University Medicine and Dentistry in Ireland

The Irish Universities & Medical Schools Consortium

National University of Ireland, Galway

University College Dublin

Trinity College Dublin

University College Cork
University Medicine & Dentistry in Ireland

The four Irish Universities of Trinity College Dublin (TCD), University College Cork (UCC), University College Dublin (UCD), and National University of Ireland Galway (NUI Galway) each has a Medical School. Besides, Trinity College Dublin and University College Cork each has a Dental School.

The four University Medical Schools and two Dental Schools graduate approximately 400 Medical and 80 Dental students each year. A growing percentage of these graduates come from overseas countries.

Robert Graves, William Stokes, Dominic Corrigan and Sir Peter Freyer of Galway stand out among an impressive number of distinguished Irish Medical Scientists of the 19th century. The name of Graves is associated with overactivity of the thyroid gland, Graves disease; William Stokes and his colleague, John Cheyne, described Cheyne-Stokes respiration associated with terminal illness; Stokes and Robert Adams described an abnormality of the heart known worldwide as Stokes-Adams syndrome, and Corrigan's pulse is associated with disease of one of the heart valves. Peter Freyer, physician to the Nawab of Rampur, brought into common use the operation of Suprapubic Prostatectomy.

Perhaps the most important contribution however of these world renowned figures to Irish Medicine was, for its time, a revolutionary new form of medical education whereby students were instructed at the bedside of the patient. This type of practical bedside teaching is carried on today in modern well-equipped hospitals and academic departments where it is combined with thorough instruction in the structure and function of the human body and in the scientific basis of disease. It is this combination of medical science and clinical expertise that makes Irish University Medical education a world leader.
Medical Course

The undergraduate medical course lasts six years.* Students with high entry qualifications in the laboratory science subjects are granted exemption from the first year and follow a five year course. During the initial years emphasis is on the basic medical science subjects of Anatomy, Biochemistry and Physiology and is centred on the medical buildings on the university campuses. At the same time, modern development of the curriculum now features innovative clinical integration in these subjects, with visits to hospitals and training in Clinical Skills Laboratories.

During the last three years students' teaching concentration is on clinical medicine and paraclinical subjects such as Pathology, Pharmacology and Public Health Medicine and Health Promotion. Students now spend most of their time in the university teaching hospitals. In these hospitals are located Departments of Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics/Gynaecology, Paediatrics and Child Health, Pathology and Psychiatry. In Ireland we aim to produce graduates who are capable of practicing evidence-based medicine and who also possess excellent communication skills.

* Five Years in the case of University College Cork

As there are some variations from University to University in course structures, University Calendars should be consulted for precise course details.
Medical Qualifications

Students at the University of Dublin who successfully complete the third year of the course are also entitled to the award of the ordinary BA degree and at the National University of Ireland constituent universities they have an opportunity to take the BMedSc degree. Following the award of their medical degrees of MB BCh BAO, the newly qualified doctor then applies for a Health Service intern post in an educationally approved hospital. On completing the Intern Year (six months Medicine and six months Surgery) full registration as a medical practitioner can be obtained.

Professional Recognition

The MB, BCh, BAO degree together with full registration entitles the holder to progress to General Professional Training and thereafter to apply for speciality Postgraduate Training Programmes, and to sit for postgraduate examinations in Ireland, U.K. and all other E.U. countries.

The National University of Ireland and University of Dublin medical degrees are also recognised throughout North America and Australasia.
Dental Education

There are two Dental Schools in Ireland, one in Dublin at Trinity College and the other in Cork at University College Cork.

The aim of the undergraduate dental curriculum is to provide a structured programme which ensures that graduates are competent to deliver the full range of primary dental care effectively and safely and maintain caring relationships with their patients, their co-workers and the wider community. In all five years of the curriculum integrated, multidisciplinary planning results in the facilitation of students learning in context. In the first and second years the emphasis is on the study of the appropriate basic and biological sciences such as, Anatomy and Physiology, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Pathology, Physics and Chemistry. The courses in these years also contain significant attention to generic skills including communication and computing/information technology skills as well as the specific skills that are central to the practice of dentistry. Students commence patient treatment in the clinical setting early in the second year in Trinity College and University College Cork.

During the later years of the course the focus moves increasingly towards clinical training and the development of psychomotor skills. An evidence-based approach is used in the management of Oral Health and Disease taking cognisance also of related general health care issues for the individual and the community.

Areas of study in these years include; Human diseases including both medical and surgical aspects, Public Dental Health, Orthodontics and Paedodontics, Restorative Dentistry including periodontics, prosthdontics, material science and geriodontology, Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine.

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Dental Course

The method of curricular delivery and student learning in Trinity College is, for the most part, via small group tutorials, which consist of student-led discussions based on topics and problems presented and facilitated by staff.

These tutorial topics are synchronised with the development of practical and clinical skills in laboratories and clinics. Lectures, demonstrations, simulations, audiovisual and e-learning opportunities are available as appropriate.

