

# Academic Pathways for Doctors in Training in Ireland

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**Winter course in clinical research 2025**



# Why Clinician-Scientists Matter



# The Six Roles of a Clinician-Scientist

## Clinician

- Definition of clinical profile in close connection with research focus
- Clinical training needed for board certification
- Facilitating knowledge transfer to patient care

## Teacher

- Training in medical teaching skills, such as didactics, digital learning and presentation skills
- Integration into teaching curricula with clinical and scientific content

## Communicator

- Patient communication and patient-engagement teams
- Science to the public
- Living laboratory

## Scientist

- Protected research time
- Structured research project
- Facilitating publications and grant applications
- Support for translation and transfer

## Leader

- Management skill development
- Personnel responsibility
- Financial autonomy
- Training in regulatory affairs, such as good clinical practice

## Collaborator

- Team-based training
- Formation of peer groups
- Integrating events between scientific and clinical communities
- Exchange with industry



# The Threat: Clinician-Scientists 'Close to Extinction'

Increasing clinical  
workload and  
complexity

Science requires  
continuous  
upskilling

Lack of protected  
research time,  
mentorship, and  
recognition

Burnout and poor  
work-life balance  
reduce academic  
engagement

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# Academic Training Pathways in Ireland

ICAT - Integrated PhD + Specialty Training

StAR MD (RCSI) - Protected research time + MD

University-based research degrees (PhD, MD, MSc)

# Elements of Successful Clinician-Scientist Programmes



PROTECTED RESEARCH  
TIME EMBEDDED IN  
TRAINING



INSTITUTIONAL  
COMMITMENT &  
RECOGNISED CAREER  
PATHWAYS



RELIABLE  
MENTORSHIP ACROSS  
CLINICAL & RESEARCH  
DOMAINS



NATIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL  
NETWORKING  
OPPORTUNITIES



PATIENT  
INVOLVEMENT IN  
RESEARCH PLANNING

# ICAT Programme



**Irish Clinical Academic Training  
Programme (ICAT-2)**

[www.ICATprogramme.org](http://www.ICATprogramme.org)

- Structured PhD integrated with clinical training
- Cross-institutional supervision and mentoring
- Funding: an annual salary based on level of training and matched to their equivalent clinical scale, generous research expenses, training allowance and PhD fees (EU rate).
- Opportunity to apply for additional funding for an international placement (between 2 weeks – six months) at an

# R Doctor of Medicine (MD) programme

The Strategic Academic Recruitment programme is to accelerate the innovative, impactful translational build on highly skilled clinical improve modern healthcare issues.

The programme attracts some of the best research talent in Ireland, working across a range of research themes.



## StAR MD Programme (RCSI)

- 2-year MD with protected research time
- Fees covered with consumable money but salary comes from clinical commitment to private hospital

# University- Based Research Pathways (e.g., TCD)



PhD (3–4 years)



MD (research-based)



