

Pre-Registration Honours
Degree Programmes **2018**

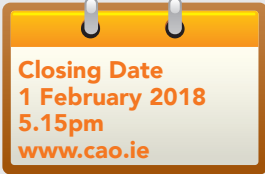
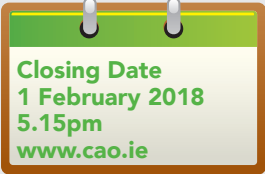

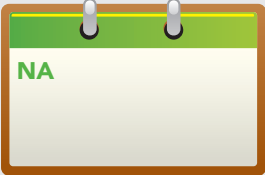


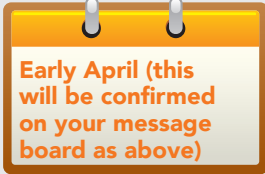
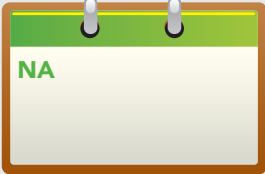
Nursing/ Midwifery

A career for you



Bord Altranais agus
Cnáimhseachais na hÉireann
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland

Key Dates for all applicants to nursing and midwifery programmes

| | Mature Applicant | Standard Applicant |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Application to CAO |  <p>Closing Date 1 February 2018 5.15pm www.cao.ie</p> |  <p>Closing Date 1 February 2018 5.15pm www.cao.ie</p> |
| Application to PAS |  <p>2 February – 22 February 2018 www.PublicJobs.ie</p> |  <p>NA</p> |
| Invitation to test – time and venue |  <p>Check your message board on www.PublicJobs.ie by 24 March 2018</p> |  <p>NA</p> |
| Test |  <p>Early April (this will be confirmed on your message board as above)</p> |  <p>NA</p> |

For further information please visit
www.NMBI.ie/Careers-in-Nursing-Midwifery
or email: CareersInformation@NMBI.ie

| | Mature Applicant | Standard Applicant |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Late Application to CAO | <p>Closing Date 1 May 2018 5.15pm¹ www.cao.ie</p> | <p>Closing Date 1 May 2018 5.15pm¹ www.cao.ie</p> |
| Change of Mind | <p>Beginning of May – 1 July² 2018 5.15pm</p> | <p>Beginning of May – 1 July 2018 5.15pm</p> |
| Results of Test | <p>Check your message board on www.PublicJobs.ie in early June 2018</p> | <p>NA</p> |
| Offers | <p>From CAO – early July</p> | <p>FET – Early August Round 1 – Mid August</p> |

1 Not available for applications to the Adelaide School of Nursing.

2 Not available to mature applicants who have not sat the assessment test in the current year.

This publication, *Nursing/Midwifery A career for you*, is primarily aimed at those wishing to apply for the pre-registration honours degree programmes in:

- Children's and General Nursing (Integrated)
- General Nursing
- Intellectual Disability Nursing
- Midwifery
- Psychiatric Nursing (also called Mental Health Nursing in some HEIs)

It is important to note that changes may occur to any of the contents of this publication.

Updates to this publication (for example, additional places) may be viewed on our website www.NMBI.ie/Careers-in-Nursing-Midwifery and on the CAO website www.cao.ie

The onus is on each applicant to check the website, and with the HEIs and the CAO for any changes regarding the competition.

If you have any questions about nursing and midwifery careers that are not answered in this booklet or on our website, then please email us at CareersInformation@NMBI.ie

Abbreviations used in this publication

| | | | |
|--------|---|----------|--|
| CAO: | Central Applications Office | NUIG: | National University of Ireland Galway |
| DARE: | Disability Access Route to Education | PAS: | Public Appointment Services |
| DCU: | Dublin City University | QQI: | Quality and Qualifications Ireland |
| HEAR: | Higher Education Access Route | RCSI: | Royal College of Surgeons Ireland |
| HEI: | Higher Education Institution | Trinity: | Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin |
| IT: | Institute of Technology | UCC: | University College Cork |
| IUQB: | Irish Universities Quality Board | UCD: | University College Dublin |
| NMBI: | Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland | UL: | University of Limerick |
| NMPDU: | Nursing & Midwifery Planning & Development Unit | | |

