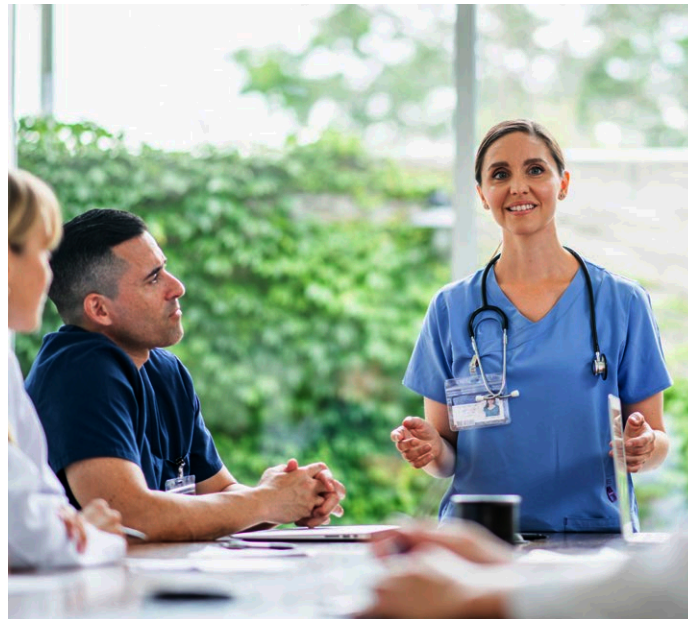




**RCSI**

# Basic Surgical Principles and Practice Certificate (BSPP)

**OPEN TO  
SURGICAL SHO's**



The RCSI Basic Surgical Principles and Practice certificate provides a flexible and hybrid programme, specifically designed to support surgical doctors who are not on formal training programmes, by providing structured educational support in-line with the Intercollegiate Core Surgical Curriculum (CST).

The Surgical SHO's core knowledge and clinical skills will be honed through case-based discussions and simulated ward rounds lead by experienced consultants. Cases are discussed in groups, stimulating peer-peer discussion and debate, followed by presentation of their clinical decision and feedback on its accuracy.

Technical skills training will take place in-person over a period of two days in the state-of-the-art simulation facilities in 26 York Street, where participants will complete the Basic Surgical Skills course. The course covers content on 3 main areas: Open Surgery, Endoscopic Surgery and Laparoscopic Surgery.

RCSI is acutely aware of the work and family pressure placed on surgical doctors. To alleviate concerns about class attendance during this busy schedule, modules four and five, non-technical skills and Professionalism and Patient Safety respectively, are both self-directed and asynchronous, allowing students to complete them on their own schedule.

Ensuring our students are fully supported we provide online live sessions on topics such as "Caring for yourself in Surgery" and "Lifestyle Medicine", contributing to the development of a well-rounded SHO.

Completion of this certificate will result in the development and refinement of the following skills

- Peer-to-Peer Discussions
- Case Presentation
- Basic Surgical Skills
- Professionalism

**Dr Kathryn Allen**, PhD, BSc (Hons), AFHEA  
Lecturer in Postgraduate Academic Programmes,  
Basic Surgical Principles and Practice Certificate  
Lead

## OVERVIEW

The Basic Surgical Principles and Practice Certificate (BSPP) for NCHDs has been specifically designed for surgical doctors who are not currently on a formal surgical training programme. The purpose of the programme is to provide educational support in a structured way based on the blueprint of the Intercollegiate Core Surgical Curriculum.

The programme covers the broad areas of:

1. Core Knowledge and Clinical Judgement
2. Clinical Skills
3. Technical skills
4. Non-Technical Skills
5. Professionalism and Patient Safety

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

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

This programme offers a comprehensive educational support system for NCHDs 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.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES

This programme will utilize 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 two 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.

## DURATION

The Basic Surgical Principles and Practice Certificate is a one-year 80% online programme delivered between September 2025 and June 2026. Those who complete this successfully will become eligible for the next stage of the programme - RCSI's Intermediate Surgical Principles and Practice programme.

