



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

College of Medicine,
Nursing & Health Sciences

BSc Podiatric Medicine



www.nuigalway.ie/podiatry

What is Podiatric Medicine?

Podiatric Medicine is a branch of medicine devoted to the medical and surgical treatment of the foot, ankle and lower limb. A podiatrist is an autonomous clinician who specializes in the diagnosis, treatment and management of lower limb conditions. Podiatry can significantly improve peoples' quality of life by promoting and maintaining mobility. Therefore, podiatric medicine as a career can be extremely rewarding and fulfilling and can give immense job satisfaction.

Podiatrists work in a variety of settings in the public and private sectors. Podiatrists will treat patients of all age ranges and at all stages of life. The scope of practice of a podiatrist ranges from:

- Management of skin and nail pathologies
- Management of patients with diseases that can compromise the viability of the foot and lower limbs, e.g. diabetes, vascular disease, wound care.
- Musculoskeletal conditions
- Biomechanics and gait analysis
- Sports injuries
- Paediatrics
- Minor surgical procedures

Course Facts

Bachelor of Science (Podiatric Medicine)

College of Medicine, Nursing, & Health Sciences

CAO Code: GY504

Entry points (2016): 450

Entry requirements: Minimum grade HC3 in two subjects and passes in four other subjects at H or O Level in the Leaving Certificate including: Irish, English, another language, Mathematics, a laboratory science subject (i.e. Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physics with Chemistry (joint) or Agricultural Science) and any other subject recognised for entry purposes.

Additional requirements: Students must satisfy the Garda/Police Vetting and Medical Clearance requirements.

Duration: 4 years full time

A Level Grades: AAA & a (AS) or equivalent combination

Average intake: 25

Did you know?

NUI Galway is the only University in the Republic of Ireland to offer a course in Podiatric Medicine.

Our students undertake over 1000 hours of clinical placement during their training.

Our graduates have excellent employment rates in the public and private sectors both at home and abroad.



Course Outline

Our mission statement is:

“To develop caring, patient-centric, highly skilled honours graduates who are knowledgeable, innovative, autonomous and competent practitioners who apply a scientific and evidence-based approach to podiatric medicine.”

Programme Aims & Objectives

The B.Sc. (Hons.) Podiatric Medicine programme aims to:

- Provide a comprehensive, excellent, academic and clinical teaching programme with integration of theory into the clinical practice setting.
- To equip students with the necessary knowledge and clinical skills to meet national and international standards
- Provide a range of clinical placement opportunities within the public and private sectors; offering over 1000 hours of high quality clinical placements.
- Provide a student-centred supportive environment in which the students’ knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes are developed.
- Prepare students to anticipate, adapt, influence and respond to future changes in service delivery and encourage them to become future educators and leaders of the profession.
- Produce graduates who are reflective practitioners and have a strong ethos for continuous professional development and a firm commitment to life long learning.

The B.Sc. (Hons.) Podiatric Medicine programme is designed to educate and train those who wish to pursue a professional career in podiatry, as a health care professional, who specialises in the management of disease and disorder of the lower limb and foot. The Discipline is committed to providing a comprehensive education for podiatrists and the curriculum is based on best available evidence in relation to both theory and practice.

Clinical Placements

Clinical placements are a pivotal area of learning within the podiatric Medicine programme. Students are gradually introduced to clinical practice by use of simulated techniques and case exemplars. Onsite clinical placement and learning at Merlin Park Podiatry Clinic unite the theory with the ‘hands on’ practice education, facilitated by the academic and clinical teams. Clinical placements are integrated into each year of the programme, so that students will have the opportunity to put their knowledge into practice and develop their clinical skills.

