

Irish Association for Clinical Scientists

Recommendations for standardised qualifications to practice as a clinical scientist in Ireland

Recommendations to take effect from the 1st of January 2022 with an understanding that pre-existing appointments will have aggregate qualifications and experience based on prior service requirements. The standardized requirements for each grade are set against a timescale appropriate to allow new entrants and existing professionals to pursue qualifications necessary to secure promotion at later stages of their career.

We recommend the completion of a log book where one's qualifications and experience differ from, but are considered equivalent to, the minimum requirements for a particular role. A guideline log book format has been provided on the IACS webpage. Qualification to PhD level in a relevant speciality also fulfils the requirement for MSc where relevant.

We note that qualification in the field of cytogenetics is strongly based on experience and therefore experience in cytogenetics should be weighed more heavily than in other disciplines, for those appointed to promotional positions in this field for appointments prior to the deadlines for implementation of standardized qualifications.

Date approved by IACS council: 24/11/2021

IACS Recommended Trainee Clinical Scientist Qualifications

From 1st of January, 2022

Honours BSc in a biological science

IACS Recommended Basic Grade Clinical Scientist Qualifications

From 1st of January, 2026

Honours BSc in a biological science
Relevant MSc
2+ years clinical laboratory experience

Prior to 1st of January, 2026

Honours BSc in a biological science
2+ years laboratory experience in an equivalent role

Or

Honours BSc in a biological science
Relevant MSc

Or

Qualifications and experience equivalent to above*

*See above note regarding clinical laboratory experience in cytogenetics

IACS Recommended Senior Clinical Scientist Qualifications

From 1st of January, 2027

Honours MSc in a biological science
3+ years clinical laboratory experience

And

PhD and/or DipRCPATH

Prior to 1st of January, 2027

Honours BSc in a biological science
Relevant MSc
3+ years relevant clinical laboratory experience

Or

Qualifications and experience equivalent to above*

*See above note regarding clinical laboratory experience in cytogenetics

IACS Recommended Principal Clinical Scientist Qualifications

From 1st of January, 2028

Honours BSc in a biological science
7+ years clinical laboratory experience
PhD and/or FRCPATH

Prior to 1st of January, 2028

Honours BSc in a biological science
Relevant MSc
5+ years relevant clinical laboratory experience

Or

Qualifications and experience equivalent to above*

*See above note regarding experience in cytogenetics

IACS Recommended Chief Clinical Scientist Qualifications

From 1st of January, 2028

Honours BSc in a biological science
7+ years clinical laboratory experience
PhD and/or FRCPATH

Prior to 1st of January, 2028

Honours BSc in a biological science
PhD and/or FRCPATH
7+ years relevant clinical laboratory experience

Or

Qualifications and experience equivalent to above*

*See above note regarding experience in cytogenetics