



Recognition of Prior Learning Procedures

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1.0 Purpose

The purpose of these procedures is to specify the criteria for the recognition of prior learning (RPL) for applicants to the National Specialist Training Programme in General Practice (GP Training Programme or Programme).

2.0 Procedure statement

Applications should be submitted to the GP Training Selection Team (Selection). Selection and the relevant Scheme Directing Team (SDT), with the support of the Curriculum department, where needed, will assess the applicant's eligibility and the scheme's ability to accommodate the submission.

The applicant must submit all required supporting documentation in Application Part B to GP Training process (if training and examinations already completed) or by the deadline specified each year by the Selection department and published on the College website.

2.1 Applicant with basic specialist training in Ireland

2.1.1 Medicine

Prior to commencement of GP Training, an applicant must have successfully completed [Basic Specialist Training in General Medicine with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland \(RCPI\)](#), including all appropriate assessments (Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI) Examinations General Medicine Part I, General Medicine Part II Written and General Medicine Part II Clinical).

The following supporting documentation is required:

- Certificate of Satisfactory Completion from the RCPI in respect of Basic Specialist Training in General Internal Medicine, notarised;
- Official confirmation of passing examinations for Basic Specialist Training, including MRCPI General Medicine Part I, General Medicine Part II Written and General Medicine Part II Clinical.

2.1.2 Paediatrics

Prior to commencement of GP Training, an applicant must have successfully completed [Basic Specialist Training in Paediatrics with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland \(RCPI\)](#) including all appropriate assessments (Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI) Examinations Paediatrics Part I, Paediatrics Part II Written and Paediatrics Part II Clinical).

The following supporting documentation is required:

- Certificate of Satisfactory Completion from the RCPI in respect of Basic Specialist Training in Paediatrics, notarised;
- Official confirmation of passing examinations for Basic Specialist Training, including MRCPI Paediatrics Part I, Paediatrics Part II Written and Paediatrics Part II Clinical.

2.1.3 Emergency Medicine

Prior to commencement of GP Training, an applicant must have successfully completed [Core Specialist Training in Emergency Medicine \(CSTEM\) with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland \(RCSI\)](#) including all appropriate assessments (Membership of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine (MRCEM) Primary, MRCEM Single Best Answer (SBA) and MRCEM Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)).

The following supporting documentation is required:

- Certificate of Satisfactory Completion from the RCSI in respect of Core Specialist Training in Emergency Medicine (CSTEM), notarised;
- Official confirmation of passing MRCEM Primary, MRCEM SBA and MRCEM OSCE.

2.2 Applicant with prior higher specialist training in Ireland

Prior to commencement of GP Training, an applicant that possesses higher specialist medical training including Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) and examination in General Internal Medicine, General Paediatrics or Emergency Medicine may submit their documentation for consideration.

2.2.1 Medicine

Prior to commencement of GP Training, an applicant with higher specialist medical training in General Internal Medicine must provide the following supporting documentation:

- Certificate of Satisfactory Completion from the [RCPI in respect of Higher Specialist Training in Internal Medicine](#), notarised.

2.2.2 General Paediatrics

Prior to commencement of GP Training, an applicant with higher specialist medical training in General Paediatrics must provide the following supporting documentation:

- Certificate of Satisfactory Completion from the [RCPI in respect of Higher Specialist Training in General Paediatrics](#), notarised.

2.2.3 Emergency Medicine

Prior to commencement of GP Training, an applicant with higher specialist medical training in Emergency Medicine must provide the following supporting documentation:

- Certificate of Satisfactory Completion from the [RCSI in respect of Advanced Specialist Training in Emergency Medicine \(ASTEM\)](#), notarised;
- Official confirmation of passing examinations for Fellowship Exam of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine (FRCER SBA and OSCE) that include written and clinical components.

2.3 Applicant with higher specialist training outside of Ireland

Prior to commencement of GP Training, an applicant that possesses higher specialist medical training including CSCST and examination in General Internal Medicine, General Paediatrics or Emergency Medicine from any other jurisdiction which has been accepted as equivalent by the RCPI or RCSI may submit their documentation for consideration.

2.3.1 General Internal Medicine

Prior to commencement of GP Training, an applicant with higher specialist medical training in General Internal Medicine must provide the following supporting documentation:

- Certificate of Satisfactory Completion from the relevant national training body in respect of Higher Specialist Training in General Internal Medicine, notarised;
- Official confirmation of passing examinations for Higher Specialist Training (or equivalent) in General Internal Medicine that include written and clinical components;
- Proof that prior training incorporates training that is equivalent to Basic Specialist Training as provided by the RCPI.

2.3.2 General Paediatrics

Prior to commencement of GP Training, an applicant with higher specialist medical training in General Paediatrics must provide the following supporting documentation:

- Certificate of Satisfactory Completion from the relevant national training body in respect of Higher Specialist Training in General Paediatrics, notarised;

- Official confirmation of passing examinations for Higher Specialist Training (or equivalent) in General Paediatrics that include written and clinical components;
- Proof that prior training incorporates training that is equivalent to Basic Specialist Training as provided by the RCPI.

2.3.3 Emergency Medicine

Prior to commencement of GP Training, an applicant with higher specialist medical training in Emergency Medicine must provide the following supporting documentation:

- Certificate of Satisfactory Completion from the relevant national training body in respect of Higher Specialist Training in Emergency Medicine, notarised;
- Official confirmation of passing examinations for Core Specialist Training in Emergency Medicine (or equivalent) that include written and clinical components;
- Proof that prior training incorporates training that is equivalent to Basic Specialist Training as provided by the RCSI.

2.4 Applicant with prior GP training

An applicant who previously participated in the College's GP Training Programme may be eligible for RPL under the following conditions:

- Meets all requirements under the Policy on applications to the GP training programme following exit from a specialist training programme;
- Resigned from training within the last three (3) years;
- The competency progression committee (CPC) awarded recommendation "A" (Progressing as expected) or "D" (Progressing faster than expected) for the training under consideration for RPL;
- Satisfactory completion of clinical rotations under consideration for RPL, evidenced by In Training Evaluation Reports (ITERs), and audit (when applicable), within the last three (3) years.

The period of training that can be "counted" in these circumstances is that covered by the more recent competency progression committee (CPC) review. Training that did not receive a CPC recommendation "A" or "D" should not be considered for RPL.

The SDT may at their discretion assess prior CPC reviews to confirm the applicant also received either recommendation "A" or "D" for those periods and whether that time in training can be recognised.

2.5 Submission deadline

The deadline for submission of supporting documents is defined annually through the selection process. The reader is referred to the College website for more details.

3.0 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.
Scheme Directing Teams	Review and determine an applicant's eligibility for RPL.

4.0 Definitions

Resignation	Withdrawal from a training programme of the person's own volition.
Removal	Termination, dismissal, expulsion from a training programme or employment contract and usually because of performance or disciplinary issues.

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 Policy](#)
- [GP Trainee Recruitment](#)

6.0 Contact

Quality assurance and enhancement

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