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Website: www.NMBl.ie/Careers-in-Nursing-Midwifery

Central Applications Office (CAO)

Tower House
Eglinton Street
Galway
Eircode: H91 X25V
Tel: (091) 509800
Fax: (091) 562344
Website: www.cao.ie

Public Appointments Service (PAS)

Chapter House
26-30 Abbey Street Upper
Dublin1
Eircode: D01 C7W6
Tel: (01) 858 7400
Email: maturecode18@publicjobs.ie
Website: www.PublicJobs.ie

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NURSING AND MIDWIFERY BOARD OF IRELAND (NMBI)

NMBI, formerly An Bord Altranais, is the independent, statutory organisation which regulates the nursing and midwifery professions in Ireland. The legal obligation of the Board is to protect the public in its dealing with nurses and midwives and the integrity of the practice of nursing and midwifery through the promotion of high standards of professional education, training and practice and professional conduct among nurses and midwives.

One way in which NMBI safeguards the public is by keeping a register of all registered nurses and registered midwives in Ireland. It is illegal to practice in Ireland as a nurse or a midwife unless you are on the NMBI register. NMBI also maintains an additional register called the Candidate Register. All students who commence an education programme in nursing or midwifery (pre-registration and post registration) must be on this register.

The term 'candidate' refers to:

- *Undergraduate students who are completing nursing and midwifery programmes in Ireland leading to registration with NMBI.*
 - *Postgraduate students who are completing nursing and midwifery programmes in Ireland that lead to further registration with NMBI.*
 - *Applicants who trained outside Ireland and are completing an adaptation and assessment/aptitude.*
-

Candidate Register

In preparation for the professional dimension of the programme, a student will be required, within 30 days of commencing the programme, to have her/his name entered on the Candidate Register of NMBI. Refer to www.NMBI.ie/Registration/Candidates for more details.

Careers function within NMBI

Under the Nurses and Midwives Act 2011, Section 85 (8) the Board's duties in relation to careers is as follows:

“the Board shall, in consultation with the Health Service Executive and such other appropriate bodies as the Board thinks fit, make available career information on nursing and midwifery, including information on education and training.”

NMBI provides information on careers to three important populations. Firstly, to those who are interested in becoming a nurse or a midwife, such as second level leaving certificate students, post leaving certificate students or mature applicants. Secondly, we provide information to those who have already completed their education and training and following registration as a registered nurse or registered midwife are now considering future career pathways that exist within the professions. The final group consists of relevant stakeholders who are involved in the education, training, support and counselling of these groups, such as lecturers, guidance counsellors, staff at health care agencies and parents.

In this booklet, you will come across different terms to describe the nursing and midwifery programmes (courses) that are available. These terms mean:

- **Higher Education Institutions (HEIs):**
These are the universities/colleges where the programmes are delivered. There are 13 HEIs across the country that deliver undergraduate nursing and midwifery programmes (see pages 14-15 for list).
- **Pre-registration education programme (undergraduate):**
This is a 4 year honours degree programme (4.5 years for Integrated) that upon successful completion, will lead to registration in one of the divisions of the register held by NMBI and allows you to legally practice as a registered nurse or midwife in Ireland (see pages 14-15 for list).
- **Post registration education programme:**
This is any programme that is completed following successful completion of an undergraduate programme as a registered nurse or midwife. Some of these programmes can lead to additional registration (see section 9) or may be further education in an area you wish to specialise in. NMBI maintains a database of all courses it has approved and you can access these on our website www.NMBI.ie/Education/post-registration-courses.
- **Category 1 Courses:**
NMBI also maintains a database of over 1,000 NMBI approved shorter and online courses for the nursing and midwifery professions. They are often referred to as Category 1 courses and can earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) once completed. To get more information about these courses please visit www.NMBI.ie/Education/Short-Courses-Online

SECTION 1

Nursing And Midwifery – An Overview

This section provides you with an overview of nursing and midwifery and the core values of the professions. Whilst this will help you get a better understanding about nursing and midwifery, we have also developed a tool that will assist you in deciding if you would be suitable to a career in nursing or midwifery.

