



NFQ: Level 8

Award: **Bachelor of Dental Surgery, BDS (Hons)**

Awarding Body: **National University of Ireland**

Duration: **5 years**

Undergraduate Dentistry

RCSI's BDS programme offers students a very distinctive educational experience with a world-leading health sciences university. Our students enjoy an immersive educational journey with a strong focus on acquiring the clinical and communication skills necessary to effectively practice in complex healthcare environments and to serve the oral health needs of diverse populations and cultures.

The programme ensures that students are fully prepared for a primary care dentistry career and in addition, provides the foundations on which to develop their knowledge and skills. This will also provide the basis for potential future entry into dental specialist and postgraduate training programmes for those who wish to do so.

RCSI's Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programme is studied over five years, on a full-time basis. It offers a vertically and horizontally integrated spiralled curriculum utilising a blend of teaching and learning methods, which combine clinical skills training with the acquisition of knowledge, skills, acumen and professional attributes. All teaching and learning activities are patient and student-centred, and are specifically designed for students to experience authentic and contextual learning in dentistry.

Early patient contact commencing in Year 1 is one of the most important characteristics of this innovative degree programme. These early patient encounters play an important role in developing students' clinical, communication and teamworking skills, and understanding the ethos of patient-centred care. Additionally, Years 1 and 2 of the programme lay down the scientific and technical foundations upon which the later, more clinically-intensive years of the course are built. By the end of the second year of study, students will have been introduced to the evidence-based core clinical and technical skills required of modern dentistry and will have developed competence in many aspects of dental care.

Across Years 2 to 5, students gain extensive clinical experience on a wide range of common and important dental conditions, with continued reference to the science base that underpins clinical dental practice. The later years of the programme support the immersive understanding of the patient journey through primary, secondary and specialist dental care. Final year will provide a thorough grounding for contemporary practice through detailed preparation toward the skills required to practice as an independent primary care dentist immediately after graduation. Students will also be prepared for their working life on qualification through consolidation and strengthening of comprehension, applying information as well as enhancing clinical skills. This year sees students transition from being supervised students to independent practitioners.

Small group teaching supports curriculum delivery, and plenaries, practical Science for Dentistry (SfD) sessions and workshops support the programme as appropriate. The RCSI Simulated Dental Learning Environment (SDLE) enables students to develop and consolidate their clinical skills before they start treating patients. It is equipped with a comprehensive and extensive range of models, equipment and state-of-the-art patient simulators, which provides a protected environment to acquire and practice clinical skills.

Clinical teaching and learning will be in one or more of RCSI's Dental Education Centres (DEC). We have a fully operational centre in Sandyford and are currently developing two new centres in North Dublin.

These facilities are designed specifically to meet the learning needs of dental students and to allow them to gain experience in clinical dentistry in a primary care community setting.

Engagement with local communities throughout the course is one of the keys to dental students developing professionalism and social accountability skills, plus a real understanding of the needs and demands of different groups in the population. Students will spend a considerable proportion of each year working closely with disadvantaged communities and other members of the wider healthcare team in their Interprofessional Engagement modules.

How you'll learn and be assessed: Blend of SDLE skills sign-off, clinical competency assessments, case presentations, oral assessments and written papers (including MCQs), OSCEs, feedback and mentoring, and interprofessional engagement.



In summary, the programme's aims are as follows:

- > Provide you with the core skills and knowledge to qualify and register as a dentist with the Dental Council in Ireland.
- > Provide training and education as approved by the Dental Council in Ireland.
- > Develop competence in the clinical skills required to deliver primary care dentistry.
- > Develop your critical and analytical acumens in relation to the practice of dentistry.
- > Enhance personal and professional skills, and development of a professional identity.
- > Develop transferable skills for lifelong learning and a career in dentistry.
- > Provide you with opportunities for integrated multidisciplinary working.
- > Develop excellent communication and teamworking skills.
- > Develop capability to underpin a successful future career as a dentist.

YEAR 1

Your clinical education will commence at the start of Year 1. Working in small, integrated study groups, you will learn the core scientific foundations of dentistry in a clinical context through an Enquiry Based Learning (EBL) format. You will explore the scientific basis of healthy structure, function and behaviour, with a focus on dental health, prevention of dental disease and the underlying principles of personal and professional development. You will attend the Simulated Dental Learning Environment (SDLE) from your first few weeks, developing essential clinical skills. From Semester 2 of Year 1, you will experience contact with patients in the clinics, where you will be able to develop your clinical and communication skills under close supervision by primary dental care based teachers, bringing to life the skills acquired in SDLE. Towards the end of the year, you will have your first experience in community engagement.

