



**College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland**

**Specialist Anaesthesiology  
Training (SAT) Programme**

**SAT 2026 Guidance Document**

## SAT 2026 - Application Process & Important Deadlines

Applications for the Specialist Anaesthesiology Training (SAT) Programme for 2026 will be through an online application link that will be made available on the college website.

Please see below for important dates:

<b>IMPORTANT DATES</b>	SAT Applications Open	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November at 10.00am
	SAT Applications Close	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025 at 16.00
	SAT 2026 Interviews	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 (Online)

## How to Apply

Applicants must submit their application through an online link that will be published on the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland website on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The application **must** include the following:

1.	Certified Colour Copy of your Passport
2.	Certified Copy of Ranking Letter from your Medical School / University (if applicable)
3.	Proof of English Language Competence (if applicable)
4.	Copy of Irish Medical Council Certificate of Registration
5.	Certified Copy of Other Degrees / Diplomas (if applicable)
6.	Proof of attendance at Relevant Clinical Courses
7.	Two Completed Reference Forms (uploaded)
8.	Certified Copy of Certificate of Naturalisation / IRP Card (if applicable)
9.	One Colour Passport Sized Photograph (uploaded)
10.	Payment of Application Fee (online)

## Certified Copies

The CAI only requires copies of documents to be uploaded to the application. However all copies must be certified copies. To have a copy certified, you must present the original document and the photocopy to one of the following:

- A Fellow of the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland or the Royal College of Anaesthesiologists.
- A member of the Garda Síochána at a police station
- A Commissioner for Oaths
- A Notary Public

The copy must be certified with the following words or an appropriate equivalent (BLOCK CAPITALS, please) :

“I (NAME) certify that this is a true and faithful copy of an original document which I have seen”

It must then be signed, officially stamped and dated. In the case of a document being certified by a Fellow of the College, the stamp of the hospital must accompany the signature.

Do not send the original documents. College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland will not take responsibility for their loss or damage. Those who applied in previous years should note that it remains the applicant’s responsibility to resubmit certified copies each time they apply. The Training office (which processes a considerable number of applications received in the College) has not the resources to retain or locate such documentation on your behalf.

# Specialist Anaesthesiology Training (SAT) Programme 2026

## *Application Form – General Information*

### SECTION A -Personal Details

- The details given in this section must correspond with your personal details as they appear on the Medical Council and other documents accompanying your application.
- Please ensure that you give a current secure email address and details of how you may be contacted quickly.
- You are asked to upload a high quality coloured passport sized photograph and a coloured copy of your passport.

### SECTION A – Flexible Arrangement (LTFT Programme)

The CAI Less Than Full Time (LTFT) programme is available to all applicants of the Specialist Anaesthesiology Training (SAT) programme at SAT year 1. Successful applicants can choose the location of their posts from a list of participating training sites for the first two years of the SAT programme and would train flexibly, either 50% wte (half time) and 80% wte (1 day a week off) basis.

On call time and training credit would be proportionate to this and would mean the doctor would make up the time at a later stage on the training programme e.g. after two years training flexibly there would be an extension of 1 year for (50% wte) and 6 months for 80% wte.

There would also be an opportunity before the end of SAT year 2 to decide if the doctor wished to continue to train flexibly for the rest of the programme or revert to full time training for SAT year 3 onwards. If applicants wish to be considered for the LTFT programme please tick the box provided on the application form in Section A.

### SECTION B – Irish Medical Council Registration

- You are asked to provide your Irish Medical Council registration number and a copy of your current registration certificate.

The NCHD Contract requires all junior doctors participating in a structured training programme to hold Trainee Specialist registration. To establish eligibility for registration in the Trainee Specialist Division, applicants must first be eligible for registration in the General Division.

Given the Training Bodies' role in the selection of trainees to training programmes and the subsequent proposal of such trainees to employment positions within the health service, it is required that all applicants to training programmes would either hold or be eligible to hold registration on the General or Trainee Specialist Division.

In that context all applicants must indicate at time of application their eligibility to hold registration on the General or Trainee Specialist Division. Please note candidates who do not currently hold Medical Council registration must make an application to the Medical Council immediately.

The Medical Council have advised that the following candidates can be automatically considered eligible for the General and Trainee Specialist Divisions:

- Doctors who are currently or previously registered on the General or Trainee Specialist Division
- Doctors who are eligible for registration in the General Division
- Doctors who graduated from an Irish Medical School and successfully completed their internship in Ireland or will have completed their internship by July 2026.
- Doctors who have successfully completed their medical qualification in one the following EU countries:
  - Austria
  - Belgium
  - Bulgaria
  - Croatia
  - Cyprus
  - Czech Republic
  - Estonia
  - Finland
  - France
  - Germany
  - Greece
  - Hungary
  - Latvia
  - Netherlands
  - Romania
  - Spain
  - Switzerland
  - Slovak Republic

Candidates who qualified in an EU member state other than one of the above will be required to provide, in addition to their medical degree, additional documentation stated in the EU Directive 2005/36/EC, in order to establish eligibility for registration in the General Division. Example, a doctor who qualifies in Poland will be asked to provide a LEK and an internship in addition to his/her medical degree when applying for registration.

