

# General FAQ's

## 1.1 What is an intern post?

An intern post is a combined training and clinical service position for graduates of medical schools, the successful completion of which leads to the award of a Certificate of Experience from the Medical Council (of Ireland). Intern training should provide an appropriate combination of education, training and clinical responsibility, enabling interns to develop the professional and personal competencies that result in good patient care and provide a foundation for lifelong learning. Internship is for a minimum period of 12 months, post-graduation and must incorporate a minimum of three months' training in surgery in general and three months' training in medicine in general. Intern posts may also incorporate rotations of 3-4 months in other specialties: obstetrics and gynaecology, emergency medicine, academic medicine, paediatrics, psychiatry, radiology, general practice and anaesthesia/perioperative medicine are all recognized by the Medical Council for intern training.

## 1.2 Where are intern posts located?

Intern posts are located in over 52 hospitals and primary care settings. All intern posts are incorporated into an Intern Training Network, which is led by an Intern Network Coordinator. The list of hospitals included in each network is provided here.

## 1.3 What is the role of the HSE and other health service employers in the intern year?

Under the Health Act 2004, the Health Service Executive (HSE) is obliged to facilitate the training of students training to be registered medical practitioners in Ireland. The HSE and other employing authorities (such as the voluntary hospitals) are responsible for the employment of interns and the facilitation of their training.

The HSE established the Intern Implementation Group in 2009, with representation from all relevant bodies involved in intern training, to implement many of the recommendations of the National Committee on Medical Education & Training report on the Intern Year. The Group's Intern Implementation Reports are available online at [www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/corporate/etr/](http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/corporate/etr/)

The HSE supports the development of the intern year and the intern training programme through formal Service Level Agreements with Universities / Medical Schools for the provision of intern training.

## 1.4 What is the role of the Medical Schools in the intern year?

The Medical Schools play an active role in developing, managing and delivering the intern training programme in conjunction with the Intern Network Coordinators, the Medical Council, the HSE, Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies, intern tutors and trainers on clinical sites.

Each Medical School is assigned to an Intern Training Network and each school has appointed a consultant-grade Intern Network Coordinator supported by the HSE, who collaborates on the development of the national Intern Training Programme and leads the on-going development of intern training programme within their network.

The Medical Schools are contractually obliged to develop and provide the Intern Training Programme through the Service Level Agreement between the University/relevant body and the HSE.

## 1.5 What is the role of the recognised postgraduate training bodies in the intern year?

The recognised postgraduate medical training bodies have a significant role to play in the development of the intern year. In particular, the training bodies will be involved in the development of intern training programmes in new specialty areas.

## **1.6 How does the entry route to an Irish Medical School affect appointment to intern posts?**

The appointment of applicants to intern posts will depend on whether you accepted an Irish medical school place through a CAO offer or whether you accepted an Irish medical school place directly from the medical school.

In practice, this means that all applicants for intern posts who accepted a place in an Irish medical school through a CAO offer will be allocated to posts ahead of applicants who accepted an Irish medical school place directly from the medical school.

## **1.7 Will I have to undergo an interview?**

No. Interviews will not be held for traditional intern post. However, if you have applied for an academic track intern post and you are shortlisted, you will be called for interview by the INE.

## **2.0 Registration**

### **2.1 Do I have to register with the Medical Council?**

Yes. It is an indictable offence to practise medicine in Ireland while unregistered. All interns must be registered with the Medical Council of Ireland in order to practise medicine in an intern training post. It should be noted that registration / eligibility for registration as an intern does not guarantee employment; the process of application for employment is entirely separate from the process for registration. Please note that applications for registration with the Medical Council of Ireland cannot be made prior to receiving an offer of internship.

### **2.2 What division of the Register of Medical Practitioners are interns included on?**

Interns will be registered by the Medical Council on the Internship Registration Division of the Register of Medical Practitioners. In order to be eligible for registration as an intern, the medical graduate must intend to practice in an individually numbered, identifiable intern post which has been approved by the Medical Council for the purposes of intern training and must go through the Medical Council's process for internship registration. Please note that applications for registration with the Medical Council of Ireland cannot be made prior to receiving an offer of internship.

### **2.3 How do I register to practise as an Intern?**

You should go to the Medical Council website, [www.medicalcouncil.ie](http://www.medicalcouncil.ie), and follow the instructions on the website for submission of appropriate documentation. Prospective graduates of Irish medical schools will receive the application form from the Medical Council of Ireland by e-mail to the e-mail address provided on your HSE online application form.

