



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte  
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh  
Regulating Health +  
Social Care Professionals

# Studying Physiotherapy Abroad? Be CORU Ready Upon Return

If you plan to study physiotherapy abroad and hope to work in Ireland after qualifying, you must be registered with CORU to practise in Ireland. Find out how in this leaflet.

## When applying for registration with CORU, you will need to consider the following:

### 1. Your Academic Qualification

Your qualification upon graduation should include modules on the **3 core areas of physiotherapy practice** required to register with CORU:

- Musculoskeletal
- Cardiorespiratory
- Neurological Physiotherapy

The physiotherapy education programmes outside of Ireland may have limited cardiorespiratory theoretical components; particularly in acute respiratory assessment, treatment and specifics of post-surgical/ acutely unwell/critical care environment. If your programme does not contain this theoretical component, you may be required to complete additional academic modules before being considered for registration with CORU.

**Please research this before embarking on an education programme abroad.**

## 2. Practice Placements

Your programme may require you to organise clinical placements yourself. **Please research this before embarking on an education programme abroad.**

Practice placements must cover the **3 core clinical areas of physiotherapy** required to register with CORU:

### Musculoskeletal Care – ideally a 6-week placement

To include experience in the physiotherapy role of chronic musculoskeletal diseases (examples include: osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylosis) in addition to experience of acute musculoskeletal care (examples include: post joint replacement surgery, post fracture, post joint dislocation or sporting injury).

### Cardiorespiratory Care – ideally a 6-week placement

To include experience in the physiotherapy assessment and management of chronic diseases (examples include: stable COPD/asthma, bronchiectasis, lung cancer, COVID) in addition to acute cardiorespiratory care experience (examples include: post-surgical care, acutely unwell medical patients including non-invasive ventilation or critical care including coronary care (CCU), intensive care (ICU) or post anaesthesia care (PACU)).

### Neurological Care - ideally a 6-week placement

To include experience in the physiotherapy role of chronic neurological diseases (examples include: cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis (MS), stroke rehabilitation, spinal injury rehabilitation, community re-enablement) in addition to acute neurology care (examples include: hyperacute stroke, acute spinal injury, acute MS, neurosurgery).



## Please note

Experience in the Irish healthcare system will be useful if graduates wish to register with CORU. However, obtaining clinical placements in Ireland can be difficult for students who study abroad due to the commitment to student placements with Irish university programmes.

**For CORU registration, it is essential that graduates have relevant experience in all three core areas of physiotherapy clinical care listed above.**

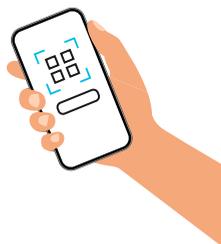
Placements can be in a wide variety of clinical settings, including an acute hospital, with the clinical support of a registered physiotherapist. Students should seek placements with structures in place to identify and support learning needs.



## Applying to CORU

Applying for registration as an internationally qualified applicant is a paper-based application. This means your application will be assessed on the information you upload with your application in relation to your qualification (course syllabus, transcripts, practice placement information) and any additional experience or courses completed.

Please provide as much detail as possible about your curriculum and practice placements, including the learning outcomes achieved on placements. Your application is assessed by two members of the profession against the CORU Standards of Proficiency.



For further information on how to register with CORU, and the documents required for your application, please scan the QR code to read our application leaflet.





## The Commonly Aligned Standards (CAS) Pathway to Registration with CORU

---

If you study physiotherapy in the UK, Australia, or New Zealand, your application can be fast tracked through the CAS pathway, whereby there is no requirement to have your qualification assessed as CORU's Standards of Proficiency align with the standards in these countries.



## Applying for Registration with CORU

---

You can access the on-line application portal and upload your documents via the link:



If you have any questions, please email [registration@coru.ie](mailto:registration@coru.ie) or call (01) 293 3160 Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm.