



RCSI

RCSI.COM/ISPP



Intermediate Surgical Principles and Practice Certificate (ISPP)



**Open to experienced Surgical
SHOs and junior registrars**



This flexible and hybrid certificate aims to enhance your competencies and knowledge, providing you with essential surgical knowledge to support and progress your career.

This programme covers the broad areas of:

- Core Knowledge and Clinical Judgement
- Clinical Skills
- Personal and Professional Wellbeing
- Clinical and Professional Communication Skills
- Critical Thinking and Professional Development

Module One, Core Knowledge and Clinical Judgement and Module Two, Clinical Skills create a collaborative learning environment with group-based case discussions and simulated ward rounds, held by experienced consultants. This allows for the discussion of a wide-range of complex cases and their clinical management.

Module Three, Personal and professional wellbeing focuses on emotional and mental wellbeing in an increasingly challenging work environment and intends to provide training on peer-to-peer support after adverse events as well as emotional intelligence in both professional and personal settings.

Module Four, Clinical and Professional communication Skills consists of two in-person OSCE days which will enhance the participants communication skills, focusing on requesting a consultant to attend a case, breaking bad news and error disclosure. These simulated experiences aim to provide a safe environment for clinicians to learn and practice advanced communication skills that will be required during the progression of their surgical career. These OSCEs will be held with both a consultant level clinician and a human factors specialist, providing well-rounded feedback and advice to participants.

We aim to help develop participants critical thinking skills, focusing on evidence-based medicine, highlighting new developments in the field and how they may be implemented into practice. We also support participants professional development, providing an in-person CV clinic, followed by a mock interview panel to prepare participants for their application into their next post.

Completion of this module will result in your development and refinement of the following skills:

- Complex case management
- Peer-based discussions and interprofessional collaboration
- Clinical handover
- Professional and interpersonal communication skills
- Evidence-based medicine
- Critical thinking skills
- Complex communication
- CV development
- Interview skills

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OVERVIEW

Calling all experienced Surgical SHO's and Junior Registrars in Ireland

The RCSI Intermediate Surgical Principles and Practice Certificate (ISPP) is your surgical pathway to transitioning from a Surgical SHO to becoming a well-rounded Registrar.

Whether you're Surgical SHO ready to make the next step or a new Registrar ready to enhance your surgical competencies and knowledge, our flexible and hybrid certificate will provide you with essential surgical support to progress your career.

The programme covers the broad areas of:

- Core Knowledge and Clinical Judgement
- Clinical Skills
- Personal and Professional Wellbeing
- Clinical and professional communication skills
- Critical Thinking and Professional Development

***COMPLETION OF THIS PROGRAMME EQUATES TO 50 CPD POINTS.**

In 2022 RCSI established a working group, to review the training and career development supports that are available to NCHD in the Irish healthcare system.

One of the major actions coming out of this report was for RCSI to develop an incremental career development programme to support the career development needs and aspirations for NCHD developed at different levels to meet the needs of NCHDs based on their current experience and training.

In developing this programme, we are acutely aware of the work and family pressure on experienced SHO's and Registrars so we have developed the programme as a Hybrid programme where 70% of the programme will be online outside of core work hours.

Those who have previously completed the BSPP will be given preference for entry into the programme. Please note Surgical SHO's in Ireland will need to be registered on our CPD Support Scheme Programme 2025-26 before applying onto our Basic Surgical

Principles and Practice Programme (September 2025 intake).

This programme will utilise a blended approach to teaching. Teaching resources will be housed on the Moodle platform. Technical skills training will be delivered face to face on campus for three full days. The online sessions will be live (synchronous) with faculty present in the class. Pre-course reading and post-course exercises will be required to be undertaken on top of attending online classes.

THIS PROGRAMME OFFERS A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR NTSDS ACROSS IRELAND.

This support system will be delivered online primarily and will be housed on Moodle. This certificate course will be a high-quality structured programme which will deliver both live (synchronous) and asynchronous education episodes on a regular basis throughout the academic year.

COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS

As part of this programme, we are keen to develop a community of learners within which there will be opportunities for the group to network and socialise with each other as well as consultant colleagues.

We will also have web boards built into the class Moodle platform where the students can engage directly with each other.



DURATION

The Intermediate Surgical Principles and Practice Certificate is a one-year programme delivered between **September 2025 and June 2026**.

Delivery and Time Commitment

- A minimum of 60 hours of content, with a minimum of 80% attendance
- 3 Face to Face days with the remaining 40 hours being online delivered outside of core workhours
- Access an additional minimum of 40 hours of additional support material



LEARNING OUTCOMES

High-quality, consultant delivered education sessions.

Flexible learning, incorporating a blend of both synchronous and asynchronous.

Learning to fit in with busy clinical schedules.

Syllabus-based education (core surgical curriculum and MRCS syllabus).

A blend of clinical, Intermediate, non-technical and critical thinking skills

A focus on evidence-based medicine highlighting the importance of critically assessing scientific journals and medical breakthroughs.

Learning to fit in with busy clinical schedules.

Management strategies for an increasingly heavy and stressful workload

Training on dealing with complex medical cases with the addition of ethical concerns or communication difficulties.

