



IRISH SOCIETY OF CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, 123 St Stephens Green, Dublin 2

Tel: (01) 402
2148

Fax: (01) 402 2160

Email: info@iscp.ie

Website:
www.iscp.ie

Information for Physiotherapists Seeking Employment in the Republic of Ireland

Introduction

If you are interested in working in Ireland the following information will assist you in making an informed decision.

In order to work in Ireland, you will need to:

- Obtain recognition of Physiotherapy Qualifications
- Make a prior declaration to provide temporary services (for EU/EEA Applicants only)
- Arrange for a Period of Adaptation or Aptitude Test if required
- Secure Employment
- Obtain Work Visa/Work Authorisation if required

Applying for Physiotherapy Qualification Recognition

If you plan to work in Ireland on a stable or continuous basis (i.e. on a long-term or permanent basis), and you are a holder of physiotherapy qualifications acquired outside the Republic of Ireland: you will be required to have your qualifications recognised before you can work in the Irish public health system. This applies to all applicants, whether EEA and non-EEA nationals. There is no automatic recognition of physiotherapy professional qualifications acquired outside the Republic of Ireland. Each application is individually assessed.

The Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists is the designated body acting with the approval of the Minister for Health for the recognition of physiotherapy qualifications in the Republic of Ireland (S.I. 135/96).

If you are planning to submit your physiotherapy qualifications for recognition please carefully read the [Recognition of Physiotherapy Qualifications Application Manual](#) and submit the [Application Form for the Recognition of Physiotherapy Qualifications](#) and the documentation listed in the checklist given in the application form.

You can help to ensure this process moves as quickly as possible by filling in your application form correctly and submitting it with all the necessary documentation. Your

application will be returned and an administration fee will be retained if the necessary information is not submitted.

Please remember the costs you incur with the application process are not recoverable.

Applicant's qualifications should broadly correspond to the Irish honours degree physiotherapy programme in terms of academic equivalence, including content and duration of study. The assessment examines the whole range of skills and knowledge required. Further information can be found in Criteria for Recognition of Physiotherapy Qualifications acquired Outside the Republic of Ireland. Knowledge acquired in the course of your physiotherapy professional work experience and postgraduate physiotherapy qualification(s) will be taken into account in the assessment process.

Compensatory Measures

Following your qualifications assessment if there are differences present in your physiotherapy education and training compared to an Irish graduate, and if these deficits cannot be addressed by post-graduate qualifications or clinical experience, you will be required to successfully complete a period of adaptation or pass an aptitude test.

Period of Adaptation:

If you decide to opt for a Period of Adaptation you will need to source this period of adaptation yourself. The Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists will assist you and give you a list of physiotherapy departments who may be able to supervise such a period of adaptation.

However opportunities for such placements are currently in short supply and are difficult to organise. Please note the ISCP has no authority over the management of either public or private physiotherapy units and cannot oblige sites to offer periods of adaptation.

Once you have sourced a Period of Adaptation Placement site you must confirm the name of the physiotherapy manager or private practitioner to the ISCP. Your period of adaptation will be assessed and you will need to successfully pass it prior to your qualifications being recognised. The ISCP will issue the physiotherapy manager or private practitioner with an assessment information pack and assessment forms.

Please note the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists cannot help in the processing of visa applications.

For further information please refer to Period of Adaptation: General Guidance Information.

Aptitude Test:

Another option available if you have differences in your qualifications is to sit an aptitude test.

There are separate aptitude tests for the three essential core areas of cardiorespiratory, musculoskeletal and neurology. Each aptitude test consists of two parts: Part A Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) and Part B Clinical Practical Examination (CPE).

For further information please refer to [Physiotherapy Aptitude Test: Information for Applicants](#).

Temporary provision of services

If you are an EU or EEA national, you can provide services in Ireland on a temporary or occasional basis, whilst maintaining establishment in your home member state. You will need to make a declaration to the ISCP prior to the service provision. For further information refer to [Temporary Provision of Services: Information for Applicants](#) on the ISCP website.

Securing Employment within the Irish Health Care Sector:

The demand for physiotherapists within the private and public health sectors may vary from time to time and from grade to grade.

Many physiotherapy vacancies are advertised on <http://www.careersinhealthcare.ie/> or in the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapy Firsthand www.iscp.ie (members section).

Newspaper websites with information regarding job vacancies include the
“Irish Examiner” at www.examiner.ie
“Irish Independent” at www.unison.ie/irish_independent/
“Irish Times” at www.Ireland.com
“Sunday Business Post” at www.sbpost.ie
“Sunday Tribune” at www.tribune.ie

You are advised that if you are applying for a physiotherapy post from abroad you will be required to go through the standard recruitment process and this may involve attending for interview in Ireland.

