



# INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND



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## OVERVIEW

### Recognition of Prior Clinical Experience (RPE)

The RPE process is the formal recognition of clinical experience completed in Ireland commencing prior to 2020.

Doctors who have been working in the Irish Medical system since before 2020 and have clinical experience which could be deemed equivalent to BST, may apply for RPE during the period of 1 July to 16 August 2024.

To be eligible for RPE, you must be:

- Living in Ireland and working in the Irish healthcare system since before 2020
- You were unable to for apply for BST programme before 2020 because your internship was not recognised by the Medical Council
- Demonstrate that you have completed several years of clinical experience in Ireland that could be deemed equivalent to BST

If prior experience is deemed equivalent to BST, applicants will be eligible to apply for HST.

Applicants must meet all requirements for BST which includes having Membership of RCPI (MRCPI). Membership from other Colleges will not be accepted.

This process is open to those who graduated with their Medical Degree within the last ten years.

**Note: If you completed your Internship in any of the below listed countries you cannot avail of this process.** Prior to a change in the Act in 2020, the Irish Medical Council recognised internships undertaken in the following countries as equivalent:

- Australia
- Malaysia
- New Zealand
- Pakistan where the internship was commenced after 31st December 2008 (note: the rotations must meet the standards of an Irish internship)
- Sudan
- South Africa where the internship was commenced after 1st July 2006
- UK
- Malta



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The process opens on 1 July 2024 and strictly closes on 16 August 2024. Please note that this process is only available in 2024 and will not be available in subsequent years.

## INSTRUCTIONS

To apply for RPE, please complete the following application form. You will be required to submit additional documentation to support your application. Requirements are outlined within the application. We have also provided a Supporting Documentation Checklist to assist with this process.

There is a non-refundable application fee of €250. Applicants are required to complete the payment process as part of their application. Applications will only be regarded as complete once the application fee has been paid.

Please return completed application form along with all supporting documentation and application fee to: [katiavega@rcpi.ie](mailto:katiavega@rcpi.ie)

You will get an answer no later than 30 September 2024.

Further information and FAQs are available here: [Royal College of Physicians of Ireland Website > Learn and Develop > Recognition of Prior Learning > Recognition of Prior Experience – 2024/2025 Process \(rcpi.ie\)](#)

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

✓	Supporting Document	Note
	Your Curriculum Vitae	
	Sample Clinical Timetable / Overview of Duties	Please include a sample for each post you submitted for consideration as part of this application
	Certificates of Attendance at Relevant Courses	These must include courses in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Ethics</li> <li>• Leadership</li> <li>• Safe Prescribing</li> </ul>

Return Completed to: [katiavega@rcpi.ie](mailto:katiavega@rcpi.ie)



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	Minimum TWO References from Supervising Consultants	Referring consultants must have supervised you in posts listed in Section 2 of this application
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## Section 1: Personal Information

**Name:**

Medical Council Number:

RCPI number:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Home Address:

Institution of Medical Degree:

Year of Qualification:



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## Section 2: Clinical Experience

To complete this section, please fill out the table below ensuring adherence to the criteria listed.

For each post included in the table, please specify the duration of the post in months, the name of the post and name of the supervisor for that post.

In addition to this,

Applicants are required to attach the following appendices:

- a full *Curriculum Vitae*
- overview of the clinical timetable or overview of duties for each post submitted for consideration as part of the application process.

### Criteria

By the time of the application, the applicant is expected to have:

- Post internship applicants should have completed training that includes two years working at equivalent to Senior House Officer (SHO) posts.
- Post must be in hospitals that provide close supervision under appropriate team structures.
- These roles should include a substantive element of general medicine acute call, as well as the ongoing care of the general medical patients on the ward.
- Applicants must include four different posts, with at least 3 months experience in three of the five core specialties listed:
  - Cardiology
  - Respiratory
  - Geriatric Medicine
  - Endocrinology
  - Gastroenterology



