



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte  
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh

Regulating Health +  
Social Care Professionals

# Guide to Education

# Contents

<b>Introduction to CORU</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>About Education and Training Programme Approval</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Criteria for Education and Training Programmes</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Standards of Proficiency</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Approval and Monitoring Processes</b>	<b>7</b>



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte  
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh

Regulating Health +  
Social Care Professionals

# Introduction to CORU

## What is CORU?

---

CORU is Ireland's multi-profession health regulator. The name CORU originates from the Irish word "coir" meaning fair, just and proper. Our role is to protect the public by promoting high standards of professional conduct, education, training and competence through statutory registration of health and social care professionals.

CORU was set up under the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (as amended). It comprises of the Health and Social Care Professionals Council and the Registration Boards – one for each profession named in the Act.

## Who will be regulated?

---

CORU was established to regulate health and social care professions who provide services to the public.

### **These professions are:**

- > clinical biochemists
- > medical scientists
- > orthoptists
- > physiotherapists
- > podiatrists
- > psychologists
- > social care workers
- > dietitians
- > occupational therapists
- > radiographers
- > radiation therapists
- > social workers
- > speech and language therapists
- > optometrists
- > dispensing opticians

## How do we regulate health and social care professionals?

---

### To regulate the professions, we will:

- › set the standards that health and social care professionals must meet;
- › make sure that the relevant educational bodies deliver qualifications that prepare professionals to provide safe and appropriate care;
- › maintain and publish a register of health and social care professionals who meet our standards;
- › make sure that registered professionals keep their skills up to date through continuing professional development; and
- › carry out fitness to practise hearings into the conduct and competence of a registered professional.

## What is the Health and Social Care Professionals Council?

---

The Health and Social Care Professionals Council is made up of voluntary members and a Chair, initially appointed by the Minister for Health.

Each of the professions is represented on the Council. The Council also has other people concerned with health and social care, which include representatives from:

- › the education sector;
- › patient and advocacy groups
- › the voluntary sector; and
- › public and private sector organisations.

The Council has a “lay majority” (more lay members than health and social care professionals). This is viewed internationally as the best way of ensuring the public is protected.

### **The Council:**

- › oversees and co-ordinates the work of the Registration Boards
- › enforces standards of practice for registered professionals, including codes of professional conduct and ethics;
- › conducts Fitness to Practise hearings; and
- › makes decisions and gives directions relating to disciplinary sanctions on registrants.

### **What is a Registration Board?**

---

Each profession has its own Registration Board, which is responsible for registering members of the profession. Two years after a Registration Board is set up, three representatives of the profession must be elected to the Board and one of these will be nominated to Council.

Each Board has 13 members and, like the Council, each has a lay majority.

### **The Registration Board is responsible for:**

- › setting up and maintaining the Register of members for that profession;
- › assessing and recognising qualifications gained outside the State;
- › approving and monitoring education and training programmes;
- › devising the code of professional conduct and ethics; and
- › setting the requirements for continuing professional development.

## **About Education and Training Programme Approval**

One of the functions of a Registration Board at CORU is to ensure that education and training programmes provided by institutions in the State are of a suitable standard and meet its requirements. The Board has a number of requirements:

### **Criteria for Education and Training Programmes**

The criteria for education and training programmes are the requirements set by the Registration Board related to how a professional education and training programme is designed and managed.

### **Standards of Proficiency**

The standards of proficiency are the threshold standards set by a Registration Board for entry to the register for that profession. The standards of proficiency provide details on the knowledge and skills that all graduates must possess at entry to the register.

Institutions must demonstrate that those who complete the programme submitted for approval meet the standards of proficiency.

### **Approval and Monitoring**

One of the statutory functions of Registration Boards is to approve education and training for the registration of professions. This function is set out in Part 5 of the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (as amended).

## **Programme Approval**

---

The Registration Board determines whether the programme meets the criteria for education and training programmes and thus has a system in place to consistently and effectively produce graduates who meet the standards of proficiency required for registration.

## **Programme Monitoring**

---

The Registration Board satisfies itself as to the continuing suitability of an education and training programme in the areas of education, training, assessment, and examination and the clinical training and experience provided in the programme.

## **Approved Qualifications Bye-Law**

---

When a programme is first approved, the qualification awarded on completion of the programme can be listed on the Approved Qualifications Bye-Law. This bye-law lists the qualifications approved as attesting to the standard of proficiency required for registration under Section 38 of the Health and Social Care Professionals Act, 2005 (as amended).



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte  
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh

Regulating Health +  
Social Care Professionals

T: 01 2933160 F: 01 2933170 E: [info@coru.ie](mailto:info@coru.ie)

[www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie)