



Representative clinical electives available in RCSI

2026

**Prepared by Prof. Ann Hopkins
Director, RCSI International Electives Programme**

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Please note: this is not an exhaustive list. You are also free to enquire if a preferred specialty (not on this list) is available. Within RCSI's main teaching hospital is the Irish National Neurosurgical Centre, so electives in Neurosurgery, Neurology and Neuroradiology are also an option. However please note that for capacity reasons we will not be able to offer electives in some of the RCSI core clerkships (eg. OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, Psychiatry) during term-time.



Elective in Anaesthesia and Critical Care

Description:

Beaumont Hospital, the main teaching hospital of RCSI, employs approximately 3,000 staff and has a complement of 820 beds. The Department of Anaesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine delivers high quality patient care to a diverse and complex case-mix, including elective and emergency neurosurgery and interventional neuroradiology, upper gastrointestinal and colorectal surgery, complex head and neck surgery, kidney transplantation and urologic surgery, plastic surgery and orthopaedics and trauma. We run 12 operating theatres providing highest quality care to our patients, excellent training to our students and a friendly professional environment for staff. There are 35 residents and 28 consultants (attendings).

The Intensive Care Medicine (ICM) service in Beaumont Hospital provides care to critically ill patients in a Neurointensive Care Unit and a General Intensive Care Unit. Our present facility comprises 17 level 3 (ventilated) beds, incorporating General Intensive Care and Neurointensive Care Units. There is further capacity for critically ill patients in an 8-bedded High Dependency Unit. Beaumont Hospital ICM service has a central role in the provision of acute medical care for neurosurgery patients, general, vascular, renal transplant, and major head and neck surgery patients, cardiology, respiratory medicine, endocrine, haematology and oncology patients. The ICM service provides continuity of consultant led care of all patients in ICU and HDU. The Intensive Care consultants take responsibility for the Critical Care provided to patients and a substantial component of the global clinical responsibility – in conjunction with admitting clinicians.

Students will have a chance to participate in:

- Pre-operative assessment of patients for elective surgery in specialties as mentioned above.
- Development of a plan for intra- and post-operative management, including regional or general anaesthesia and monitoring, pain management, fluid management and ongoing post-operative care
- Development of airway skills including mask ventilation, LMA insertion, laryngoscopy and ET tube insertion.
- Development of knowledge of pharmacology of commonly used drugs in anaesthesia and intensive care.
- Development of IV access skills
- Development of knowledge of anatomy and techniques of regional anaesthesia, including neuroaxial and plexus blocks.
- Understanding how to recognize and manage critically unwell patients.
- Understanding how to take a history and perform a physical examination of a critically ill patient.
- Understanding how to utilize respiratory support techniques and devices in patients with respiratory failure.
- Understanding drugs and techniques used to support the cardiovascular system during shock.
- Understanding how to perform an effective handover for critically ill patients.

Elective in Endocrinology / Internal Medicine

Description:

The Professorial Endocrine Unit provides general endocrine services to Beaumont Hospital, and is also the site of the National Pituitary Unit for Ireland. There are four consultants (Prof CJ Thompson, Prof M Sherlock and Prof A Agha and Dr D Smith); there is an active clinical research unit and a strong commitment to student teaching. Particular research and clinical interests include pituitary disease, sodium balance, adrenal disease, thyroid cancer and insulin pump therapy. The student will be expected to integrate with RCSI students and attend ward rounds of Internal medicine and Endocrine patients with the teaching staff, attend teaching sessions, and shadow unit staff when they are on call for internal medicine (one night in five). There are a wide variety of out-patient clinics, some of which are interdisciplinary with neurosurgeons, from which an elective student can select a comprehensive endocrine experience, or opt for in depth exposure to one specialised area. Although students will have access to the wider teaching schedule available to RCSI students, there is an internal teaching programme for students and fellows which takes place through the medium of breakfast tutorials. The unit timetable, with educational activities available for students to select is shown in the table.