The BSc Podiatric Medicine Curriculum

Year 1

- Podiatric Medicine 1
- Podiatric Dermatology
- Professional Development
- Redefining Health & Wellbeing
- Lower Limb Kinematics
- Human Body Structure
- Human Body Function
- Gross Anatomy of the Lower Limb

Year 2

- Podiatric Medicine 2
- Lower Extremity Wounds
- Functional Anatomy & Biomechanics
- Microbiology
- Endocrinology
- Applied Pathophysiology
- Evidence-based Practice
- Introduction to Pharmacology

Year 3

- Podiatric Medicine 3
- Medicine & Surgery
- Pharmacology in Health & Disease
- Research Methods & Design
- Biostatistics
- Health Promotion
- Podopaediatrics
- Podiatric Sports Medicine

Year 4

- Podiatric Medicine 4
- Research Dissertation
- Skills for Practice
- Working with Vulnerable Adults
- Contemporary Practice
- The High Risk Limb

The main aims of clinical education are:

- To apply knowledge, professional reasoning and professional behaviour within practice
- To promote professional competence
- To work as an effective team member
- To promote professional confidence
- To provide opportunities for students to integrate theoretical and practical learning

The clinical teaching programme involves experience with patients from various medical/surgical disciplines; this ensures a high level of quality practice education for students.

Career Opportunities

Podiatric Medicine is an interesting and broad career and graduates have a variety of employment opportunities at home and abroad. The Podiatric Medicine programme has been developed in response to a recognised need for podiatrists in Ireland and is the only course available in the Republic of Ireland. Graduates of the programme can work in a variety of settings, these include:

- Public hospitals- acute hospital services, specialist services e.g. diabetes, vascular.
- Private hospitals- specialist services e.g. orthopaedics
- Primary Care Centres
- GP Practices
- Nursing homes/ residential facilities
- Sports centres/ clubs
- Private practice
- Education
- Research

Graduates also have the option of studying a variety of programmes at postgraduate, Masters and PhD levels.

What our graduates say...



Aisling Phelan
Class of 2013

I am a Podiatry graduate of NUI Galway. I decided to start up my own business as a Podiatrist. When I began working for myself, it was a very steep learning curve for me. I used my revised business plan from

my 'Skills for Practice' final year assignment as a template for my business plan in reality. I invested money into equipment and began renting a room in a GP clinic. Every opportunity that came along I took. I started liaising with local GPs and slowly began to get patient referrals from them. I then started contacting the local nursing homes and day care centres, anywhere that may potentially have had patients to be seen by a Podiatrist. The first year was tough and business was slow. I learned that the best way to get more referrals is to treat patients well, with dignity and respect, laugh lots and appreciate each patient for who they are. They are your income, some become your friends. If you treat your patients the right way they will be your best source of marketing as the word will spread and business will grow. Here's to many more years of healthy business!

What our students say...



Molly Smith

Why did you choose podiatric medicine?

I worked in the Department of Health after leaving school and during this time I did a lot of research into different jobs in healthcare. After doing work experience in a private podiatry

practice and seeing the Podiatrist make such a difference to people's level of mobility I knew it was for me! It is a really new and exciting growth area in Ireland with great prospects at home and abroad. Podiatry also offers the opportunity to work in a public, community or private setting.

A typical week in the 3rd year of the course?

The mixture of lectures and clinic each week makes time fly. Modules include Podopaediatrics, Medicine and Surgery, Health Promotion, Pharmacology, Research Methods and Clinical Studies. There is an interdisciplinary learning series in Paediatrics which gives a really good overview of the paediatric patient. This year we undertake specialist clinics which are really interesting and enjoyable. They include Musculoskeletal, Vascular, Paediatrics, Diabetes, Wound Care, Rheumatology, Gait and Sports Clinics. There is plenty of time outside of this for study, socialising and engaging in clubs and societies.

What do you like about the course?

The combination of lectures and clinical placement keeps it interesting. The class numbers are small so you make good friends and the staff are really helpful and approachable. It's great being able to apply the theory I've learnt in college to clinical practice. Most patients really appreciate the service and are full of chat! The guest lecturers are excellent and there are opportunities to go abroad on placement in fourth year.

What advice would you give to others thinking about studying podiatry?

As with choosing any course it is important to do your research. The internet is a great resource full of information. If you get the chance do work experience even for a day do it. All the staff and students in the Discipline of Podiatric Medicine are very friendly and would be happy to answer any of your questions.

Discipline of Podiatric Medicine
School of Health Sciences

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