



Irish Clinical Academic Training (ICAT) Programme

Supervisor selection policy

Policy updated October 2021

Intake procedure for new supervisors

Each institution can propose a maximum of 40 supervisors listed in the ICAT programme (new and existing supervisors), except in exceptional circumstances.

Potential supervisors who may not have sufficient experience to act as primary supervisors and who are at an earlier career stage, may be proposed as 'Emerging supervisors'. Emerging supervisors can act as co-supervisors. Emerging supervisors should identify potential co-supervisor(s) from the list of supervisors (from any ICAT partner institution).

Supervisor selection criteria:

- Supervisors will be established and active researchers across specialties in human medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, science, technology, engineering and data science.
- Must have a current active research programme as evidenced by current research students, research grant awards as a PI and/or research staff.
- Must have significant original research publications (first or senior author) in peer reviewed journals in keeping with academic status of senior lecturer or above.
- Must have a clear scientifically valid research project proposal or proposals which align with the biomedical and/or clinical research needs of ICAT fellows.

Criteria relating to clinicians:

- If in a clinical / academic clinical consultant post or holding a non-clinical academic position, must have a higher degree **and** experience in supervising postgraduate students. (Must have prior experience in supervising at least one PhD (science or medical) to completion).
- Must hold a tenured or honorary academic position at senior lecturer or equivalent or above.
- Ideally, each clinician scientist supervisor will hold protected or dedicated academic time.
- However, prospective clinical scientist supervisors who do not hold protected academic time will be considered under the following circumstances:
 - i. PhD supervisor status has been approved by the local ICAT-participating academic institution
and
 - ii. the prospective supervisor can demonstrate that they can provide dedicated time, beyond his/her clinical duties, for supervision of the ICAT trainee.



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Emerging Supervisor selection criteria:

- Must have a clear scientifically valid research project proposal or proposals which align with the research needs of ICAT trainees.
- Must have attained research funding and hold a current research grant or be in an active collaboration with a colleague who holds an active research grant.
- Must indicate one or more experienced co-supervisors from the ICAT Supervisor list with whom they can jointly supervise an ICAT Fellow (the co-supervisors do not have to be from the same institution).

Criteria relating to clinicians:

- If in a clinical / academic clinical consultant post more than two years or holding a non-clinical academic position, must have a higher degree **and** some experience in supervising postgraduate students.
- Must hold a tenured or honorary academic position at lecturer or equivalent or above.
- Ideally, each clinician scientist supervisor will hold protected or dedicated academic time
- However prospective clinical scientist supervisors who do not hold protected academic time will be considered under the following circumstances:

iii. PhD supervisor status has been approved by the local ICAT-participating academic institution OR the academic institution considers that they have the potential to become a PhD supervisor

and

iv. the prospective supervisor can demonstrate that they can provide dedicated time, beyond his/her clinical duties, for supervision of the ICAT trainee.



Review of existing supervisors

- Each year, existing supervisors will be requested to renew their position as supervisor by complying with the following criteria:-
 - Must have a current active research programme as evidenced by current research students and/or research staff.
 - Must hold a current research grant.
 - Should not be due to retire in the next 4 years.
 - Should hold an academic appointment with one of the 6 participating institutions.
 - Should review and update their information on the ICAT website.