Nursing

Nursing encompasses autonomous and collaborative care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or well and in all settings. Nursing includes the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and the care of ill, disabled people and those requiring end of life care. Advocacy, promotion of a safe environment, research, participation in shaping health policy and in patient and health systems management, and education are also key nursing roles (International Council of Nurses, 2010).

Midwifery

The definition of a midwife adapted from the International Confederation of Midwives' (ICM, 2011) and adopted by NMBI is:

"a person who has successfully completed a midwifery education programme that is duly recognised in the country where it is located; who has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practise midwifery and use the title 'midwife'; and who demonstrates competency in the practice of midwifery."

She/he must be able to give the necessary supervision, care and advice to women during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period, to conduct deliveries on her/his own responsibility and to care for the newborn and infant.

This care includes preventative measures, the detection of abnormal conditions in mother and child, the procurement of medical assistance and the extension of emergency measures in the absence of medical help.

She/he has an important task in health counselling and education, not only for women but also within the family and the community.

The work should involve antenatal education and preparation for parenthood and extends to certain areas of gynaecology, family planning and child care.

She/he may practise in clinics, health units, and domiciliary conditions or in any other service.

Core Values of Nursing and Midwifery

Three core values Compassion, Care and Commitment inform decision-making by guiding each nurse and midwife to deliver safe and effective care. Compassionate nursing and midwifery practice is characterised by an appreciation, sensitivity, gentleness, and deep concern that demonstrates an understanding of the person. Care is the essence of nursing and midwifery practice and is defined as a cluster of practices performed competently. Commitment is associated with professional courage to do the right thing for people (Department of Health, Office of the Chief Nursing Officer, Position Paper One, Values for Nurses and Midwives in Ireland, June 2016).

Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice - For Registered Nurses and Midwives

The scope of nursing and midwifery practice in the Republic of Ireland is the range of roles, functions, responsibilities and activities that a nurse/midwife is educated, competent, and has authority to perform. Scope of practice for nurses and midwives is determined by legislation, European Union (EU) directives, international developments, social policy, national and local guidelines, education and the individual practitioner's levels of competence.

Competence is the attainment of knowledge, intellectual capacities, practice skills, integrity and professional and ethical values required for safe, accountable and effective practice as a registered nurse or registered midwife

NMBI published a Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework (NMBI, 2015), the purpose of which is to provide nurses and midwives with professional guidance and support on matters relating to the scope of their clinical practice. It incorporates a flowchart to help nurses and midwives to define and make decisions about their own scope of practice.

Nursing and midwifery practice is underpinned by values that guide the way in which nursing or midwifery care is delivered.

The Framework along with the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives (the Code) describes the key values for the professions. These include:

- *Nursing and midwifery care combine art and science. This care is holistic in nature, grounded in an understanding of the social, emotional, cultural, spiritual, psychological and physical experiences of patients, and is based upon the best available research and experiential evidence.*
- *Fundamental to nursing practice is the therapeutic relationship between the nurse and the patient that is based on open communication, trust, understanding, compassion and kindness and serves to empower the patient to make life choices.*

- *Fundamental to midwifery practice is the provision of safe, competent, kind and compassionate care which is informed by the best available evidence, the midwife's own expertise and the experiences, preferences and values of the woman.*
- *The primary motivation for practice must be for the overall benefit and needs of patients by respecting their dignity and rights, and by promoting and maintaining patient safety and providing quality healthcare.*
- *Nursing and midwifery practice must always be based on the principles of professional conduct stated in the latest edition of the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives (NMBl, 2014).*

To read the Framework and the Code please refer to our website
www.NMBl.ie/Standards-Guidance

Are you suitable to a career in nursing or midwifery?