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- Applicants should have a minimum of 18 months experience on call, including a minimum of 12 months unselected General Internal Medicine call.
  - Time on Cardiology call can be accepted in lieu of General Internal Medicine call.
  - Up to three-months experience in the emergency department may be counted towards your 18-month call requirement. This should include participation in post call feedback and handover.
- Applicants must demonstrate ongoing exposure and participation in Outpatient Clinics and ward rounds. Applicants should provide evidence that experience and performance were evaluated during a two-year period.
- Applicants must have worked with an assigned supervisor during two years of their experience.
- Applicants must demonstrate personal and professional development over their early career including leadership, team working, communication, presentation skills, administrative management, and time management.
- Applicants must pass a recognised knowledge-based examination in general medicine that is deemed equivalent to the MRCPI including but not limited to:
  - MRCP UK (London Glasgow. Edinburgh)
  - FRACP/FCPSA/American Internal med board exams
  - FRCP (Canada)
- Applicants should demonstrate exposure to patients within Cardiology, Respiratory, Geriatric Medicine, Endocrinology and Gastroenterology services.
- Applicants should demonstrate experience working outside of the metropolitan area and in hospitals with various levels of services and support.





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## Section 3: Education and Learning

Applicants should have undertaken teaching in these areas related to Medical Professional Practice:

- Communication
- Ethics
- Leadership
- And safe prescribing

Please list below all relevant courses completed and attach relevant certificates in Appendix C.

Course Title	Institution	Date of Completion





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## Section 4: Additional Professional Experience

Please list in the table below all relevant professional experience and, where available attach relevant certificates in Appendix C.

### Criteria

Applicants should have participated in

- Grand Rounds
- MDT Meetings
- Journal Clubs
- Specialty Meeting

Applicants should demonstrate a working knowledge of

- Research,
- Audit and QI
- Teaching

Applicants should have experience in

- Delivering Presentations
- Engaging with National/international meetings

Please Describe how you have met these criteria, referencing any relevant experience.

Max 500 words per criterion

Grand Rounds	
MDT Meetings	



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Journal Clubs	
Specialty Meetings	
Research	
Audit and QI	
Teaching Experience	
Presentations	
National/International Meetings	



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## Section 5: Evaluations and Reference

The applicant is required to identify at least 2 references to complete this Section.

The referees should be consultants who have directly supervised the applicant. The relevant posts should be included in those listed above in Section 2.

The reference per each skill listed in 5.a and 5.b can be filled out by different consultant supervisors.

### 5.a Clinical and Technical Evaluation

The referee should provide a concise and specific reference of the applicant's competency per each of the clinical skills listed below:

The referee should address any concerns or deficiencies that the applicant might have encountered in any of the following skills, specifying if any remedial actions were taken or recommendation for additional supervision was provided.

The referee should be confident that the applicant has achieved the necessary competencies outlined below and is capable of working as a medical registrar.



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1. **History Taking.** The applicant should demonstrate that they have attained the following clinical skills in history taking in:
  - the setting of emergency dept
  - Situations of uncertainty
  - challenging communication
  - Social history
  - Allergy history
  - Collateral history of the older patient
  - an occupational history
  - a medication history including OTC, previous adverse effects including idiosyncratic reactions

Referee's Full Name:

Referee's Position and Title:

Referee's Contact Details:

Referee's Relationship to Applicant:

Duration of Professional Relationship with Applicant:



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2. **Physical Examination.** The applicant should demonstrate that they have attained the following clinical skills in performing a comprehensive physical examination in:
- Cardiovascular examination
  - Respiratory examination
  - Abdominal examination
  - Neurological examination
  - Assess of frailty and cognition
    - Determine a barthel score
    - Assign a frailty score
    - Determine a cognitive score
    - Complete a delirium assessment
  - Identify physical signs and symptoms of common general medicine presentations

Please provide reference about these skills including specific training opportunities and relative experience during the post

Referee's Full Name:

Referee's Position and Title:

Referee's Contact Details:

Referee's Relationship to Applicant:

Duration of Professional Relationship with Applicant:



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**Differential Diagnosis and Next Steps.** The applicant should demonstrate that they have attained the following clinical skills in developing a differential diagnosis including the following:

- Form a differential diagnosis through clinical reasoning
- Produce a programme of investigations and discuss the indications for each
- Interpret commonly used investigations
- Discuss next steps for confirmation of common general medicine diagnoses
- Manage patient consultations
- Make appropriate referrals and management plans

Referee's Full Name:

Referee's Position and Title:

Referee's Contact Details:

Referee's Relationship to Applicant:

Duration of Professional Relationship with Applicant:



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3. **Acute Medicine Experience.** The applicant should demonstrate that they have gained the necessary experience and attained the following clinical skills in acute medicine:

