



Recognition of Prior Learning Policy

Version control		
Document name	Recognition of Prior Learning Policy	
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Version	Version 1.0	
Approved	GPTAC	
Date	17 th Sept 2025	



Contents

1.0 Purpose	3
2.0 Scope.....	3
3.0 Policy statement	3
3.1 Applicants with prior basic specialist training in Ireland.....	4
3.2 Applicants with prior higher specialist training in Ireland	4
3.3 Applicants with prior higher specialist training outside of Ireland	4
3.4 Applicant with prior GP training	5
4.0 Roles and responsibilities	6
5.0 Related and supporting documentation	6
6.0 Contact	6



1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the criteria for the recognition of prior learning (RPL) from a structured medical specialist training programme. If deemed equivalent to the Irish College of GPs' (the College) National Specialist Training Programme in General Practice (GP Training Programme or Programme), the RPL may result in a trainee being granted exemption from completing one or more components of the GP Training Programme curriculum.

2.0 Scope

This policy is relevant to applicants to the GP Training Programme who:

- Previously successfully completed basic specialist training in Ireland in the specialties of General Internal Medicine, General Paediatrics, or Emergency Medicine;
- Previously successfully completed higher specialist medical training in General Paediatrics or Medicine in Ireland or in another jurisdiction that is recognised by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI);
- Previously successfully completed higher specialist medical training in Emergency Medicine in Ireland or in another jurisdiction that is recognised by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI);
- Previously participated in but resigned from the College's GP Training Programme prior to completion.

The policy also applies to Scheme Directing Teams (SDT), Selection and Curriculum departments who review applications for entry into the GP Training Programme and determine eligibility and quantum of credit recognisable for RPL.

GP Training outside of Ireland is not eligible for RPL.

3.0 Policy statement

Applications for RPL are open annually during each GP Trainee Recruitment cycle.

An application for RPL does not automatically confer eligibility for a right to either RPL or a place on a GP Training Programme nor will it influence the applicant's scheme preference. RPL offers will be made based on training schemes' ability to accommodate RPL and candidate rank. Credit approval can also depend on the applicant's prior performance (i.e. capability-based) and time elapsed.



The College does not assess equivalency of prior training from another jurisdiction. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide sufficient and relevant evidence to enable the SDT, Selection and Curriculum departments to assess eligibility for RPL.

All RPL decisions and the quantum of time recognised by the College are final, not negotiable and not open to appeal.

The College reserves the right to revert to the applicant should further information be required.

The reader is referred to the procedures for detailed requirements.

3.1 Applicants with prior basic specialist training in Ireland

Prior to commencement of the GP Training Programme, an applicant who has completed basic specialist training in General Internal Medicine or General Paediatrics from the RCPI, or in Emergency Medicine from the RCSI, may apply for RPL. An applicant successful in obtaining RPL may have their training shortened from four years to three years.

The College can facilitate an adaptation period (RPL Catch-Up Course) and increase minimum attendance at day release to compensate for day release content missed by the candidate. Engagement with this adaptation is mandatory for RPL trainees.

3.2 Applicants with prior higher specialist training in Ireland

Prior to commencement of the GP Training Programme, an applicant who has completed higher specialist medical training in General Internal Medicine, General Paediatrics or Emergency Medicine in Ireland may be eligible for RPL upon submission of evidence of appropriate qualifications. An applicant successful in obtaining RPL may have their training shortened from four years to three years.

The College can facilitate an adaptation period (RPL Catch-Up Course) and increase minimum attendance at day release to compensate for day release content missed by the candidate. Engagement with this adaptation is mandatory for RPL trainees.

3.3 Applicants with prior higher specialist training outside of Ireland

Prior to commencement of the GP Training Programme, an applicant who has completed higher specialist medical training in General Internal Medicine, General Paediatrics or Emergency Medicine from another jurisdiction which has been accepted as equivalent by the RCPI or RCSI (as applicable), and as such is registerable by the Irish Medical Council (IMC), may be eligible for RPL upon submission of evidence of appropriate qualifications.



The College can facilitate an adaptation period (RPL Catch-Up Course) and increase minimum attendance at day release to compensate for day release content missed by the candidate. Engagement with this adaptation is mandatory for RPL trainees.

3.4 Applicant with prior GP training

An applicant who previously participated in but did not complete the Irish National GP Training Programme may apply for RPL under certain conditions.

The applicant must have met all requirements under the Policy on Applications to the GP Training Programme Following Exit from a Specialist Training Programme prior to application for RPL. The reader is referred to the above Policy and corresponding Procedures for more details.

The applicant under this section will be required to complete at least 12 months of training (full-time equivalent) before being eligible for a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST).

Ideally, previously completed posts in which the applicant had progressed well should not be repeated. However, the SDT reserve the right to not recognise prior learning when there is a concern around skills and knowledge degradation.

Prior learning will not be recognised if the SDT's assessment reveals a need for remediation of any curriculum under consideration.

The College will not facilitate an adaptation period (RPL Catch-Up Course) for applicants under this section.

4.0 Roles and responsibilities

Applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete and submit applications and supporting documentation in a timely manner.• Respond to requests for additional information from the College expediently.
GP Training Unit	Review and determine an applicant's eligibility for RPL.

5.0 Related and supporting documentation

- [Policy on applications to GP training following exit from a specialist training programme](#)
- [Procedures on applications to GP training following exit from a specialist training programme](#)
- [Recognition of Prior Learning Procedures](#)
- [GP Trainee Recruitment webpage](#)

6.0 Contact

Quality assurance and enhancement

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