The Public Appointments Service (PAS) has developed a self-assessment questionnaire for prospective nursing and midwifery students. The questionnaire will assist both second level students and mature applicants to establish if their interests, abilities and expectations match the role of a student nurse or midwife.

To view the QST, go to:
www.NMBl.ie/Careers-in-Nursing-Midwifery

SECTION 2

Pre-Registration Honours Degree Programmes

Programmes leading to Registration with NMBI

There is a total of 44 pre-registration honours degree programmes in Ireland. These programmes are divided into 5 different disciplines and each leads to a specific registration (see table below). The 5 disciplines are: Children's and General (Integrated); General Nursing; Intellectual Disability Nursing; Psychiatric Nursing and Midwifery. All 44 programmes are Honours Bachelor's Degree programmes at level 8 on the NFQ. The academic award is Bachelor of Science (BSc).

Number of Programmes and Places

The total number of places on the 44 programmes is 1830. The number of places was increased in 2016 to 1630 (Psychiatric Nursing was allocated an extra 60 places). The number of places was increased again for the 2017 intake, with an additional 200 places being allocated to nursing courses.

Please note: the allocation of places within each of the healthcare agencies was not concluded at the time of going to press. Hence the numbers provided for below and on pages 14 and 15 do not include the extra 200 places. Please go to our website www.nmbi.ie/Careers-in-Nursing-Midwifery for up to date details on the allocation of places for 2017.

| Programme Title | Duration | Leading to Registration | Number of programmes | Number of places | Quota of places for mature applicants* | Number of HEIs | Number of main healthcare agencies |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--|----------------------|------------------|--|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Children's and General (Integrated) | 4.5 yrs | Registered Children's Nurse (RCN) and Registered General Nurse (RGN) | 4 | 100 | 15% | 4 | 4 |
| General Nursing | 4 yrs | Registered General Nurse (RGN) | 14 | 860 | 15% | 13 | 22 |
| Intellectual Disability Nursing | 4 yrs | Registered Nurse Intellectual Disability (RNID) | 8 | 180 | 35% | 8 | 10 |

| Programme Title | Duration | Leading to Registration | Number of programmes | Number of places | Quota of places for mature applicants* | Number of HEIs | Number of main healthcare agencies |
|----------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|--|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Midwifery | 4 yrs | Registered Midwife (RM) | 6 | 140 | 20% | 6 | 7 |
| Psychiatric Nursing ¹ | 4 yrs | Registered Psychiatric Nurse (RPN) | 12 | 350 | 35% | 12 | 14 |

* This is a dynamic quota and it may vary.

¹ This is also called Mental Health Nursing in some HEIs.

Pre-registration Honours Degree Programmes in Nursing and Midwifery

The table on the next page gives details of the 13 HEIs offering the 44 pre-registration honours degree programmes, together with the associated main healthcare agencies, and the number of places per programme. The healthcare agencies are where you will complete the clinical part of the programme.

Although the main associated healthcare agencies are listed, it should be noted that other healthcare agencies may also be used for clinical placements. Such healthcare agencies may be a considerable distance from those listed in the table. Contact the HEIs for further details.

In the situation where more than one healthcare agency associated with a HEI has the same course code, the allocation to clinical placements will be decided locally. Check with the HEI concerned.

It is essential to use the correct course code when making an application.

Check CAO website for any changes to programme details.

In relation to the Children's and General (Integrated) nursing programmes, the table only indicates the children's healthcare agencies concerned. Clinical placements for General Nursing will be allocated by the general healthcare agencies associated with the HEI.