MODULES

Integrated Dental Science 1
Clinical Dental Practice 1
Professional Development 1
Interprofessional Engagement 1

The programme has received full recognition from RCSI and the National University of Ireland. The Dental Council confirmed its support for the launch of the programme in September 2025 and will conduct an accreditation visit in 2029. Full accreditation by the Dental Council is subject to the outcome of this scheduled review.

YEAR 2

In Year 2, you will build on your foundations with common dental problems, as well as disease mechanisms considered in much greater depth. Learning will continue through EBL and in the SDLE as you develop clinical skills for advanced procedures whilst continuing to care for patients in dental clinics approximately two days per week. You will gain insight into the importance of team work in dentistry as you integrate with other members of the team in the clinical environment, and plan and deliver a social engagement project intervention.

MODULES

Integrated Dental Science 2
Clinical Dental Practice 2
Professional Development 2
Interprofessional Engagement 2

YEAR 3

In Year 3, there will be greater emphasis on clinical practice and self-directed learning as you prepare project assignments, including an engagement project with students from another healthcare profession and clinical cases. You will consolidate existing skills and undertake more advanced procedures under close supervision. One of the themes for Years 3 and 4 is to consolidate the learning of medically-related issues for the safe practice of dentistry. You will be given an opportunity to learn about dentally relevant medical issues in patient-based demonstrations.

MODULES

Applied Dental Knowledge 3
Clinical Dental Practice 3
Professional Development 3
Interprofessional Engagement 3

YEAR 4

In Year 4, clinical activities will expand to approximately three days per week and you will start to prepare clinical cases for Finals. Clinical dentistry will now embrace all aspects of dental care provision expected of a qualified primary care dentist. You will also be trained in advanced restorative techniques and strengthen your competence in treatment planning. You'll gain first-hand experience of the role and services provided by specialists in primary and secondary care, by attending specialist clinics in the various clinical disciplines, such as Oral Surgery, Orthodontics and Restorative Dentistry.

MODULES

Applied Dental Knowledge 4
Clinical Dental Practice 4
Professional Development 4
Interprofessional Engagement 4

YEAR 5

The emphasis in Year 5 is on the implementation and consolidation of the skills and acumen you have acquired in previous years and is the final preparation for dental practice. You will become more confident with clinical practice, healthcare teams and the principles of professionalism; and discover advances in dentistry being developed for future practice.

MODULES

Applied Dental Knowledge 5
Clinical Dental Practice 5
Professional Development 5

International graduates of the RCSI Dentistry programme have a one-year stayback visa option should they wish to practise in Ireland.



CARLA O'BRIEN

Dentistry

One of the things I've really enjoyed about RCSI Dentistry is the time that we spend every week in the state of the art simulation lab, which we started using from the very first week of first year. From semester one, we were already polishing, drilling and charting teeth, which really helped build my confidence from early on. It's extremely exciting to get that level of hands-on, clinical style experience from year one, and it's something that I find makes the course feel very practical and engaging from the very beginning.



NICHOLAS MEARA

Dentistry

I really enjoy the balance between lectures, small-group learning, and hands-on days. In lectures we are taught by educators with strong academic and professional expertise. Small-group learning ensures we understand the material by reinforcing key concepts and allowing us to ask questions. It also gives students real-time feedback, as well as an opportunity to seek individual support. Simulation days offer us the space to apply our knowledge and develop essential technical skills. Overall, RCSI provides students with an ideal blend of academic rigor, individualized support, and hands-on clinical training.



WHY STUDY DENTISTRY AT RCSI?

- > **Small group teaching:** Our approach to small group teaching supports curriculum delivery, and enables you to get to know your lecturers and receive regular feedback in a supportive learning environment.
- > **Early patient contact:** Early patient contact is one of the standout characteristics of the programme. Students experience contact with patients from Year 1 onwards, allowing for the early development of clinical and communication skills under close supervision.
- > **State-of-the-art facilities:** RCSI's Simulated Dental Learning Environment (SDLE) enables students to develop and consolidate their clinical skills in a safe and nurturing environment before progressing on to treat actual patients.
- > **Community focus:** Students engage closely with local communities throughout the course, which develops professionalism and social accountability skills and gives a deep understanding of the needs and demands of different groups in the population, where your service to the oral health of the community can be informed and focused.
- > **Multidisciplinary environment:** Study alongside your future colleagues in Medicine, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy and Advanced Therapeutic Technologies, ensuring that the multidisciplinary nature of patient care is reflected in your education at RCSI.
- > **Career readiness:** Students develop transferable skills for lifelong learning and a career in dentistry, and you will also receive intensive support in choosing your own future career path.

