



Wellcome / Health Research Board

ICAT

Irish Clinical Academic Training

ICAT webinar for potential applicants

28th August 2019

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Curriculum Vitae

Please upload a copy of your CV to ICAT using the upload function on the ICAT website. It is your responsibility to provide us with all the information about your career to date to help us select applicants to bring forward to interview.

CV Upload *

Please upload your CV in a pdf or word (doc, docx) format.

Drop files here or

Select files

A description of your research experience to date (up to 400 words) *

Please describe your research achievements, including research projects (particularly those you designed and led). You can include details such as the publications/achievements you are most proud of, presentations given, relevant awards and public/patient engagement.

Your curriculum vitae

- Freedom of expression in this section
- No specific template to follow
- It is important that this is concise and to the point.
- You should have a message to impart.
- The reviewers should not have to search for this message.
- What sets you apart as a suitable candidate and a future ICAT fellow?

General pointers

- Use clear headings to separate the sections of the CV.
- Keep the details within the CV relevant to your application.
- Point format CV is preferable.
- It is reasonable to expand on some achievements with a brief explanatory paragraph of no more than 3 short sentences.
- Quirky may be interesting, but over-quirky will annoy a reviewer and make them question your suitability.
- Write and layout the CV yourself.
- It is good to include your LinkedIn address, ORCID, Scopus Address Etc.
- Do not submit a LinkedIn generated CV!

Research experience

Answer what you are asked.

Word count is maximum 400 words.

- Note your most important publications or presentations.
- Include any research degrees that you have carried out including intercalated BSc, MD, MSc.
- Does your research background coherently come together to complement your career pathway, your specialty and your journey onto the ICAT programme?

What has your role been in the research that you have carried out?

- Differentiation between an active researcher and a passive bystander / box ticker!



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Research Question

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Research question

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What research question do you wish to answer? (up to 500 words) *

Please describe a research question you wish to address, using the following subheadings as a guide:

What is the background and rationale for your research question?

Why is it important?

What is your hypothesis?

What research approach would help you address your research question and test your hypothesis?

How would support from ICAT help you to perform this research?

- PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS DOES NOT NEED TO BE YOUR EVENTUAL ICAT PHD PROJECT.

The Research Question.....

- Why it is included in the application?
- How should it be completed?
- Does my research question have to be my eventual PhD Project?
- What is ICAT looking for?

Why is it included in the application?

- ICAT continuously appraises the application process
- Previous years we have received inconsistent responses to questions on research interests
- This section enables you to outline your approach to a research QUESTION of your choice – this does NOT need to be YOUR PHD PROPOSAL for ICAT
- Introduction of this section is meant to provide more structure and direction
- Aim is to enable a fairer appraisal of an applicant's research experience and skills

How should it be completed?

Focus on the directions given.

Word count is maximum 500 words.

- Do not extend this section or refer to other application documents
- E.g. do not refer the reviewer to other parts of the application or affiliated documents (e.g. CV)

Format it according to the suggested subheadings.

- Applications will be assessed based on these five headings
- If the section is written in a way where it is difficult to derive information related to these subheadings it will be harder for the reviewer to score

How should it be completed?

1. Background and rationale

- Keep this section short and succinct
- Introduce the background to research area (including recent major breakthroughs)
- Identify the research gap and highlight the significance of addressing the research gap
- Be ambitious but not unrealistic – think about where you are at in your career and your expertise or potential

How should it be completed?

2. *Why is it important?*

- Explain the importance of the research area
- Highlight the implications that addressing the research gap may have on the field of research
- ‘Sell’ your idea – why is this worth funding?
- ICAT seeks excellent candidates (you) matched with excellent research (your question) therefore the research must have ***IMPACT!***

How should it be completed?

3. Hypothesis.

- Outline a succinct research question that addresses a specific hypothesis.
- Make sure the hypothesis is:
 - Linked in with the stated rationale for doing the research
 - Clearly addresses the research gap identified
 - Unambiguous
 - Measurable (outcome measure)
 - Realistic.....(avoid total leaps of faith!)

How should it be completed?

