

(Author)

Ms Kathryn Neville, College Manager, Medicine and Health

(Title of Item)

Proposed changes to policy on students transferring into Medicine from other institutions
Action requested Approve

Background rationale

Each year, a significant number of applications are received from students wishing to transfer into medicine from other institutions from within or from outside the EU. These students would already be studying medicine in other universities and wish to transfer to UCC. The opportunity for such transfers is necessarily limited as often no places are available in the class. The experience of implementing this policy to date is that only students from within institutions with curriculums recognised by the Irish Medical Council have been benefitted from a transfer. This is because these accredited curriculums are reasonably well aligned and the transferring student has a reasonable chance of fitting into the second or third year of the medicine programme.

The table below shows the result of inter-institutional applications to Medicine

YEAR	NO. OF APPLICATIONS	APPLICANTS OUTSIDE OF IRELAND	FROM WITHIN IRELAND
2014	12	9 unsuccessful	2 successful; 1 unsuccessful
2013	7	6 unsuccessful	1 successful
2012	3	2 unsuccessful	1 successful

Discussions on the practicalities of implementing the transfer policy have been raised at School level and by the Admissions Office. There are concerns that students are given expectations of success by the wording of the current policy when clearly any such transfer is the exception rather than the rule. Similarly, the burden on the student to assemble comprehensive documentation to support their application and the time taken to process this application is considerable. A change in the

transfer policy is therefore requested to confine applications to those institutions with aligned curriculums. This has been discussed and agreed by the Head of the Medical Education Unit (responsible for overseeing such transfers) and the Admissions Officer. The policy has been approved by the School of Medicine, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and the College of Medicine and Health Teaching & Curriculum Development Committee.

Alignment to Strategic Objectives/External Policy Driver

This proposal aligns with enhancing the student experience and with process improvement.

Resource Implications

This proposal will streamline the transfer process and reduce staff time taken to process each application.

Brief description / summary of the item

Medicine Transfer Policy

Academic Board is asked to approve an amendment to the inter-institutional transfer policy for advanced entry to Medicine.

The Admissions Office has been consulted in relation to this amendment and is fully supportive of its immediate implementation.

Extracted from current published information with insertion marked in bold and deletion as strikethrough.

- *Medicine (CK701)*

Transfers will be on a case-by-case basis and will be confined to students admitted through the CAO process.

~~*Applications for transfer are restricted to students who are studying medicine within the Republic of Ireland. Applications are also only considered for transfers into Years 2 or 3 of the 5 year programme. Decisions will be based on whether there is a place available and on compatibility of the courses. As we have strictly regulated EU quotas there are very few vacancies, and transfers are often not possible.*~~