INTERNATIONAL (NON-EU) APPLICATION ESSENTIALS

The following pages provide an overview of some key application information (application routes, timelines, fees) for international (Non-EU) applicants to RCSI's undergraduate programmes.

For further details visit rcsi.com/dublin



UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES OVERVIEW

PROGRAMME	NFQ	DEGREE	AWARD-ING BODY	DURATION
Advanced Therapeutic Technologies	Level 8	BSc (Hons)	NUI*	4 years
Dentistry	Level 8	BDS (Hons)	NUI	5 or 6 years**
Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM)	Level 8	MB BCh BAO	NUI	4 years
Medicine	Level 8	MB BCh BAO	NUI	5 or 6 years
Pharmacy	Level 9	BSc (Hons), MPharm	NUI	5 years
Physiotherapy	Level 8	BSc (Hons)	NUI	4 years***

*NUI = National University of Ireland

**RCSI's undergraduate Dentistry programme is five years in duration. Depending on the qualifications presented at application, some students are required to complete an additional Foundation Year (6-year track). Further information on entry requirements is outlined on page 97.

***Graduate entry students join the BSc Physiotherapy in Year 1 (exempt from Foundation Year) and complete the programme in three years.

HOW TO APPLY

Non-EU applicants, with the exception of those residing in Canada or the USA at the time of application, apply directly to RCSI via the RCSI website rcsi.com/dublin.

Non-EU applicants residing in Canada or the USA at the time of application apply to RCSI via Atlantic Bridge's online application system. Please refer to atlanticbridge.com for more information on the Atlantic Bridge application process or email admissions@atlanticbridge.com.

Please note that all Non-EU applicants to Advanced Therapeutic Technologies apply directly to RCSI via our website rcsi.com/dublin. This includes applicants residing in Canada or the USA at the time of application.

APPLICATION TIMELINES

Atlantic Bridge online applications **OPEN** in **early August** and close on **15 November**, with **late applications** accepted until **early January**.

Direct Non-EU applications to RCSI **OPEN** on **1 November** and **CLOSE** on **15 January** each year.

Late applications for ATT, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy may be accepted on a rolling basis after **15 January** until a late application deadline date of **31 May** or until places are filled, whichever is earlier.

Please note: Early application is always advised as places are limited on all courses.



INTERNATIONAL (NON-EU) APPLICATION PRE-REQUISITES

The below table provides a guideline of the application requirements for international applicants making an application either directly to RCSI or via Atlantic Bridge:

PROGRAMME	PERSONAL STATEMENT	CONTACT DETAILS OF AN ACADEMIC REFEREE	GAMSAT OR MCAT	CASPER SITUATIONAL JUDGEMENT TEST*	ADMISSIONS INTERVIEW (for shortlisted applicants only)
Advanced Therapeutic Technologies	✓	✓			✓
Dentistry	✓	✓		✓**	✓
Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM)	✓	✓	✓		✓
Medicine	✓	✓		✓	✓
Pharmacy	✓	✓			✓
Physiotherapy	✓	✓			✓

*Casper is an online situational judgement test used to assess applicants' non-academic qualities like communication, empathy and problem-solving. All privately-funded Non-EU applicants to 5 or 6 year Medicine or Dentistry (excluding Graduate Entry applicants) are required to sit Casper.

Further information is available at <https://acuityinsights.app/casper/>

**Applicants applying to Dentistry who have or will have completed their undergraduate degree by summer 2027 are exempt from sitting Casper.



Education Agents

In addition to accepting direct applications, RCSI works with a select group of education agents outside of North America for applications to ATT, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy. An up-to-date listing of these agents and their jurisdictions is available on our website and accessible via the QR code.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

RCSI welcomes applications from international (Non-EU) applicants who are applying with recognised high school qualifications (for school leaver places) and undergraduate degree qualifications (for graduate entry places).

RCSI receives applications from those who have studied in many different countries and undertaken a range of school-leaving and university-level qualifications. For detailed information on which qualifications are recognised for entry to RCSI, please scan the relevant QR code(s) below.