Other useful websites are www.fas.ie, www.irishjobs.ie and www.ireland/jobs

If you wish to work in private practice, you can make direct contact with private practices to enquire if work is available. Private practices details are available on www.iscp.ie or you can contact the Chartered Physiotherapists in Private Practice (CPPP) administrator at cphp@eircom.net

Recruitment Agencies:

Currently the level of physiotherapy recruitment via recruitment agencies is low. However, if you do opt to use a recruitment agency ensure that they are an approved agency. The Health Services Executive (HSE) can only recruit from approved agencies. For further information on listed recruitment agencies, please refer to www.cpsa-online.ie

English Language Skills:

English is the predominant language in daily use in Ireland. Speaking English fluently is especially important if you work in the health sector. To be able to work well and safely it is vital that you are able to communicate with your patients and colleagues.

To be able to achieve effective and appropriate skills in communicating information, advice, instructions and professional opinion to colleagues, patients, clients, their relatives and carers, it is recommended that you should be able to communicate in English to the standard equivalent of level 7 of the International English Language Testing System (academic standard) with no element below 6.5.

For further information on improving your English language proficiency contact MEI Relsa www.mei.ie. This is the body that represents English language schools in Ireland. MEI Relsa can be contacted at info@mei.ie

Coming to Ireland from the European Union/ European Economic Area to work:

As a European Union (EU) national you are entitled to come to Ireland to take up employment or self-employment. The same position applies for nationals from other countries of the European Economic Area (EEA) (Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway) and Switzerland.

For further information on residence rights of EU/EEA Nationals in Ireland and limits that apply to these rights please refer to:
<http://www.citizensinformation.ie/categories>

Coming to Ireland from a Non-European Union/European Economic Area to Work:

If you are travelling from a country outside the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland, make sure that you check out the legal requirements regarding Work Permits and Green Cards. For further general information please refer to
<http://www.citizensinformation.ie/categories/moving-country/moving-to-ireland/rights-of-residence-in-ireland/registration-of-non-eea-nationals-in-ireland>

Please note: the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists cannot assist you in acquiring your visa.

Living in Ireland:

Living and working in Ireland will involve change and new systems.

There are many sources of information on living and working in Ireland. These include information on the Irish Tax system, housing, citizenship, and health services.

Useful websites are

- <http://www.citizensinformation.ie/categories>
- www.publicjobs.ie
- <http://working.monster.ie/>

Physiotherapy Salaries:

There are five grades of physiotherapists within the Irish health system. The grades where most positions become available are at Staff grade and Senior grade. The grade is determined by the principal duties and responsibilities of the post and the post qualification work experience required.

Payment in private practice depends on the nature of the contract and is usually dependent on experience. Private practice positions may be salaried or payment may be on a per patient basis.

Details of physiotherapy salary scales in the Irish health system can be found on the Health Services Executive: Employers Agency website
<http://www.hsea.ie/subNav.aspx?pid=payConditions>

Although the salaries appear high they should be assessed in the context of the cost of living in Ireland.

Further information on the cost of living can be found on the following website

<http://working.monster.ie/articles/finance/>

<http://ec.europa.eu/eures/main.jsp?acro=lw&lang=en&catId=2648&parentId=0>

<https://secure.mercerhr.com/registerEvent.jhtml?pidContent=1197215>

Becoming a member of the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists (ISCP)

Once your physiotherapy qualifications have been successfully recognised you are eligible for membership of the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists. You will receive information on how to become a member of the ISCP from the membership administrator. The Society's membership year runs from the 1st of July until the 30th June each year.

New members will receive an information pack. The pack includes a Continuing Professional Development folder (CPD), information about the society and what it offers to members including membership access to the ISCP website, membership certificate (which is only available to practicing members), a membership card, badge and a letter welcoming you to the society.

Membership is renewable on an annual basis. Notice of renewal is sent to all members in May/June and is also available on the ISCP website www.iscp.ie. It is each member's responsibility to ensure payment is made before the 1st of July each year. Only current paid-up members are entitled to use the title "MISCP" and can avail of the membership benefits including access to the membership section of the website.

Only paid-up members will receive a certificate and can avail of the insurance from the Society's Insurance Broker.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD):

CPD is an umbrella term for post-qualification learning, which enables professional and personal development. It ensures that practice reflects the most current sources of scientific knowledge or consensus thus providing a sound basis for autonomous practice. CPD includes both formal and informal learning. Formal learning refers to learning in a structured environment. This includes post-graduate and short courses, as well as attendance at workshops, seminars and conferences. Informal learning refers to learning through experience built on day-to-day practice. Informal learning includes activities such as on the job learning, in-service training, education or supervision of others, participation in journal clubs and multidisciplinary communication, critical reading, research and reflection on practice. To assist the practice of CPD, each member of the ISCP receives a Professional Development Portfolio, which may be used to record CPD activities. Templates are available for recording Formal Professional Development and Informal (Planned and Unplanned) learning activities. For further information please refer to the ISCP website members section.

Disclaimer:

The contents of these pages are intended to enhance information for physiotherapists who have acquired qualifications outside the Republic of Ireland. While every effort is made in the preparation of the material for publication, no responsibility is accepted by the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists for any errors, omissions or misleading statements on these pages or any site to which they are connected.

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