MSc/MRes/postgraduate diplomas

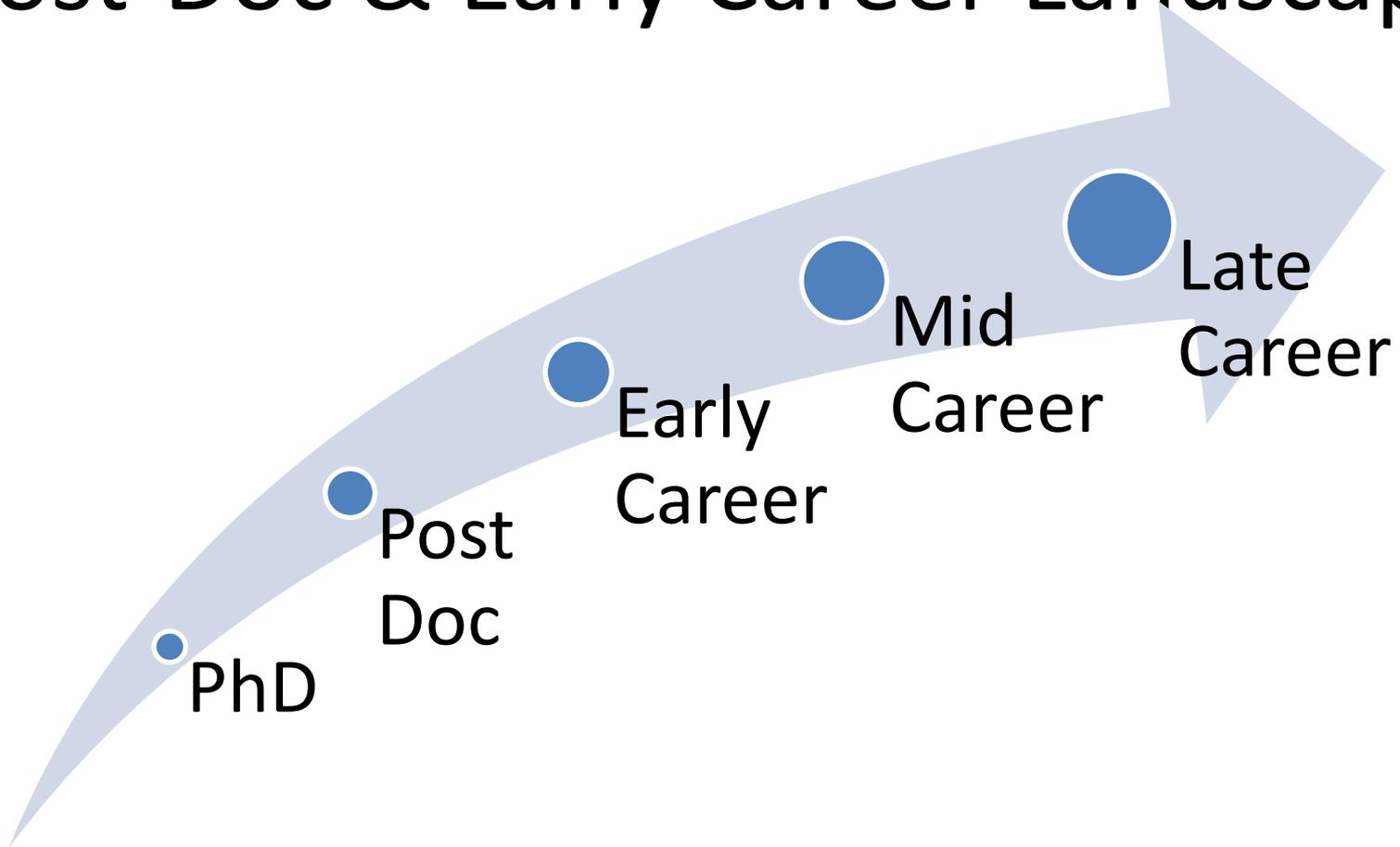


Flexible timing (before, during, or after training)

