



Irish College of
Ophthalmologists
Eye Doctors of Ireland
Protecting your Vision

BASIC SPECIALIST TRAINING PROGRAMME IN SURGICAL OPHTHALMOLOGY (BST)

Application Scorecard 2025

NB: Please note this scorecard is open to minor reviews (approx. < 5%) on an ongoing basis. Any major changes will be communicated via the ICO website.

Please also note that a minimum score for Shortlisting is included below for Sections 1 & 2. This is intended only as a guide and may be subject to change. Meeting the minimum score is not a guarantee that you will be shortlisted for interview. In 2023/2024, the average score of candidates invited for interview was 51.25 for Basic Surgical Training and the minimum score of candidates invited to interview was 45.

Section 1: Educational & Academic Achievements (Maximum Points 25)

**A minimum score of 12/25 must be acquired for an application to be shortlisted.*

Topic	Max Points Allowed: 25
Medical School	
Centile rating: ¹ Centile: 90 – 100%	15
Centile: 75 – 89%	12
Centile: 60 – 74%	9
Centile: 45 - 59%	8
Centile: 30 - 44%	7
Centile: 25 - 29%	6
Centile: 20 - 24%	5
Centile: 15 - 19%	4
Centile: 10 - 14%	3
Centile: 5 - 9%	2
Centile: 0- 4%	1
National Medals Prizes ²	1 per award (Max 3)
Research Grants:	3 Max
Duke Elder: Ranking Position	First = 5, Top 10 = 2, Top 20 = 1
Relevant Degrees	
Other suitable relevant degrees (BSc,Mmedsci): Full time	0-2, MSc+1
Higher Degrees	
MSc, MCh, MD or PhD	1, 5, 2, 10
Postgraduate Examinations	
FRCOph UK Part 1	10
MRCPI / MRCSI / MRCGP Part I: 2 points Part II: 10 points	2 - 10
FRCS (Glas)/ F/MRCS Ed ophth	10
International Council of Ophthalmology Examination(Parts I, II&III)	5
Total Points Section 1:	

¹ Applicants who do not provide a centile will be awarded the lowest score of 1 mark. Applicants who did not receive a centile from their university and submit a letter from their university confirming this will be awarded 6 marks.

² Only National Medals/Prizes are awarded marks. University specific Medals/Prizes will not be awarded marks.

Section 2: Research / Extra Curricular / (Maximum Points 35)

* A minimum score of 16/35 must be acquired for an application to be shortlisted.

Topic	Max Points Allowed: 35
Published International Journal (First Author)*	10 x 1 (Max 15)
Published International Journal (Joint Author)*	5 x 1 (Max 5)
Published National Journal / First Author*	5 x 1 (Max 10)
Published National Journal / Joint Author*	3 x 1 (Max 6)
Presented at International Meeting*	4 (Max 8)
Presented at National Meeting*	3 (Max 6)
Case report / Abstract / First Author *	3 (Max 6)
Audit Participation ³	2 (Max 6)
Research in Progress*	2 (Max 2)
Relevant Clinical & Ophthalmic Experience	2 (Max 6)
Relevant Courses ⁴	2 (Max 4)
Total points Section 2:	

***Research / Presentations / Publications: Marks awarded at 50% if non-ophthalmic content**

A: All dates will be the deadline of the application EXCEPT for:

1. Passing of Part 1 FRCOph UK where the deadline will **3pm 12th February 2024.**

B: Only submitted articles / papers / posters / abstracts / audits will be scored.

C: Points **cannot be duplicated** from other sections.

³ Same points awarded if ophthalmic or non-ophthalmic content

⁴ Online courses will be reviewed on a case by case basis

Section 3: Suitability For A Career In Ophthalmology And Interview Performance (Max Points 40)

Topic	Max Points Allowed: 40
Suitability for a career in Ophthalmology	15
Communication Skills	10
Decision making / Workload / Stress Management	10
References	5
Total points Section 3:	40