| | 0800-0900 | 0900-1300 | 1300-1400 | 1400-1700 |
|-----------|--|--|---|---|
| Monday | Unit teaching Prof Sherlock | GIM Ward Round Endo consult round (teaching) | Pituitary/Thyroid/ adrenal MDTM | Prof Agha/Dr Smith General endo/diabetes clinic |
| Tuesday | Hospital grand rounds | Dr Smith Diabetic clinic (YAC/foot) | | Joint pituitary clinic Prof Thompson Mr D O Brien Mr P Lacey (ENT) |
| Wednesday | Unit Teaching Prof Thompson/ Prof Sherlock | Prof Thompson Prof Sherlock Adrenal clinic | Diabetes renal clinic Dr Smith Prof Conlon 1100-1400h | Pituitary Clinic Prof Thompson Prof Sherlock Mr Javadpour |
| Thursday | | New patient diabetes clinic Prof Agha | | Dr Smith Pump clinic/ DAFNE/Type 1 diabetes clinic |
| Friday | Unit Teaching Prof Agha/ Dr Smith | GIM ward round | Journal club | Endocrine consult round (teaching) |

Student's roles/responsibilities:

The student will

- attach to one of the two endocrine teams for the duration of the elective.
- attend twice weekly GIM ward rounds
- attend unit teaching sessions
- select a programme of clinic attendance, in agreement with unit head (Prof Thompson)
- attend teaching consult rounds for in patient endocrine patients
- shadow unit fellows on internal medicine call days, to gain exposure to acute medical emergencies



Elective in ENT

Description:

The Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery in Beaumont Hospital/RCSI is dedicated to the delivery of all aspects of otolaryngology care divided into general otolaryngology, rhinology, anterior skull base and paranasal sinus disease, lateral skull base, laryngology, paediatric otolaryngology and head and neck surgical oncology.

Through clinical experience, research, and didactic lectures we strive to increase knowledge of otolaryngic disorders and their treatments for undergraduate students and postgraduate surgeons at all levels of training.

In Beaumont hospital within our outpatient clinic and operating theatre we review and treat over 16,500 patients a year. We also have a separate National Cochlear Implant Department which is one of the largest in the United Kingdom.

We are the national leaders in postgraduate otolaryngology education organizing weekly national teaching lectures for our trainees, grand round video conferencing, and ENT surgical skills courses running all year round. We also have 300 – 350 undergraduate students being taught every year by dedicated surgical lecturers, tutors and consultants.

We attempt to introduce the undergraduate student to the scope of the specialty, outlining the diversity of disease processes which present over a wide age range in the anatomical areas of the ears, nose, skull base, paranasal sinuses, upper aero-digestive tract, tract, salivary and endocrine glands.

Students will have a chance to participate in:

- Daily ward rounds with the ENT team looking after patients with acute and chronic ENT conditions and postoperative patients.
- Assisting the doctors with the twice daily inpatient ward round and assessing acute admissions from the ER.
- Admitting pre-operative patients and assisting in the ordering of vital preoperative investigations.
- Discharging patients from the day ward and main in patient ward ensuring their prescriptions have been correctly written and an accurate report on their in-patient admission is written.
- Assisting in the clinical review for ENT outpatients including history, physical examination and endoscopic interventions.
- Assisting in theatre with all aspects of ENT surgery.



Elective in General/Breast Surgery

Description:

Students will be exposed to the field of general / breast surgery with an aim of increasing their understanding of general/breast surgery, including applied physiology and several pathologies within general/ breast surgery.

During the elective, the student will become a member of the surgical team. There will be an opportunity to join the on-call team once or twice per week to evaluate patients in the Emergency Department and participate in emergency surgery; engage with inpatient care and participate in pre- and post-operative care (ward rounds, Multidisciplinary team meetings, Morbidity and Mortality meetings, day ward admissions, and ICU), and outpatient activities, consultations, and follow-up of the surgical patient.

In addition, students will attend the operating room during which time they will acquire technical skills (suturing) and assist in operations. RCSI has a state of the art simulation centre and students will be encouraged to attend teaching sessions at the simulation centre to enhance their procedural skills like suturing, chest drain insertion etc.