4. Research approach.

- The research methodology **MUST DIRECTLY ADDRESS** the hypothesis
- Think about the
 - Population – Where? What? How?
 - Intervention – Nature? Strength? Duration? Experimental conditions?
 - Outcomes – Assessments? Primary / secondary outcome?
- Statistical considerations
 - Sample size
 - How will you assess the primary outcome?
 - How will you cope with confounders?

How should it be completed?

5. Support from ICAT?

- How does this research question fit within ICAT?
- Think about the types of support that ICAT can offer.
- Why ICAT and not a conventional MBBS PhD approach?

Does research question have to be my PhD project?

No!

We encourage you to develop your own idea within what is realistic within ICAT

What is ICAT looking for?

MATCHING EXCELLENCE WITH EXCELLENCE!

Excellent candidate

- Individual with qualities that suggest academic potential
- Clarity of thought – can you ask a pertinent, clear, impactful question?
- Logical, structured approach to addressing a research question
- Clear understanding of the basics of the process of conducting research, including pitfalls

Excellent research

- Exciting and relevant to your chosen field
- Utilises the full network of resources and expertise available within ICAT
- Realistic for the stage of career and potential for development

Hints.....

The best research is often the simplest

- Stick to what you know well
- Don't get someone else to write this for you
- Think of something that you can easily defend / debate
- No research is perfect – know the limitations



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Career plans

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Career plans

A statement of your future career plans beyond completion of a PhD (in the ICAT programme) and your Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) (up to 400 words) *

What is your anticipated career plan? How will ICAT develop your career and help you achieve your aims?

Why is it important?

It is not enough to say you want to be a clinical academic.

- What this question asks is how you plan on achieving this?
- How will ICAT help you achieve this goal?
- Do you understand academic career pathways?
- Do you understand how research is funded?
- Do you know what will make you attractive to attain further funding in the future?
- What do you know of funding authorities and how they work?
- Are you parochial or international in your outlook?



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Q&A

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1. In the question a description of your research experience to date would it be wise to reference articles which discuss my research with citations etc.

You should list your publications in your CV and discuss the most relevant/important in your research statement. There is no need to re-list all of them in the research experience section.

2. Should I discuss my research projects in my CV rather than in the application. I'm finding the word count tricky and it would be easier to briefly mention past projects (rather than describing) with more focus on the relevance and success of same.

As above, focus on the most relevant/important projects in your research experience statement and list everything else in your CV

3. Regarding the research question, is it sufficient to discuss a possible hypothesis or is a study protocol including methodology preferable? Is it possible to discuss an area of research for which preliminary data has been collected and preliminary results have been reported at an international conference?

In the research question section you should discuss the hypothesis and study approach, you do not need to write a full study protocol. You can include preliminary data in your rationale if appropriate, but the research question should not describe something that has already been achieved.

4. How specific do the applicants need to be regarding the proposed research question?

Please refer to the presentation and follow the guidance given in the application form.

5. I note that for the proposed project on the application form, it states that it does not have to be the eventual PhD project. However, would the panel, both at review of applications and interview, expect that the proposed project match one of the supervisors on the approved list of supervisors?

There is no obligation for applicants to have identified a PhD supervisor, though it would be logical to begin to consider potential supervisors who may align with your area of research interest. However, this is not mandatory.

6. Documented evidence From IMC/RCPI of achievement of appropriate competencies for stage of training- could you give an example of this? It's is a BST certificate or MRCPI?

To accept an ICAT fellowship you must have the required competencies to permit you to be eligible for a higher specialist training scheme. These competencies will vary between clinical specialties and jurisdictions

7. Vetting scheme- do I need to get Garda vetting for the purposes of application?

Not required at application stage but required for fellowship.

8. Current fitness to practice cert- do I need to apply to IMC for a fitness to practice cert for the application?

Applicants are not required to submit a fitness to practice cert with the application, but successful applicants must be eligible for a higher specialist training position in Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland.

9. How do you think GDPR will affect the proposed research projects?

GDPR won't affect the research questions proposed by applicants because these are theoretical studies. However, GDPR will affect PhD projects pursued by ICAT Fellows and it may be worth considering the effect of GDPR on your proposed research.



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End of webinar



For more information please visit our

[FAQ page](#)

Contact the programme

info@icatprogramme.org



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