## **3.0 Intern Training Networks & Programmes**

### **3.1 What is an Intern Training Network?**

An Intern Training Network is a geographical area based around a Medical School into which participating clinical sites (hospitals and some primary care centres) have been grouped for the purposes of providing intern education and training. A collaboration, led by a consultant-grade Intern Network Coordinator, along with Intern Tutors, Clinical Directors, the Medical School, Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies, local Medical Manpower Managers and representation from clinical sites in the network area. A

mechanism through which the intern training programme is organised and delivered and assessments carried out.

### **3.2 What is an Intern Network Coordinator?**

An Intern Network Coordinator is a consultant-grade doctor charged with leading the development of intern training within their network and overseeing the delivery of the intern training and assessment programme. The Intern Network Coordinator is appointed by the Medical School. The Intern Network Coordinator is expected to fulfil a role in sign-off of intern training in accordance with requirements set by the Medical Council in order to satisfy the Medical Council criteria for granting a Certificate of Experience.

### **3.3 What is the National Intern Training Programme?**

The National Intern Training Programme is the Medical Council-approved training content that will be provided to you during your internship. It outlines core areas of training and principles on which training in each Network is based. The Programme was developed in line with the Medical Councils Eight Domains of Competence and approved by the Medical Council in May 2011.

### **3.4 How will I access the National Intern Training Programme?**

All interns will be notified of arrangements for the Intern Training Programme and how to access this by their Intern Training Network after commencement of internship. The exact content and format of training will vary across the Networks but will be developed and delivered in line with the National Intern Training Programme. You will be required to sign a training agreement with the Intern Training Network, which is separate to the employment contract. Further information will be provided by your Intern Training Network after commencement of internship.

### **3.5 Who will my clinical supervisors be?**

For each distinct rotation of your internship, you will be assigned to a consultant team based on the specialty of each rotation. Details of the supervisor(s) involved in each rotation will be provided, where possible, with the list of posts available in at stage 2 of the application process; usually February 1st the same year as July. In most cases, interns will be assigned to medical teams within a department so other consultants may be involved in training in addition to the named supervisor.

## **4.0 Sign-Off of the Intern Year**

### **4.1 What is the Certificate of Experience?**

The Certificate of Experience is granted by the Medical Council when a medical practitioner has completed a period of internship to the satisfaction of the Council. This Certificate is required for eligibility to apply to the Trainee Specialist Division or General Division of the Register of Medical Practitioners maintained by the Medical Council. The Certificate is also required by most other competent authorities in order to register to practise medicine in other countries. The mechanism of granting such certificates will be advised by the Medical Council. See [www.medicalcouncil.ie](http://www.medicalcouncil.ie) for more information.

### **4.2 Who is involved in assessing my intern training leading to the Certificate of Experience?**

Your individual trainers and the Intern Network Coordinator for your Intern Training Network will be involved in assessing your intern training. The Intern Network Coordinator is expected to fulfil a role in sign-off of your training in accordance with requirements set by the Medical Council in order to satisfy

the Medical Council criteria for granting a Certificate of Experience. More information is available from the Medical Council [www.medicalcouncil.ie](http://www.medicalcouncil.ie).

## 5.0 Career opportunities after internship

### 5.1 Where can I get more information on training and employment opportunities after internship?

Information on postgraduate medical training in Ireland is available from the NDTP Hub on the HSE's Learning and Development website. This resource can be accessed at [www.hseland.ie](http://www.hseland.ie). Please note that you will have to register to obtain log-in details for this website but there is no charge for registration.

A number of the postgraduate medical training bodies run rotational initial specialist and higher specialist training programmes. Currently, appointment to rotational training programmes is organised by these training bodies, in conjunction with relevant hospitals and other clinical training sites. Provided below are details of the relevant training bodies.

Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (Medical sub-specialties, Paediatrics, Pathology, Public Health Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynaecology & Occupational Medicine) [www.rcpi.ie](http://www.rcpi.ie)

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (Surgery & Emergency Medicine) [www.rcsi.ie](http://www.rcsi.ie)

Irish College of General Practitioners [www.icgp.ie](http://www.icgp.ie)

Irish College of Ophthalmologists [www.icophth.ie](http://www.icophth.ie)

The College of Anaesthetists: [www.anaesthesia.ie](http://www.anaesthesia.ie)

The College of Psychiatry of Ireland: [www.irishpsychiatry.ie](http://www.irishpsychiatry.ie)

The Faculty of Radiology: [www.radiology.ie](http://www.radiology.ie)

Information on the specialist training programmes organised by these training bodies is available from the website of the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies, [www.irishmedicaltraining.ie](http://www.irishmedicaltraining.ie).

In addition, hospitals will sometimes recruit doctors directly. These doctors are usually at the employment grades of Senior House Officer and Registrar (i.e. pre-higher specialist training). Advertisements for these posts usually appear in the Irish national papers, the Irish medical press, on [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie) and [www.publicjobs.ie](http://www.publicjobs.ie)