Students will have a chance to participate in:

- Professional conduct, behaviours and relationships in all interactions with patients, doctors, other healthcare professionals and society. This is an opportunity for students to practise their communication and collaborative skills within an interdisciplinary patient care team.
- Increasing knowledge and practice of surgical anatomy, pathophysiology, and principles of surgical management within a clinical environment.
- Emergency management of acutely ill and deteriorating patients including the following relevant areas management of patient post anaesthesia, fluid resuscitation, hemodynamic monitoring and electrolyte management.
- Gaining familiarity with subspecialty surgical practice in surgical oncology and breast surgery, and to observe Multi-Disciplinary meetings where the roles of colleagues in Radiology and Pathology are highlighted.



Elective in Infectious Diseases

Description:

This elective will comprise a mix of attending outpatient clinics and being involved with the team in managing inpatients. Students are encouraged to accompany the resident on call and to clerk patients. This will allow student to follow a patient's journey from admission to discharge. Fellow-led teaching will occur twice a week, and students are encouraged to liaise with the fellows early in the week to prepare topics. The ID team is part of the Beaumont Hospital on-call rota for medical admissions. On the day of on-call, the consultant will usually round on newly-admitted patients starting in the emergency department at 1pm, 5pm and 8pm. The post-take ward round starts at 6am in the emergency department.

Students will have a chance to participate in:

1. Approaches to the assessment and management of the complex patient.
2. History taking and examination skills.
3. Presentation skills.
4. The roles of the multidisciplinary team members.
5. An understanding of the management of patients with HIV.
6. An understanding of the management of patients with Tuberculosis.
7. An understanding of the principles of safe antimicrobial prescribing.

Suggested Timetable:

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------|---|---|--|---|--|
| Morning | 8am Ward rounds 9am Multidisciplinary team meeting 9.30-12.30 Outpatient clinics – antimicrobial therapy and general ID | 8am Grand rounds 9am MDT or ward rounds 12.30pm ID /Radiology MDT | 8 am Ward rounds 9am MMDT | 8am Team teaching 9am MDT or HIV/general infectious diseases outpatient clinic | 8am Ward rounds 9am MDT |
| Afternoon | 2pm Hepatitis C outpatient clinic | 1pm ID journal club 1.30pm MDT 2.15pm TB outpatient clinic | 3pm Fellow- led ward-based teaching | 2.30pm Ward rounds | 2pm Fellow- led ward-based teaching |



Elective in Ophthalmology

Description:

The elective student will be assigned to the clinical team of the Professor of Ophthalmology (Prof. Conor C. Murphy) in the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin. The student will shadow the team during all clinical activities, including in the out-patient department, the in-patient ward and operating theatre. In the out-patient department, the elective student will undertake a full clinical assessment of new patients, including the history, examination and relevant investigations. The patient will be followed in their journey through the department, including to the Photographic Department where relevant investigations such as OCT, fundus fluorescein angiography and visual field analysis take place. The student will present the clinical findings to the supervising consultant and include a differential diagnosis and management plan. A focus on experiential learning will be encouraged in which the student will be expected to expand their knowledge in areas of clinical experience through reading and exploring the medical literature. The elective student will observe ophthalmic surgery and join allied health professionals in observing their work, including the orthoptic assessment of children and the performance of electrodiagnostic testing for inherited retinal disorders. In the Emergency Department, the student will assist the senior resident attached to the Professorial Team in the diagnosis and management of acute referrals. The student will attend the bi-weekly grand rounds of the anterior segment and glaucoma teams and present a case and review of the literature on at least one occasion. They will also attend the national post-graduate teaching programme that is held at the hospital once a month.