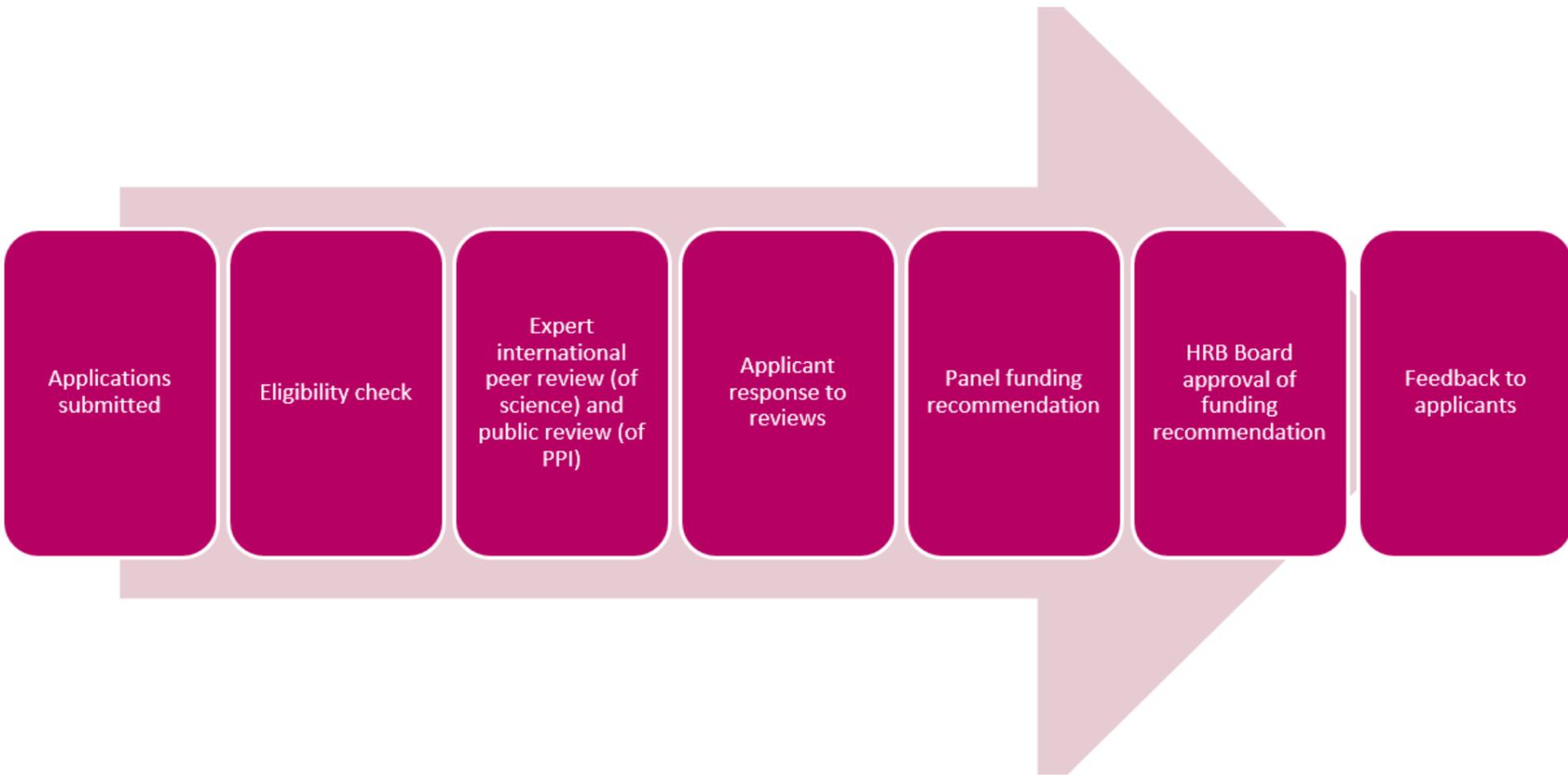


More open

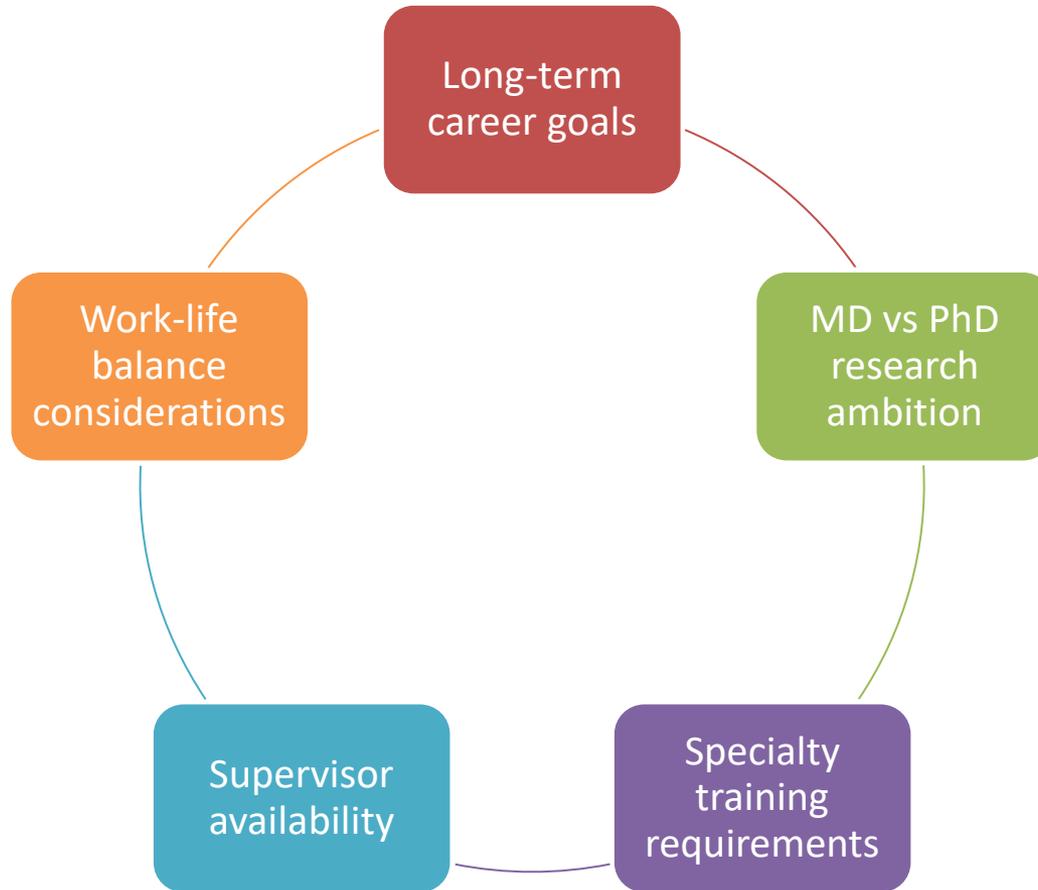
# Post-Doc & Early Career Landscape



# Post-Doc & Early Career Landscape



# Choosing Your Path



# Practical Next Steps



Identify

Identify mentors early



Explore

Explore ICAT/StAR/HRB calls



Plan

Plan research time



Develop

Develop academic CV