant appointment must be in a public or private hospital or in the broader healthcare system. A letter from the nominee's primary place of work will be required to confirm this Locum or temporary posts are not equivalent or eligible.

Description of why Fellowship is of value.

Statement **on contribution** to Irish medicine. This can include doctors who are in positions such as officers of any of these institutions or colleges may apply through this pathway, if nominated by the President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

**and/or**

Statement on **contribution** to the strategic objectives of RCPI. This can include carrying out work on behalf of RCPI in areas such as training, education, examinations or healthcare advocacy.

**or**

Statement on your achievements in the Science or Practice of Medicine and/or your affiliation or your institution's affiliation with RCPI.

Evidence of postgraduate specialist training achieved during career to date. If there is no evidence of structured postgraduate specialist training, the nominee must provide information on what training they have undertaken during their career to date. Nomination forms received with no evidence of structured training programme undertaken by the nominee will require an additional level of assessment by the Credentials Subgroup.

A full Curriculum Vitae.

Two nominators required to complete and approve nomination. Nominators must hold Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (FRCPI) and must be in good standing.





## **PATHWAY 6**

### **via Membership of Another Recognised College**

Fellowship via this route is a demonstration of commitment to the College and an acknowledgement of an individual's contribution to the medical profession, its standards and practice.

It is expected that doctors being considered for Fellowship via this route must demonstrate their contribution to date to Irish medicine or their contribution to date to the strategic objectives of RCPI. Fellowship of the College (FRCPI) is awarded to doctors who, in the opinion of the College, have made substantial contributions to their specialty/area of expertise, or who are senior members of the medical profession, and whose published works and attainments are of such distinction as to justify being admitted as a Fellow.

Individuals who hold Membership of the following Colleges may be nominated to Fellowship, if they meet the criteria for applicants applying through this pathway:

- [Academy of Medicine, Malaysia](#)
- [Academy of Medicine, Singapore](#)
- [American College of Physicians](#)
- [College of Medicine, South Africa](#)
- [Hong Kong Academy of Medicine/  
Hong Kong College of Physicians](#)
- [Royal College of Physicians, London](#)
- [Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh](#)
- [Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow](#)
- [Royal Australasian College of Physicians](#)
- [Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Canada](#)

The specific criteria required for an application to be considered are as follows:

## **CRITERIA**

Medical qualification.

Holder of Membership of the recognised College for at least 4 years.

Be in good standing with the College where Membership was obtained.

Statement of compliance with local professional competence requirements.

Ordinarily hold a consultant or equivalent post for at least 12 months prior to nomination being made. Consultant appointment must be in a public or private hospital or in the broader healthcare system. A letter from the nominee's primary place of work will be required to confirm this. Locum or temporary posts are not equivalent or eligible.

Description of why Fellowship is of value.

Statement on contribution to date to Irish medicine. This can include doctors who are supporting Irish graduates abroad, or doctors who are currently working in Ireland, or doctors who may have qualified or trained in Ireland.

### **and/or**

Statement on contribution to date to the strategic objectives of RCPI. This can include carrying out work on behalf of RCPI in areas such as training, examinations, education or advocacy.

Evidence of postgraduate specialist training achieved during career to date. If there is no evidence of structured postgraduate specialist training, the nominee must provide information on what training they have undertaken during their career to date. Nomination forms received with no evidence of structured training programme undertaken by the nominee will require an additional level of assessment by the Credentials Subgroup.

A full Curriculum Vitae.

Two nominators required to complete and approve nomination. Nominators must hold Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (FRCPI) and must be in good standing



All applicants will be required to declare whether they are currently the subject of a fitness to practise inquiry of the Medical Council of Ireland or of the medical regulator in their jurisdiction.

All applicants will be asked whether they currently have or have ever had any form of sanctions imposed on their registration with the Medical Council of Ireland or the medical regulator in your jurisdiction. Failure to provide accurate information on your application will result in the application being void.




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