Students will have a chance to participate in:

- Taking a role in clinical team activities and contributing to patient care
- Demonstrating the value of experiential learning based on clinical activity
- Presenting at team meetings and grand rounds
- Demonstrating strong professional values at all times



Elective in Respiratory Medicine and Cystic Fibrosis

Description:

The Respiratory Department in Beaumont Hospital is one of the largest specialist referral centers in Ireland for lung disease. It has several subspecialty clinics and inpatient services that specifically treat patients with cystic fibrosis, alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, other genetic lung diseases, interstitial lung diseases, sleep medicine, neuromuscular respiratory failure, severe asthma and lung cancer. The hospital has a dedicated state of the art outpatient cystic fibrosis centre which cares for over 250 patients and a specialist inpatient respiratory ward, where patients with complex respiratory disease can have non-invasive ventilation and other high dependency care. The clinical service has many opportunities for medical students to be exposed to general respiratory and subspecialty patients through the regular on-call and in-patient services.

On the campus the Education and Research Centre of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland houses the National Referral Center for Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency and the Irish Centre for Genetic Lung Diseases which focus on translational and clinical research in rare and inherited lung diseases which are particularly important in Ireland.

Students will have a chance to participate in:

- Daily ward rounds with the respiratory team looking after patients with complex respiratory disease.
- Assisting the doctors with inpatient ward round and assessing acute admissions from the ER.
- Assisting doctors and nurses to assess patients in the respiratory ambulatory care centre.
- Assisting in clinical review in the cystic fibrosis centre including history, physical and examination.
- Taking part in several multidisciplinary meetings discussing patients with cystic fibrosis, lung cancer and interstitial lung diseases.
- Observing procedures in endoscopy including bronchoscopy and endobronchial ultrasound.

Elective in Stroke Medicine

Description:

The Clinical stroke service at RCSI/Beaumont Hospital (BH) provides a comprehensive stroke service (including Neurointervention, Cardiology, Neurosurgery and Vascular surgery) with 2.5 whole time equivalent consultants to the local community. In addition, since 2010 the Beaumont Stroke service has developed a national thrombectomy service, performing approximately 300 thrombectomies per annum. It is currently Ireland's only 24/7 thrombectomy service. The Beaumont Stroke service was involved in the pivotal ESCAPE study which confirmed improved outcomes for patients treated with thrombectomy. The student would be expected to participate actively in the clinical and research activities of the department.

Suggested Timetable:

| | | | |
|-----------|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Monday | Stroke ward round | Stroke clinic (Dr Boyle) | Stroke Consults/ Thrombolysis/ Thrombectomy (9-5) |
| Tuesday | Stroke Clinic (8-11am) Prof Williams | Stroke Clinic (2-5pm) Dr Moynihan | Research |
| Wednesday | Stroke Consults/ Thrombolysis/ Thrombectomy (9-5) | Stroke Research Meeting | Clinical Audit |
| Thursday | Stroke Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) | Neurology/Stroke MDT meeting | |
| Friday | Stroke Consults/ Thrombolysis /Thrombectomy (9-5) | Research | |

Students will have a chance to participate in:

- Daily ward rounds
- Admission and presentation of patients to the stroke team
- Outpatient clinics
- Thrombolysis/thrombectomy cases
- Participate in ongoing research programme
- Avail of learning opportunities (below)

Specific learning opportunities

Vascular Laboratory

- Trans Cranial Doppler Examination
- Carotid ultrasound

Cardiology

- Insertion of Loop recorders
- Interpretation of TOE

Radiology

- Brain Imaging
- Thrombectomy

Rehabilitation

- On-site Rehab (Beaumont and St Joseph's Raheny)
- Botulinum Toxin Clinic

Research

- Opportunity to participate in the ongoing stroke research programme at Beaumont Hospital
Eg: StrokeCog; TICH-2; ASPIRE-S-II; CONVINCe; ESCAPE-NA1; TEMPO-2



Elective in Vascular Surgery

Description:

Beaumont Hospital has a very active and progressive vascular department, with most of the 5 attendings being fellowship-trained in North America. We have a very strong interest in endovascular interventions performing the most EVAR, peripheral angioplasties and dialysis access work in Ireland. We have a particular interest in surgical skills training at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. We also have many research projects ongoing involving medical students.

Students will have a chance to participate in:

- Ward rounds
- Vascular MDT
- Outpatient clinics
- Vascular operations. There are 5 operating lists per week so there is plenty of opportunity to get great exposure to open and endovascular procedures.