## SCHOLARS WILL GAIN

- 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, technical and non-technical skills
- A focus on clinical judgement and decision-making
- 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 NCHD group across Ireland
- Achieve alignment with RCSI as a training buddy
- Pastoral care through access to personal wellbeing /career coaching and mentorships from a team of surgical and coaching experts
- Live online session titled "Caring for Yourself in Surgery," featuring lectured tips and studies to help surgeons maintain their musculoskeletal health
- Programme also offers participants the opportunity to book an online coaching session with a qualified coach



## MODULE 1 CORE KNOWLEDGE AND CLINICAL JUDGEMENT

Case Based Discussions: A Consultant Surgeon will discuss a surgical topic which is highly relevant to clinical practice and will cover not only Clinical Surgery but also the basic sciences, including relevant Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology. 9 x 1-hour monthly sessions, giving 9 CPD points.



## MODULE 2 CLINICAL SKILLS

Module 2 is delivered in the format of a virtual ward round. Participants work with peers in small groups to review clinical cases including vital signs, medications, and investigations. The group discuss differential diagnoses and then present 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 Program (Capabilities in Practice). These teaching sessions will include a blend of pre-course work and online classes. 9 x 1.5-hour sessions per year, giving 14 CPD points.



## MODULE 3 TECHNICAL SKILLS

This is a two-day Basic Surgical Skills training module held face-to-face in No 26 York Street, RCSI, with surgical faculty leading both training days. This module also includes skill development in Theatre Etiquette. 2 days per year giving 14 CPD points.

## MODULE 4 NON- TECHNICAL SKILLS

This is a self-directed module which will be based on Human Factors curriculum and will include a blend of pre-course work and directed online learning. This module includes course material on Communication Clinical Handover, Teleconsultation, Open Disclosure and Consent. Practicing the communication skills learned from this course content will be integrated within Module 2 and Module 3.



## WELLBEING SUPPORTS

This course will include online live sessions on “Caring for yourself in surgery” and “Lifestyle medicine.” Access to Surgical Mentorship/Career Coaching/Personal Wellbeing Coaching/ Educational Progression Coaching will be provided by an expert Team consisting of a Surgeon/Life Coach, Surgical Educationalist/Life Coach and a Psychotherapist/Coach.





As a Core Surgical Trainee and former Non-Consultant Hospital Doctor (NCHD) outside the formal training scheme, I can genuinely attest to the value the Basic Surgical Principles and Practice Certificate brought to my career development.

The program served as a cornerstone during a critical period in my surgical journey, bridging the gap between clinical service and structured training. The comprehensive curriculum, including virtual ward rounds, case-based discussions, and exposure to various surgical subspecialties, was both engaging and highly practical. It encouraged clinical reasoning, teamwork, and adaptability in simulated settings that mirrored real-life challenges. These experiences not only enhanced my critical thinking and technical knowledge but also strengthened my communication and leadership skills—key attributes for succeeding in surgical training.

*The insights and confidence I gained through BSPP supported my successful application and interview for Core Surgical Training in Ireland. It gave me a competitive edge and a strong foundation to build upon as I take this next step in my career.*

I would highly recommend this program to any NCHD with aspirations to pursue surgery. Whether you're preparing for CST or simply seeking to refine your surgical acumen, this well-structured course offers the tools, exposure, and mentorship needed to grow and thrive in today's dynamic surgical environment.

**DR KRISTALI YLLI**

Basic Surgical Principles and Practice Certificate 2023-24  
Incoming Core Surgical Trainee, Ireland (Commencing July 2025)



I had a positive experience with the Basic Surgical Principles and Practice Certificate program! The structure and content of the course seem to be well-aligned with the needs of surgical NCHDs, particularly in non-training posts. Having a curriculum that mirrors the Intercollegiate Core Surgical Curriculum and the MRCS examination syllabus is a valuable aspect, as it not only has helped me prepare for exams but has also improved my clinical practice.

The knowledge gained from the course has boosted my confidence and readiness for Specialty Training.

I highly recommend this course and encourage all non-training surgical NCHDs to consider this program as a means to enhance their skills and knowledge

**Dr Syeda Amna Azim**

Basic Surgical Principles and Practice Certificate 2023-24



## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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

1. Registered on Continuous Professional Development Support Scheme (CPD\_SS)
2. Work within the Public Health Service
3. Surgical SHO

*(\* Doctors working in the private health service will also be considered for this programme.)*

## FEES

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 NCHD's.

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.



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OF SURGEONS  
IN IRELAND

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