Please refer to our website for full details of all approved nursing and midwifery courses www.NMBI.ie/Education/Undergraduate-programmes

| No. HEI | Healthcare Agencies | Places | Course | |
|---------|---|--|----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Athlone IT (090) 646 8000 Dublin City University (01) 700 5000 | HSE Midland Area General Nursing Services HSE Midland Area Psychiatric Nursing Services Children's University Hospital Temple Street Beaumont Hospital, Beaumont, Dublin 9 Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 | 35 20 30 68 19 | General Psychiatric Children's & General (Integrated) General |
| 2 | | St Joseph's Intellectual Disability Services, Portrane, County Dublin Daughters of Charity Intellectual Disability Services, Dublin North Dublin Mental Health Services, HSE Dublin North City Mental Health Services, HSE St Vincent's Hospital, Fairview | 15 25 22 22 21 | Intellectual Disability Psychiatric Psychiatric Psychiatric |
| 3 | Dundalk IT (042) 937 0200 | HSE Dublin North East, General Nursing Services St John of God North East Services, and HSE, Dublin North East, Intellectual Disability Services | 40 20 | General Intellectual Disability |
| 4 | Galway-Mayo IT (094) 902 5700 | HSE Dublin North East and North West, Maternity Services HSE Dublin North East, Mental Health Services Mayo General Hospital, Castlebar | 20 20 25 25 | Midwifery Psychiatric General Psychiatric |
| 5 | IT Tralee (066) 714 5600 | HSE Western Area Psychiatric Nursing Services, Mayo University Hospital, Kerry | 20 50 | General General |
| 6 | Letterkenny IT (074) 918 6000 | HSE Southern Psychiatric Nursing Services Letterkenny General Hospital, County Donegal Intellectual Disability Services, Donegal | 20 25 15 | Psychiatric General Intellectual Disability |
| 7 | NUIG (091) 524411 | Donegal & Sligo/Leitrim Mental Health Services Galway University Hospitals Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe, County Galway University College Hospital Galway | 25 25 47 13 20 | Psychiatric General General Midwifery |
| 8 | St Angela's College (071) 914 7285 | HSE West Psychiatric Nursing Services Sligo Regional Hospital HSE Cregg Services, Sligo | 20 30 15 | Psychiatric General Intellectual Disability |

| | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 9 | Trinity (01) 896 1000 | The National Children's Hospital, Tallaght, Dublin 24 Adelaide Hospital, Tallaght, Dublin 24 Meath Hospital, Tallaght, Dublin 24 St James's Hospital, Dublin 8 Muiriosa Foundation, Moore Abbey, Monasterevin, County Kildare Stewart's Care Services Limited, Palmerstown, Dublin 20 Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital, Dublin 8 Rotunda Hospital, Dublin 1 HSE South & West Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow, Mental Health Services St Patrick's Mental Health Services, James's Street, Dublin 8 Cork University Hospital | 20 33 33 73 15 15 20 20 36 17 | Children's & General (Integrated) General General Intellectual Disability Midwifery Psychiatric Children's & General (Integrated) |
| 10 | UCC (021) 490 3000 | Bons Secours Hospital, Cork Cork University Hospital Mercy University Hospital, Cork South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital, Cork COPE Foundation, Cork HSE South, Cork University Maternity Hospital HSE South, Psychiatric Nursing Services Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Dublin 12 Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin 7 St Vincents Healthcare Group, Dublin 4 National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street, Dublin 2 St John of God Hospital, Stillorgan, County Dublin and HSE HSE Mid Western Region General Nursing Services Daughters of Charity, St Vincent's Centre, Lisnagry, County Limerick University Maternity Hospital Limerick HSE Mid Western Region Psychiatric Nursing Services HSE South Eastern Region General Nursing Services HSE South Eastern Region & Voluntary Intellectual Disability Nursing Services HSE South Eastern Region Psychiatric Nursing Services | 20 19 53 23 15 20 20 36 17 | Children's & General (Integrated) General General Intellectual Disability Midwifery Psychiatric Children's & General (Integrated) |
| 11 | UCD (01) 716 6407 | | 20 20 25 30 68 96 | Intellectual Disability Midwifery Psychiatric Children's & General (Integrated) General |
| 12 | UL (061) 202700 | | 20 20 50 20 20 | Midwifery Psychiatric General Intellectual Disability Midwifery |
| 13 | Waterford IT (051) 302000 | | 25 45 20 35 | Psychiatric General Intellectual Disability Psychiatric |

Purpose of the programmes

Nursing

The purpose of the registration education programme is to ensure that on successful completion of the programme the graduate is equipped with the knowledge, understanding, professional attributes and skills necessary to practise as a competent and professional nurse. The overarching aim of the programme is to ensure that the graduate acquires the competences for critical analysis, problem-solving, decision-making, collaborative team-working, leadership, professional scholarship, effective interpersonal communication and reflection that are essential to the art and science of nursing.