- Assess common acute presentations such as:
  - Shortness of breath
  - Cough
  - Chest pain
  - Palpitations
  - Blackout/ collapse/ dizziness
  - Fever
  - Abdominal pain
  - Hepatitis or jaundice
  - Gastrointestinal bleeding
  - Nausea and vomiting
  - Diarrhoea
  - Haemoptysis
  - Rash
  - Hyper and hypoglycaemia
  - Headache
  - Seizure
  - Weakness and paralysis
  - Limb pain and/or swelling
  - Acute back pain
  - Falls and decreased mobility
  - Acute illness in the frail older patient
  - Delirium/acute confusion
  - Poisoning and drug overdose
  - Acute psychological illness
  - Alcohol and substance dependence or withdrawal
  
- Recognise, or assist in the recognition of, and assess emergencies such as:
  - Abdominal emergencies
  - Acute coronary syndrome



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- Acute arrhythmia management
  - Respiratory emergencies/
  - Non-invasive ventilation
  - Acute rheumatological conditions
  - Acute neoplastic syndromes and acute oncological emergencies
  - Chest pain
  - Collapse
  - Acute, fluid, electrolyte and acid/base abnormalities
  - Dermatological emergencies
  - Diabetic and endocrine emergencies
  - DVT
  - Infections of the CNS, joint and bone and organ systems
  - Neurological emergencies
  - Poisoning and self-harm
  - Sepsis and septic shock
  - Stroke/ TIA
  - The unconscious patient
  - Unstable hypotensive patient
- 
- Recognise and manage pre-existing comorbidities
  - Ask for senior help appropriately
  - Participate in decision making in consultation with senior colleagues including prioritising tasks, interventions and appropriate investigations
  - Refer to relevant national and local guidelines and care pathways





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Referee's Full Name:  
Referee's Position and Title:  
Referee's Contact Details:  
Referee's Relationship to Applicant:  
Duration of Professional Relationship with Applicant:



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4. **Safe Prescribing.** The applicant should demonstrate that they have gained the attained the following clinical skills in safe prescribing:
- Write a prescription clearly, legally and unambiguously
  - Safely prescribe for:
    - Common acute presentations
    - Emergencies
    - Chronic and common general medicine presentations
    - Older people with age related complexity
    - Patients with liver and renal disease
    - Medical diagnoses in pregnancy
  - Safely and ethically prescribe substances of restricted use e.g. benzodiazepines etc.
  - Discuss medication choices in partnership with the patient
  - Manage the patient expectations and goals of treatment

Referee's Full Name:

Referee's Position and Title:

Referee's Contact Details:

Referee's Relationship to Applicant:

Duration of Professional Relationship with Applicant:



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5. **Procedures** The applicant should be able to perform, interpret and / or observe procedures related to investigation and management such as:
- The applicant is expected to proficiently and independently perform lumbar puncture and interpret electrocardiograms

Referee's Full Name:

Referee's Position and Title:

Referee's Contact Details:

Referee's Relationship to Applicant:

Duration of Professional Relationship with Applicant:



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## 5.b Professional and Personal Evaluation

The referee should evaluate the applicant's skills and professional behaviour in communication, teamwork, ethical practice and partnership with patients.

From their experience in supervising the applicant, the referee is invited to mention examples based on the following criteria – where applicable. The criteria listed below are the professional skills expected of a BST trainee.

The referee should address any concerns or deficiencies that the applicant might have encountered in any of these criteria, specifying if any remedial actions were taken or recommendation for additional supervision was provided.

The referee should be confident that the applicant has achieved the necessary criteria outlined below and is capable of working as a medical registrar.