Please note the Medical Council cannot confirm a doctor's eligibility for general registration until an application for registration has been submitted to the Council and assessed. Note that it will take between 6 to 8 weeks before an application is fully examined and confirmation of a doctor's eligibility for trainee specialist registration cannot be provided before that time. Candidates are advised to apply to the Medical Council for registration and following submission of an application contact the Medical Council to seek an email confirming eligibility for registration in the General Division. This email confirming eligibility must be submitted with your application. Applicants who have qualified outside the EU must pass or be exempt from the PRES to establish eligibility for registration in the General Division.

## SECTION B – Irish Medical Council Registration – Completion of Internship Year

In the event a doctor who is currently completing their internship year, is deemed successful at interview and appointed to the SAT Programme, the offer of a place will be strictly conditional upon the provision of the required Medical Council registration documents.

The candidate will be required to provide evidence that their internship year has been successfully completed and their registration has been transferred from Internship Division to either the General Division or the Trainee Specialist Division of the Medical Council. A copy of your Medical Council registration certificate reflecting the updated registration details must be submitted to the Training Department at [Training@coa.ie](mailto:Training@coa.ie).

The offer of a place on the SAT programme is conditional **at time of application**, upon submission of the required Medical Council registration documents prior to starting the programme, failure to do so will render the offer void.

## SECTION B - English Language Requirements:

The ability to communicate clearly with patients and colleagues is a key requirement for all healthcare professionals. Proficiency in the English language is therefore a core competency for NCHDs working in the Irish public health service. Under Section 6 'Standard duties and responsibilities' of NCHD Contract 2010, NCHDs are required to be able to communicate effectively with patients and clients; and comply with statutory and regulatory requirements, corporate policies and procedures and human resource policies and procedures. The English language requirements for NCHDs are universally applicable. There is no distinction between training, non-training, intern or any other category or grouping.

All doctors who did not complete the entirety of their under-graduate medical training in the Republic of Ireland, are required to provide evidence under one of the following categories:

### Category 1:

Satisfactory proof that basic medical degree and internship training were completed through English in a country where English is the language spoken by the vast majority of the population, e.g. in Australia or New Zealand over 97% of the population speak English; and in the USA over 95% of the population speak English. This is comparable to Ireland, where over 98% of the population speak English.

Doctors who completed their Medical degree in English from any of the following countries: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, The United States of America or The United Kingdom must provide:

- A copy of their Medical Degree Certificate

### Category 2:

Doctors who completed the Irish State Leaving Certificate examination or A Levels in the United Kingdom and a Medical Degree in English must provide all three of the following:

- A copy of Irish Leaving Certificate/UK A-Level transcript results
- A copy of their Medical Degree
- Certificate/confirmation from their University confirming their Medical degree was taught and examined solely in English

### Category 3:

Doctors who meet the English Language requirements by attaining certification via the recognized English Language Tests must submit a certificate of test results from either the International English Language Test System (IELTS) (Academic EXAM) or Occupational English Test (OET).

- Academic IELTS Certificate (dated within the last two years) with an overall band score of 7.0 and a minimum score of 6.5 in each module. All IELTS results will be verified online.  
\*Please note the required scores for each module must be met in one exam sitting\*
- OET, (Category – Medicine) dated within the last two years, with a minimum grade of B in each module. All OET results will be verified online.  
\*Please note the required scores for each module must be met in one exam sitting\*

Please note: The CAI will accept OET and IELTS from exams run in a test centre, only. The OET@Home and the IELTS Online are NOT accepted.

There are no exemptions to the above requirements. All applicants are required **at the time of application** to demonstrate to the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland their English language competency either by means of submitting the required IELTS Certificate or OET test results or by completion of a medical degree in the above countries.

### SECTION C – Undergraduate Details & Ranking

Please fill in all details of your undergraduate education with dates of your entry to medical school and date of graduation.

If applicable, please provide a certified copy of a letter from your university, on official university headed paper, confirming your class rank/decile signed by the Head of the Faculty.

Please note that only such a letter will be accepted; **copies of university results will not be considered**.

### SECTION C – Postgraduate Exams

Details on all your undergraduate and postgraduate examinations **only** must be filled in this section.

