



WORLD-CLASS POST CSCST FELLOWSHIPS IN IRELAND



# Aspire

FELLOWSHIPS

GUIDANCE FOR POSTGRADUATE  
TRAINING BODIES

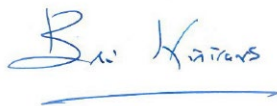
2025 Aspire Post CSCST Fellowships

## **A message from National Doctors Training & Planning**

I am very pleased to announce the launch of the 2025 Aspire Post CSCST Fellowships. The Aspire Programme is truly a team effort, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the close collaboration over the past few years which has supported these fellowships in becoming highly competitive.

Our ambition at NDTP is to support world-class postgraduate training Programmes and in so doing ensure that the right doctor is in the right place at the right time with the right skills. As outlined in our strategic plan for 2022-2027, NDTP is committed to investing and promoting the development of Programmes that place a high value on training excellence and facilitate career development for our doctors to meet future healthcare needs. We feel that the Aspire Programme truly shines in this regard.

Ongoing evaluation and refinement underpin the strategic aims of NDTP. Over the coming months, we will conduct a full review of the Aspire Post CSCST Fellowships so that we can continue to improve it and meet the changing needs of its stakeholders. Alongside this, we will add additional marketing support to ensure the Programme gets the exposure it needs across all relevant audiences.



Prof. Brian Kinirons, Medical Director, HSE NDTP



## Aspire Post CSCST Fellowships

The Aspire Post CSCST Fellowship Programme offers exceptional CSCST graduates the opportunity to work with a leading consultant on a 12 month tailored Fellowship Programme, which ensures fellows receive high-quality specialist and advanced clinical skills training to meet future healthcare needs. Post CSCST Fellowships offer an alternative to trainees now that Ireland's specialist clinical expertise and services have matured and developed.

Since 2021, the NDTP has committed to funding 40 annual Post CSCST Fellowships across the acute, primary care and mental health specialties. These are internationally competitive posts which drive innovation and medical leadership, harnessing talented CSCST graduates in Ireland. Those successful in securing a fellowship receive an SpR salary for the duration of the fellowship.

### Key Programme Dates for July 2025 Commencement

**March 18th - May 31st, 2024:** The Postgraduate Training Body issue a call for high-quality fellowship proposals across their national specialty network

**May 31st, 2024:** Final date for proposal submission

**May 31st - July 31st, 2024:** The Postgraduate Training Body establishes a panel and selection process for the review and selection of fellowships with input from relevant faculty and NCAGL / NCPs

**August 2nd, 2024:** All 2025 fellowships will be confirmed to NDTP

**September 2nd, 2024:** Fellowship positions will be advertised by the Postgraduate Training Bodies

**October 31st 2024:** Deadline for recruitment of successful fellows

## Evaluating Fellowship Proposals

The process of identifying fellowships and subsequent recruitment will be managed by the Postgraduate Training Body with input from NDTP and the National Clinical Advisory Group Leads (NCAGL's) and National Clinical Programmes (NCP's) as appropriate.

Postgraduate training bodies will evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

1. Quality of the fellowship proposed
2. An identified unmet patient need\*
3. Specialty and service priorities/particular workforce requirement\*
4. Niche area, particular skillset acquisition
5. Unavailability of such training in Ireland currently
6. The potential benefits to the Irish Health Service and patients
7. Consideration should be given to recently approved consultant posts
8. Protection/prioritisation of the unique learning requirements
9. Protected training time and less focus on service delivery commitment.
10. Geographic distribution as relevant to the model of care or workforce planning

Please note: An overview of the core curriculum to be offered and evidence that there will be opportunities for audit and research must be included in the application.

\*The Postgraduate Training Body will liaise with the National Clinical Advisory Group Leads (NCAGL's) National Clinical Programmes (NCP's) for the specialty (where available) to inform these principles.



## **Conditions of the Aspire Post CSCST Fellowship**

Approval is provided in respect of fellowships commencing in July 2025.

- All approved post CSCST fellowships must provide a structured certifiable educational experience to candidates within 3 years post CSCST from an Irish Postgraduate Training body or candidates who entered the Specialist Division of the Register (IMC) within the last 2 years.

### **Duration of fellowship:**

- The duration of the Post CSCST Fellowship should be outlined within the application (funding provided is for a 12-month period from July 2025 however it is noted that funding partnerships with host institutions may be developed to allow for 24-month Fellowships –this can only be progressed with the prior agreement of HSE NDTP).
- A previously funded Aspire fellowship could be considered for renewal if aligned with service requirements and workforce demands subject to review and endorsement by the review panel.

### **Training requirements:**

- The post CSCST fellowship post must be evaluated and approved by the appropriate training body and have a supervisor assigned, with authority and accountability for the fellowship post.
- The Post CSCST Fellowship should align with workforce opportunities.
- The Post CSCST Fellowship must not impinge on the training of pre-CSCST trainees
- Where appropriate, the fellowships should fulfil training body requirements for Medical Council specialist registration (e.g. Intensive Care Medicine) and HSE employment requirements for consultant posts.

- Aspire fellows are entitled to apply through the relevant training body for the HSE Specialist Training funding scheme and through their employer for the HSE Clinical Course / Exam Refund Scheme and TSS. Both of these Programmes are funded by NDTP and accessed through the NER.

## **DIME**

Please note that a Post CSCST fellow category has been added to DIME. NDTP will use the log provided by the training body to update the system however the postgraduate Training Bodies must assign training attributes to Post CSCST fellows in the same way as trainees on BST or HST training Programmes. This is essential for the accuracy of the data held on DIME and so the numbers of post-CSCST fellows progressing to consultant posts within Ireland can be tracked. The user guide for training bodies on DIME is available.

The training body must ensure that data on the system relating to all doctors participating in Aspire (and any other) post CSCST fellowships are complete and accurate including

- All sections of training attributes for each trainee are to be assigned once they have been appointed to a post CSCST fellowship post by the end of July and end of January annually
- On-going review and update of the system to be undertaken to account for any changes such as maternity/approved leave, etc.
- To populate DIME so that the details and numbers of all post CSCST fellows (normally reflected in the TB proposal document) match the data held in the DIME system

### **Other post CSCST fellowships:**

Please note that all post CSCST fellowships including those being considered outside of the Aspire network need to be approved by NDTP.

The post-CSCST fellowship log provided by NDTP should also be used to capture all post-CSCST fellowships so that a register can be maintained and the information is available for workforce planning estimates.

# Aspire<sup>\*</sup>

FELLOWSHIPS



NATIONAL  
DOCTORS  
TRAINING  
& PLANNING