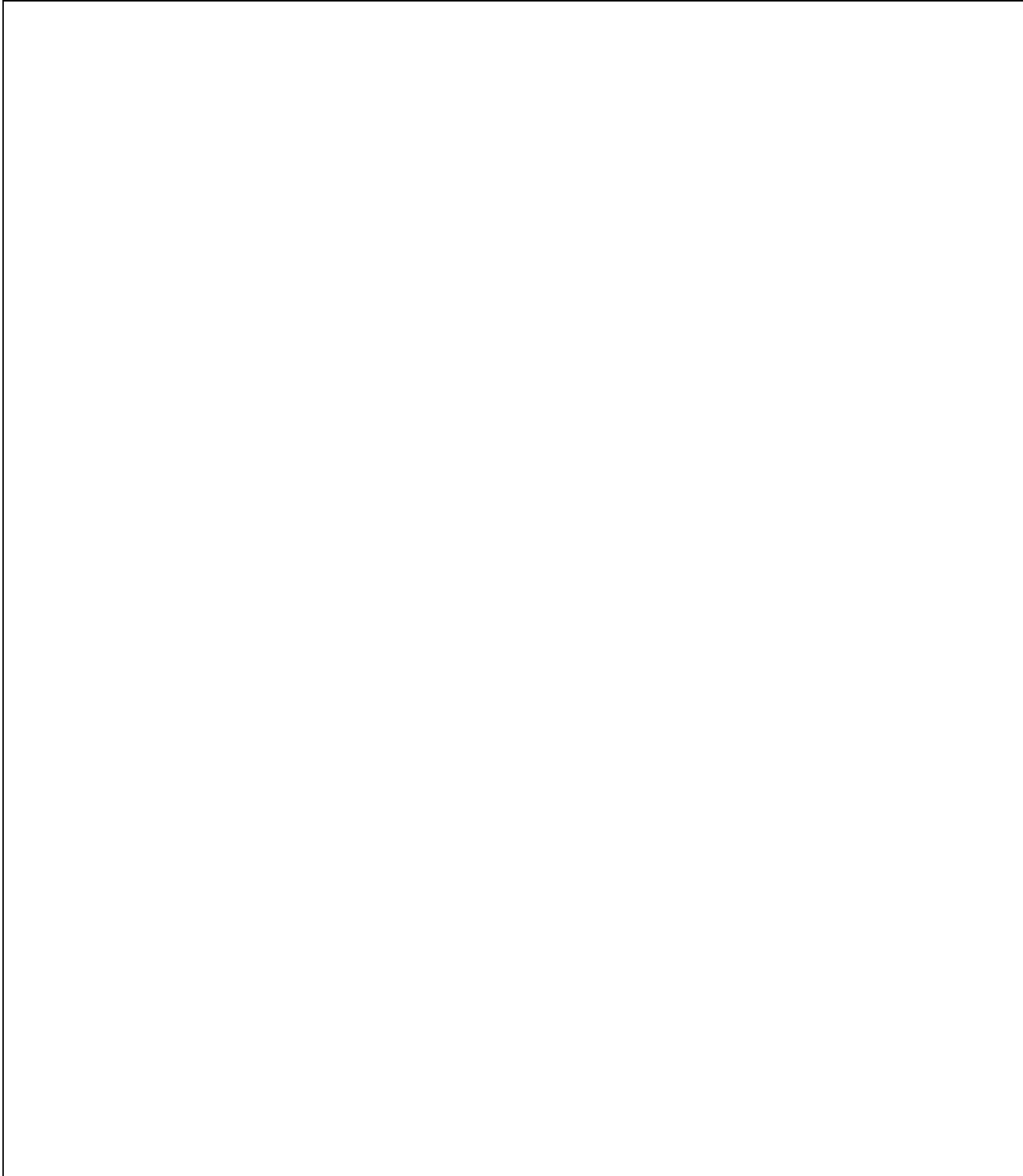
### **Criteria**

- Engage with patients and colleagues in a respectful manner
- Actively listen to the thoughts, concerns and opinions of others
- Maintain good working relationships with colleagues
- Be aware of your own level of practice and learning needs
- Work cooperatively with team members to deliver an excellent standard of care
- Seek to build trust and mutual respect with patients
- Act in the patients best interest
- Engage in shared decision-making and discuss consent
- Follow safe working practices that impact patients safety
- Understand ethical practice and the Medical Council guidelines
- Support a culture of open disclosure and risk reporting
- Reflective practice and self-awareness
- Freely share knowledge and information



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## Section 6: Applicant Declaration

### **Declaration Statement:**

- "I hereby declare that all information provided in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false statements or omissions may lead to the rejection of my application."

### **Applicant Signature:**

### **Date:**



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## Appendices

Appendix A: Curriculum Vitae

Appendix B: Sample Timetable for Submitted Posts

Appendix C: Relevant or referenced CPD Certificates

Appendix D: Confirmation of Membership Attainment