Syllabus-based education (core surgical curriculum and MRCS syllabus)

Education and learning which is geared towards the skills needed to provide safer and better-quality care for patients.

Access to a community of learners to enhance cohesion and collegiality

Among the NTS group across Ireland

Achieve alignment with RCSI as a training buddy

Mentorship from a team of surgical and coaching experts.

MODULE 1

CORE KNOWLEDGE AND CLINICAL JUDGEMENT

Case-based discussions: A consultant surgeon will discuss a surgical topic that is highly relevant to clinical practice and will cover not only clinical surgery but also the basic sciences, including relevant anatomy, physiology and pathology. This module builds off Core Knowledge and Clinical Judgement module found in the BSPP with a focus on increasing the variety, depth and complexity of the cases while introducing ethical concerns.

10 x 1-hour monthly sessions, giving 10 CPD points



MODULE 2

CLINICAL SKILLS

Module 2 is delivered in the format of a virtual ward round. Participants will be assigned groups at the start of the year and will continue to work in these groups throughout the course. This will allow participants to work together with peers in small groups to review clinical cases including vital signs, medications, and investigations. The group discuss differential diagnoses and then presents the case to the consultant as if presenting on a ward round. Feedback is provided by the consultant.

Simulated virtual ward rounds are an important means of clinical skills training and form important learning outcomes in the new Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme (Capabilities in Practice). These teaching sessions will include a blend of pre-course work and online classes.

10 x 1.5-hour sessions per year, giving 15 CPD points

MODULE 3

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL WELLBEING

This module comprises of four half-day sessions focusing on emotional wellbeing, peer to peer support skills and emotional intelligence in both personal and professional settings.



MODULE 4

CLINICAL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Module 4 consists of 2 in-person OSCE style workshops. One full-day session will be held at the beginning of the year to evaluate students' current communication skills and one full-day session at the end of the year to evaluate students improvement. These workshops will focus on clinical handover skills, calling in a consultant, breaking bad news and error disclosure.

Students skills will be evaluated by a consultant and a member of the Human Factors faculty, who will provide feedback on their performance from both a clinical and psychological standpoint

2 x full-days (In-person) per year, giving 12 CPD credits



MODULE 5

CRITICAL THINKING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Critical thinking encompasses a journal club run four times a year focusing on important and new literature in the surgical field. Students will learn how to critically assess these articles and use this information to adjust their practice, focusing on evidence-based medicine.

Professional development comprises one in-person day split between a CV clinic and a mock interview panel. Students will receive a workshop on how to write and edit their current CV. This workshop will be held in April or May to allow students to adjust their CVs before applying for posts.

Students will also have the opportunity to attend a mock interview where they will apply for a position and be interviewed by consultants who will provide feedback on their performance and highlight areas of improvement.

1 x full day and 4 x 1-hour sessions per year, giving 12 CPD credits



STUDENTS WILL ALSO HAVE ACCESS TO AN RCSI ONLINE COURSE ON PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOURS AND PATIENT SAFETY.

COMPLETION OF THIS MODULE PROVIDES A CERTIFICATE

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Scholars who have previously completed the Basic Surgical Principles and Practice certificate are automatically eligible for this programme and will be given preference upon application.

Those with alternative experience:

SHO's and junior Registrar's who have not had the opportunity to complete the BSSP can apply for the remaining places on the programme with shortlisting be assessed on the follow:

Essential

- Be either an experienced SHO (2 years minimum) and junior Registrar – evidence of clinical experience should be included on a detailed CV.
- Registered on Continuous Professional Development Support Scheme (CPD-SS). *Note: Clinicians working in private practice are also eligible to apply*
- Work within the public health service (doctors working in the private health service will also be considered for this programme)
- Competition of the MRCS Part A – This may be waived in light of significant experience or research

Nice to have

- A letter or email of support from your consultant
- Be an active participant in the CPDSS programme for the past 1 – 2 years

FEES AND FUNDING

The total cost is **€2,240**

€990 is covered via the NCHD CPD funding, which will be claimed back directly from the HSE on behalf of the NCHDs.

Candidates will need to pay the remaining balance of €1,250, which can be paid in three instalments.

NCHDs can claim the €1,250 fee back directly from their hospitals as this certificate is approved by HSE NDTP under the Training Support Scheme (TSS).



YOUR JOURNEY

BASIC Surgical Principles and Practice Certificate (BSPP)

To be considered eligible for the programme, you must be:

- Registered on Continuous Professional Development Support Scheme (CPD-SS)
- Work in the Public Health Service
- Work as a Surgical SHO

INTERMEDIATE Surgical Principles and Practice Certificate (ISPP)

Applicants who have previously successfully completed the BSPP programme will be automatically eligible to the ISPP and will be given preference upon application.

This programme is aimed at experienced SHOs (2 years experience) and junior Registrars.

COMING SOON >>> ADVANCED Surgical Principles and Practice Certificate (ASPP)

The Advanced Surgical Principles and Practice Certificate will be open to those that have successfully completed the Intermediate level.



RCSI

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OF SURGEONS
IN IRELAND

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