Student learning in University College Cork is a competency-based programme. With an emphasis on clinical excellence and using lectures, small group teaching, audiovisual aids and demonstration, students move through a range of competency levels to finally achieving a graduate competent for independent practice.
Main Teaching Hospitals
Affiliated to the Universities

Mater Misericordiae, Dublin &
Saint Vincent’s University Hospital, Dublin

Students in University College Dublin Medical School attend courses in both the Mater Misericordiae and St. Vincent’s University Hospitals. With a combined total of 980 beds the specialist units of these modern tertiary referral hospitals include: the National Centre for Liver Transplantation, the National Centre for Heart Surgery and the National Centre for Spinal Injuries.

Specialist Hospitals affiliated to UCD include:
- Our Lady’s Hospital for Sick Children;
- The Children’s Hospital, Temple St.;
- The National Maternity Hospital and The Coombe Women’s Hospital;
- St. John of God’s Hospital,
- Cappagh Orthopaedic Hospital
- Our Lady’s Hospice.

St. James’s Hospital
Tallaght Hospital

St. James’s Hospital and the Adelaide and Meath Hospital Dublin incorporating the National Children’s Hospital at Tallaght are the two principal teaching hospitals affiliated to Trinity College, Dublin. Both are large modern well-equipped hospitals with a combined total of 1,300 beds and a number of tertiary specialist units. Academic teaching buildings exist at both hospitals.
Cork University Hospital

Cork University Hospital is a 600 bed teaching hospital which was purpose built in 1979 and houses the Departments of Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics/Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Pathology and Psychiatry. It is the largest of the teaching hospitals affiliated to University College Cork; the others include The Mercy Hospital, The South Infirmary/Victoria Hospital, the Erinville Maternity Hospital, Tralee General Hospital and Limerick Regional Hospital.

University College Hospital, Galway

University College Hospital located immediately adjacent to the University is a modern 500 bed general and specialist hospital and the major teaching hospital of the Medical School. Merlin Park Regional Hospital is the other teaching hospital in Galway. Students entering Galway Medical School will be based in the Clinical Science Institute for their clinical years. It forms part of the hospital complex containing lecture theatres, common rooms, seminar rooms and laboratories.
Cork

Cork city has a population of about 200,000 and is Ireland’s second largest city. It is located 256km south west of the Capital, Dublin, on the south coast. Cork is a university city and the principal shopping centre in the south of Ireland with large department stores and friendly pedestrianised shopping malls.

There is a good mix of sporting and cultural interests as well as social activities in the city. Among Cork’s many cultural offerings are an art school with public paintings and sculpture galleries, a music school, an opera house, two theatres and a city museum in the garden of Fitzgerald’s Park. The city has a rich social life and is the centre each year for the International Film, Jazz and Choral festivals. Cork has been designated European City of Culture for 2005.

Cork has an International Airport close to the city with regular flights to various cities including London, Paris and Amsterdam, with outward connections worldwide.

University College, Cork

University College Cork, founded in 1845 is a Constituent University of the National University of Ireland through which its internationally recognised degrees are conferred.

University College Cork has eight faculties viz: Medicine, Engineering, Commerce, Science, Food Science and Technology, Law, Arts and Celtic Studies, with 13,000 students pursuing undergraduate and postgraduate studies. Among its student population are some 1,000 international students from over 60 countries, creating a vibrant multi-cultural campus.

The growth in student numbers has been particularly strong since the 1960’s. As a result of a large scale building programme a modern campus has emerged, pleasantly combining early and modern architecture along a riverside garden setting close to the city centre. The campus radiates a warm personal charm which greatly enhances the learning environment.
National University of Ireland, Galway

The National University of Ireland, Galway was founded as Queen’s College in 1845. In 1909, it became a constituent College of the National University of Ireland – University College Galway – and a constituent University of the National University in 1997. Its degrees are conferred by the National University of Ireland and are internationally recognised. The University is located on an 83 hectare campus on the banks of the Corrib river, a short distance from the town centre. The University Student Residences are on Campus. Galway is a major centre of Bioengineering and Bioscientific manufacturing technology.

Some 11,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students are enrolled in the seven Faculties of Medicine & Health Sciences, Science, Engineering, Commerce, Law, Arts and Celtic Studies. Student services include counselling and academic support and social, sporting and recreational organisations. There is a full time Overseas Student Officer. The Medical students are based on the University campus for the first half of the course. The clinical years are spent in University College Hospital, Galway which is situated immediately adjacent to the University. This proximity greatly facilitates communication and integration of clinical and basic teaching. There are ten affiliated teaching hospitals.

The academic staff are highly trained and many have international reputations in their fields. The University and the hospitals have the technologies and equipment needed to meet the requirements of modern medical practice and education. The Clinical Science Institute on the hospital site provides enhanced teaching and research facilities. The Centre for Nursing Studies develops and promotes appropriate education and research in the fields of Nursing and Midwifery.
Dublin

Dublin, the Capital City of Ireland, is over 1,000 years old and, built on the River Liffey, is situated on a majestic broad sweeping bay.

It is the centre of the political, diplomatic, administrative and commercial life of the country. It is the hub of the internal road, rail and air transport network and its international airport is the home of Ireland's national airline, Aer Lingus. There are direct daily flights to over twenty centres in Great Britain, mainland Europe and North America with good onward connections worldwide.