Fill in your postgraduate examinations, if relevant. Proof of successful completion of the examination must be uploaded with your application.

### SECTION C – Postgraduate Experience

Beginning with the most recent (i.e. your current position) list, the location of all previous appointments. In each case, indicate the grade, the specialty, the dates and duration in months. Do not put in prospective posts in this section.

Highlight clinical experience relevant to this specialty including clinical practice, teaching experience, audit and management experience. It is recommended that you use the headings listed above to categorize the information you are providing. You may add and/or substitute others if you wish.

### SECTION C – Relevant Skills & Courses

Details on any relevant clinical courses e.g. Anaesthesia/ICM/Pain Medicine you have attended should be filled in this section. All courses must be clinically relevant. A CPD/CME certificate must be provided.

Marks will not be awarded for HSE mandatory courses or BLS.

### SECTION D – Academic Achievements in Relation to Anaesthesiology/ Intensive Care Medicine/Pain Medicine

For this section please enter in presentations, publications in peer review journals (Abstracts and Full text) and published audit in relation to Anaesthesiology/Intensive Care Medicine/Pain Medicine. Please list all entries with full bibliographical details. Marks will not be given unless full details are supplied.

**Each entry must include a specified topic and be submitted in one category only.**

**Hospital/ Departmental Level.** Please provide full title of presentation and date.

***National & International Level.*** This section should include presentations submitted at national and international levels. Podcasts will also receive marks as part of all level presentations. Proof of presentation (must be provided).

**Publications.** This section should include case reports, abstracts, full papers and letters. All publications must have a reference code. Only accepted publications will be given marks.

**Audit(s).** This section should include any audits completed and should include supervisors' details. A Letter of Completion signed by the audit supervisor must be provided for each audit listed.

### SECTION E – Aim and Career Objectives

In this section, you are being asked to explain how you have sought to prepare yourself for this post, and how the particular programme for which you have applied fits into your career plans and objectives. (Maximum 250 words)

### SECTION F – Additional Information

Use this space below to highlight any personal achievements, which you consider significant, there will be an opportunity to expand of this section at the interview stage. These do not have to be medical achievements rather achievements in any other area. (Maximum 250 words)



## SECTION G – References

The SAT Reference Form can be downloaded from the College website. All reference forms must include the hospital stamp. All references must relate to clinical experience and must be completed and signed by a Consultant or Senior Clinician who has directly supervised the applicant.

Please provide two completed references with your application as stated below:

- Reference 1: must be obtained from your most recent clinical post and be signed by a supervising Consultant/Senior Clinician.
- Reference 2: must be obtained from a supervising Consultant or Senior Clinician who has directly overseen the applicant in a clinical post held within the last two years.

## SECTION H – Notes

- Read each note carefully and confirm your understanding of each and everyone.

## SECTION I – Application Checklist

- Confirm here the documents that you are including with your application, (and check that they have been attached). Please be advised that applications which are incomplete will be returned and, unless re-submitted correctly and in time, will not be put forward for consideration by the short listing and appointment panels.

## SECTION J – Validation & Consent

- Please tick the box and include the date (dd/mm/yyyy) in this section. Please note that by ticking the box and dating it, it is validation that you have read and understood the form in its entirety and agree that it has been completed by the name of the applicant on the form.

## SECTION K – Declarations

- Please read the three declarations carefully, tick the box for each declaration to confirm that you agree with the text in each of the outlined declarations and include the date (dd/mm/yyyy). Please note that by ticking the box and dating it, it is validation that you have read and understood the declarations and you have given your consent that they are a true and accurate reflection.

## **\*\* Recommendations & Important Information \*\***

- We encourage **early submission** of your application. All required documents and supporting evidence must be submitted electronically by the specified closing date.
- Given the high volume of applications received in previous recruitment campaigns, all applicants are responsible for submitting a fully completed application, including all required documents, by the stated deadline. Applications that are incomplete or submitted late will not be considered.
- Please note that you need to download the reference form from the college website. All reference forms must include the hospital stamp.
- Please upload a decent quality photograph for your application, this photograph may be used for your college ID.
- The information provided regarding marks in each section is intended as a reference for applicants only. Please do not enter or apply your own marking. This section is not to be completed by the applicant.
- If you are unsure about how to complete any part of the application form, or have questions regarding these instructions, please contact the Training Department for guidance at [Training@coa.ie](mailto:Training@coa.ie).
- Please note the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland reserves the right to retain a reserve list following interview.
- Canvassing at any stage of the recruitment process, with the intention of gaining an unfair advantage in the interview, is not permitted.
- Deferrals will not be granted for offers of admission to the SAT programme in accordance with the curriculum.