

# Regulatory Functions



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh

Regulating Health + Social Care Professionals

## What are the regulatory functions of CORU?



### How does CORU regulate Health and Social Care Professionals?

CORU protects the public by regulating health and social care professionals in Ireland. It does this by setting standards for professional practice and by maintaining statutory registers that control who can practise using a protected professional title.

Being registered with CORU means that a professional has met the required standards for education, competence, and ethical practice, and is subject to ongoing regulation while they remain on the register.

CORU's regulatory role operates at different stages of a professional's career. These stages - and the different regulatory functions associated with them - are represented on CORU's Regulatory Wheel.

### Regulation Across a Professional's Career

There are two key stages in the relationship between every professional and his or her regulator:

- Joining the Register
- When the professional is on the register and practising as a regulated professional

### Joining the Register

Some regulatory functions apply when a professional is applying to join a register. These ensure that only individuals who meet required standards can enter a regulated profession. This includes checking qualifications, assessing applications for registration, and approving education and training programmes.

### Once on the Register

Other regulatory functions apply once a professional is registered. These focus on maintaining professional standards and protecting the public while a professional is practising. This includes setting codes of professional conduct and ethics, ensuring ongoing continuing professional development and taking action where concerns are raised about a registrant's fitness to practise.

### Public Protection at the Centre

Public protection is at the centre of everything CORU does. The register, together with the regulatory functions that control entry to it and apply throughout a professional's practice, operate as a single system designed to protect service users and promote trust in regulated professions.

Regulation is an ongoing process, supporting safe, ethical, and professional care throughout a professional's career.

Only professionals listed on a CORU register may use a protected professional title and legally practise in that profession.

Each Registration Board maintains a register for every profession regulated by CORU. These registers are publicly accessible and can be searched by anyone to confirm that a practitioner is officially registered. By checking the registers, members of the public can be assured that the professionals they engage with are properly qualified, competent, and accountable.





Scan the QR code to access CORU's suite of Regulatory Essentials resources.



## Joining the Register

### Criteria Education & Training Programmes

These criteria set out what education providers must deliver so that students gain the knowledge, skills and professional attributes required for safe practice.

### Approval & Monitoring of Education and Training Programmes

CORU approves and monitors education and training programmes to ensure they properly prepare graduates for safe and effective professional practice.

### Approved Qualifications

Qualifications from approved programmes are formally listed, allowing graduates who hold them to apply to join the register.

### Standards of Proficiency for Entry to a Register

These standards define the minimum knowledge and skills a professional must have to practise safely at the point of registration.

### Registration

Individuals apply to join a register through the standard registration route, which applies to new graduates, internationally qualified applicants, and professionals returning to practice. A transitional registration route is also available for a limited period when a register first opens, allowing existing practitioners to apply based on prior professional practice.

### Recognition of International Applicants

CORU assesses applicants who hold qualifications awarded outside Ireland to ensure they meet the standards to practice safely and competently in Ireland.

## On the Register

Once a professional is registered, CORU regulates their practice to protect the public and maintain professional standards.

### Enforcement of Professional Title

Only registered professionals may use protected titles, helping the public identify qualified and regulated practitioners.

### Guidance

CORU provides guidance to support safe, ethical and high quality professional practice.

### Complaints

Concerns about a registrant's conduct, health or performance can be examined, with public protection as the primary focus.

### Code of Professional Conduct & Ethics

All registrants must meet professional and ethical standards that guide how they practise and how they engage with service users, colleagues and the public.

### Continuing Professional Development

Registrants must keep their knowledge and skills up to date through ongoing learning. Registration Boards carry out checks to ensure CPD requirements are met.