Dublin has a lively social, cultural and sporting life. In 1991 it was designated as European City of Culture. The City's art galleries and museums hold the National Collections and host international exhibitions. Although it has a population of 1,000,000 people, Dublin has retained an intimate charm and character dominated by its broad eighteenth century squares and streets. Dublin and the renowned wit and conversation of its citizens has been the inspiration for some of the masterpieces of twentieth century English literature.

Trinity College Dublin

Trinity College was founded in 1592 and is the only constituent College of the University of Dublin, the oldest University in Ireland.

The College has six faculties, Arts (Humanities), Arts (Letters), Business, Economic and Social Studies, Engineering and Systems Sciences, Health Sciences and Science.

The College stands on a single 17 hectares site in the heart of Dublin city. Its 12,000 students and 1,400 full-time staff form a compact academic community and at the same time are an intimate part of the city's life.

University College Dublin

University College Dublin is Ireland's largest university centre. It has developed from the Catholic University of Ireland, founded in 1854, and is a Constituent University of the National University of Ireland, through which its internationally recognised degrees are conferred.

With 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students, University College Dublin has ten faculties namely: Medicine, Science, Veterinary Medicine, Engineering and Architecture, Agriculture, Law, Commerce, Arts, Philosophy and Sociology, Celtic Studies and a Graduate Business School. Associated with the Medical School are Schools of Physiotherapy, Radiography and Nursing and Midwifery.

The Medical School is based in the city centre convenient to Dublin's major social and cultural amenities and to all transport facilities. The main campus comprises 120 hectares of attractive suburban wooded parkland. Its extensive indoor and outdoor sports facilities are the finest in Ireland. The wide range of disciplines and the modern, well-appointed facilities provide a stimulating academic environment and an extensive range of social and sporting activities.
Sport & Recreation

Each university has extensive sport, recreational and cultural facilities making for a rich, diverse and vibrant student life.

Involvement in such recreational activities is encouraged as an important dimension of university education where lifelong friendships are made.

The amount of involvement is entirely at one’s discretion. Soccer, for instance, can be played indoor among friends or right up to National League level. One can debate competitively, or just observe and learn. After university one may never again have the opportunity to try fencing, sub-aqua or indeed direct a drama, organise a Harp Festival or a field trip abroad. All of the field sports are there, the water sports, martial arts, indoor sports and so on.

There has been considerable investment in sports facilities both indoor and outdoor so that the committed sports person has every opportunity to excel at the highest level in sport. On the other hand these facilities can be used simply for relaxation and enjoyment.

Accommodation

The universities appreciate how important it is for students to have comfortable accommodation at a reasonable price. The Accommodation Offices in the different universities provide a comprehensive service.

Each of the universities has modern university residences on their campuses and a number of places are set aside for international students.

Besides these residences students can also choose to stay in self-catering accommodation off campus or with an Irish family in lodgings.

Libraries

The University libraries provide a rich resource for medical and dental students.

They possess a comprehensive collection of up-to-date textbooks and journals and have modern technological facilities such as computer on-line information, CD ROM, Audio visual aids, etc. Facilities for study are comfortable and well lit.

Orientation Programme

Each university holds an Orientation Programme for overseas students at the beginning of October.

Here overseas students have the opportunity to obtain useful information about university life in an informal and friendly atmosphere.
Welcome to Ireland
the most dynamic country in the European Union

Ireland is an island located in north-western Europe with a population of approximately 4 million people and a rich historical past. Its Celtic civilisation produced major works of art and literature. Colonised by Britain during the middle ages, it gained its independence in 1922 and joined the European Economic Community in 1973. It is now an active member of the European Union and plays an important role in its economic and political activities. International Airports at Dublin, Cork, Galway and Limerick (Shannon) link it to other major European cities and to airline routes throughout the world.

Ireland is a parliamentary democracy with a written constitution. There are two houses of Parliament, an elected President who is head of state and a Prime Minister (Taoiseach) who is head of government. There is complete political, press and religious freedom and a strong tradition of individual freedom and openness to the world. Irish emigrants who live in all parts of the world — there are 40 million of Irish descent in the USA alone — have played an important role in the social and political life of many countries.

Tourism and agriculture have long played a major role in the economy. Yet in recent years there has been dramatic growth in the pharmaceutical, healthcare, financial and computer industries, which have attracted significant foreign investment. Unemployment is low and immigration has brought an attractive mixture of nationalities and cultures into the country.

Ireland is a pleasant place in which to live. Its scenery is rich and varied and its climate is mild, under the influence of the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic Ocean. Above all its towns are lively, its countryside is peaceful and its people both friendly and welcoming. Conversation and culture are important features of life. Ireland is well known for its writers and musicians. James Joyce and Samuel Beckett are among the most influential English language novelists and playwrights of the twentieth century, while pop groups such as U2, the Cranberries and Westlife have world wide reputations.

Education too is highly valued and the quality of University education and research makes Ireland an attractive destination for students worldwide. All Irish Universities have international students on campus and their staff are active in international research networks. This combined quality of life and education make Ireland an attractive place to live, work and study.