

Admissions Policy

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1.0 Background

The Irish Red Cross adheres to PHECC entry criteria stated in the Education and Training Standards for all Responder courses. Eligibility criteria include age and prior experience. The Irish Red Cross criteria for admission to courses may differ depending on whether the applicant is a member or external commercial student. This policy relates to the admission onto the PHECC responder and practitioner courses.

2.0 Purpose

This policy aims to ensure a fair, transparent, and consistent admission/selection process for PHECC courses.

Students can make informed decisions about the programmes they are entering. All students entering IRC responder programmes must agree to complete registration forms including their email address which is now a requirement for PHECC eCertification. The Irish Red Cross aims to provide equal opportunities for all applicants, regardless of background.

1.2 Reasonable Accommodation

Students who require support should identify their requirements at time of application. In the case of Responder courses, assistance with additional coloured notes, additional time for assessments or facilitating a reader may be required.

Students who require additional support for practitioner programmes must provide evidence of an Educational Psychology report. This is required to be uploaded in advance of completing the Pre-hospital Emergency Care Councils multiple choice examinations.

The Irish Red Cross sets out guidelines for reasonable accommodations in their Student Support Policy and may also consult the Dawn Handbook which sets out guidelines for teaching students with disabilities.

1.3 General Right to refuse Admission

The Irish Red Cross ensures that courses are conducted with courtesy and respect.

Inappropriate behaviour towards any members or faculty will not be tolerated and viewed seriously.

If such behaviour is deemed to be unacceptable in accordance with IRC values and commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, or any other relevant policy, the IRC reserves the right to reject an applicant, withdraw an offer and/or discontinue correspondence during any part of the application process.

2.0 Admission onto CFR courses

CFR Community course has minimal entry requirements other than a participant should be mature enough to comprehend the knowledge, skills and implications associated with defibrillation.

Entry onto a CFR Advanced course additionally requires a background in healthcare or related fields. The CFR Advanced level is aimed at persons who may be working or volunteering in the emergency medical services, fire and rescue services or a healthcare professional working in healthcare facilities or in the community.

2.1 Admission onto FAR Courses

FAR community course has minimal entry requirements other than a course participant should be mature enough to comprehend the knowledge, skills and implications associated with defibrillation and have a maturity to complete the assessment to receive certification. The Irish Red Cross recommend a minimum age of 16 years.

2.2 Admission onto Emergency First Responder Courses

The Emergency First Responder course entry requirement is completion of the CFR or CFRA advanced courses prior to commencing the programme. It is aimed at persons who may be working or volunteering in the emergency medical services, fire and rescue services or industrial settings. Further course entry requirements are outlined in the Student Handbook.

Irish Red Cross Members who want to develop their pre-hospital care skills may gain access if there are available course dates and venues, pending enough candidates and faculty. Courses can only be confirmed once the nomination process has concluded.

Members must be nominated jointly by the Branch and Area Director of Units. Public course may be run based on the need of the provider and enough students are available to make the course commercially viable.

2.3 Admission onto Emergency Medical Technician programmes

Admission onto the Irish Red Cross EMT course is open to members who are interested in expanding their medical knowledge and skills base and delivering care to members of the public at a higher clinical level. Course dates and venues are pending sufficient numbers of candidates and faculty and can therefore only be confirmed once the nomination process has concluded. Members must be nominated jointly by the Branch and Area Director of Units following an interview process.

Should a member not complete the course or be unsuccessful in their PHECC Examination, a nomination can be re-submitted for the member to complete the EMT Course again. Members may be admitted to the EMT Course a maximum of 3 times.

A bridging course is not available within the Irish Red Cross.



There are additional entry requirements for members wishing to access the EMT course. These include Aged 18 years and over, being a current EFR with a minimum of 40 duty hours, Current CFR-A certification, current IRC membership, completion of Garda Vetting and Safeguarding, Patient Handling, Radio Procedures, CISM Training, Hepatitis B Vaccination, Covid 19 Vaccination, complete an Introduction to Children First Training, donning and doffing PPE in an acute healthcare setting (hseland), successful nomination and authorisation by ADU and Branch/Area.

Entry criteria are listed in the Student Handbook.

Related Documents

- [IRC Student Support Policy](#)
- [IRC Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#)
- [Student Handbook](#)
- [Code of Conduct in Education Policy](#)