Advanced Therapeutic Technologies



Dentistry



Medicine



Pharmacy



Physiotherapy



Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM)



MINIMUM ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Teaching in RCSI is through the medium of English. Applicants whose first language is not English must present a minimum overall average IELTS score of 6.5 with no individual band (reading, writing, listening and speaking) lower than 6.0. IELTS certificates must be less than two years old at the time of admission. Equivalent scores in TOEFL are also acceptable.

Applicants presenting programme qualifications that are delivered entirely through English (e.g. IB Diploma or A Levels) are not required to supply an IELTS certificate as part of their initial application. Please note however that they must meet minimum English language requirements in their academic examinations, instead, e.g. applicants presenting A Levels must hold a minimum GCSE English grade 4/C or above to meet RCSI's English language requirements.

MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT

International (Non-EU) applicants must turn 18 years of age by 31 December, following entry to any of RCSI's undergraduate degree programmes.



FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Further details of international (Non-EU) student fees are available on the 'Fees and funding' section of each undergraduate programme page on rcsi.com/dublin

A summary table of international (Non-EU) fees for the Academic Year 2027/28 is below:

	ATT	DENT	MED	PHARM	PHYSIO	GEM
Non-EU tuition fee	€25,000	€64,000	€62,000	€25,000	€25,000	€63,500
NUI fee (once-off fee in year 1)	€135	€135	€135	€135	€135	€135
Health screening fee (once-off fee in year 1)				€380	€380	
Less RCSI Development Initiative Scholarship*	(€7,000)			(€7,000)	(€7,000)	
Total Annual Non-EU tuition fee (net of applicable scholarships)	€18,135	€64,135	€62,135	€18,515	€18,515	€63,635

*RCSI's Development Initiative Scholarship is awarded to Non-EU students in receipt of an offer to study ATT, Pharmacy or Physiotherapy at RCSI who are self-funded (i.e. not in receipt of government funded scholarships).

SCHOLARSHIPS

The **International Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences Entrance Scholarship** and **International Consilio Manuque Medicine Scholarship** recognise undergraduate students who have an exceptional academic record of accomplishment and demonstrated determination and motivation to study ATT, Pharmacy or Medicine at RCSI.

The **International Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences Entrance Scholarship** is offered to gifted Non-EU students who have accepted their offer to study Pharmacy or ATT at RCSI. The scholarship offers an additional reduction of €1,500 to Year 1 tuition fees.

Eligible candidates are not required to submit a separate application for the scholarship as their application details will be taken into account in the awarding of the scholarship.

The **International Consilio Manuque Medicine Scholarship** is open to all self-funding international (Non-EU) students who are joining RCSI to study medicine. The scholarship is worth €25,000 in total over the lifetime of the programme, paid in equal instalments at the beginning of each academic year.

Students meeting the scholarship eligibility criteria will be invited to apply for the scholarship by the RCSI Admissions Office. An invitation will be issued by email to eligible offer holders in July each year and the application will remain open until early September.

For more information on these scholarships, please scan the relevant QR code below.

**INTERNATIONAL
PHARMACY AND
BIOMOLECULAR
SCIENCES
SCHOLARSHIP**



**INTERNATIONAL
CONSILIO
MANUQUE MEDICINE
SCHOLARSHIP**





THIRD LEVEL GRADUATE PROGRAMME IN IRELAND

The Irish post-study work visa, known as the Third Level Graduate Programme, allows Non-EU graduates to stay in Ireland to seek employment after completing their studies.

It grants them a 12-month visa (extendable to 24 months for Masters or Level 9 graduates), allowing them to work full time while actively seeking employment.

The purpose of the programme is to support legally resident, Irish-educated, Non-EU graduates who hold a Level 8 or Level 9 award from a recognised Irish awarding body to remain in Ireland after their studies to seek graduate level employment and be in a position to apply for a general employment permit, a critical skills employment permit or a research hosting agreement.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND WEBINARS FOR NON-EU STUDENTS

RCSI hosts a number of in-person and virtual events throughout the year and attends various university fairs and other events in different parts of the world to meet with prospective students, their parents and teachers. For more details on events that RCSI intends to host or attend during the academic year, please visit www.rcsi.com/dublin/undergraduate/meet-rcsi or scan the QR code below.



UPCOMING RCSI
EVENTS AND
WEBINARS



SIGN UP TO OUR
MAILING LIST





RCSI

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