Midwifery

The purpose of midwife registration education programmes is to equip midwifery students with the necessary knowledge and skills and professional behaviours (ICM, 2013) to practise as a competent midwife capable of autonomously carrying out all of the activities of a midwife as set out in the EU Directive (2005/36/EC).

A student engaging in a Pre-Registration Honours Degree Programme is required to observe standards of conduct and behaviour commensurate with the requirements of NMBI to enter the nursing/midwifery profession. Additionally while on clinical placement, students are required to adhere to local policies and requirements.

Programme Structure

Having regard for the Directive (2005/36/EC), a minimum number of hours/weeks in theoretical and clinical instruction must be successfully completed by the student before he/she can apply to register as a nurse or midwife with NMBI.

NMBI Total Requirements of the Programmes

| Practice Instruction | General, Intellectual Disability, Psychiatric and Midwifery | Children and General (Integrated) |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Essential Requirements of the Programme</i> | <i>Number of weeks</i> | <i>Number of weeks</i> |
| Theoretical instruction | 63 weeks | 75 weeks |
| Clinical instruction | 45 weeks | 59 weeks |
| Internship* | 36 weeks | 36 weeks |
| Total | 144 weeks | 170 weeks |

* Inclusive of annual leave.

Following any interruption* in the educational programme the higher education institution in partnership with the health care institutions must ensure that the student meets the programme requirements.

Students undertaking the registration education programme have supernumerary status during the programme with the exception of a final placement of 36 weeks internship, which consolidates the completed theoretical component of the programme.

The 36 week rostered clinical placement (internship) takes place during the fourth year and the student will receive a salary (see page 24). Normal third level college holidays do not apply during the internship year.

For full details of the programme structure, contact the relevant HEI.

| Nursing Programmes enable the student to: | Midwifery Programmes enable the student to: |
|--|---|
| <p>Acquire the knowledge, professional values and discipline specific competences to fulfil the role of the Registered Nurse to deliver safe, high quality, compassionate, ethical, legal and accountable practice across the life spectrum and in diverse health care settings.</p> | <p>Protect and promote the safety and autonomy of the woman and respect her experiences, choices, priorities, beliefs and values.</p> |
| <p>Demonstrate knowledge, clinical skills and professional behaviours that are underpinned by the Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework (NMBI, 2015) and the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurse and Registered Midwives (NMBI, 2014).</p> | <p>Protect and promote the normal physiological process of birth.</p> <p>Practise in line with legislation and professional guidance and be responsible and accountable within their scope of midwifery practice. This encompasses the full range of activities of the midwife as set out in the Directive (2005/36/EC) and the adapted Definition of the Midwife (ICM, 2011) as adopted by NMBI.</p> |
| <p>Practise as a competent Registered Nurse to assess, plan, prioritise, deliver and evaluate nursing care based on a comprehensive and systematic assessment of health and nursing needs in consultation with the person receiving such care, their representative and the multi-disciplinary team.</p> | <p>Use comprehensive knowledge, skills and professional behaviours to provide safe, competent, kind, compassionate and respectful care to women and their babies before pregnancy, during pregnancy, labour and birth and the postnatal period as identified in the Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice (NMBI, 2015).</p> |
| | <p>Work in equal partnership with the woman and her family and establish a relationship of trust and confidentiality.</p> |

* Any leave (other than annual leave and bank holidays) including sick leave, force majeure leave, parental leave, compassion leave and special leave.

Nursing Programmes enable the student to:

Apply theoretical principles to the practice of nursing using professional judgement, critical reasoning, problem-solving and reflection derived from an evidence base of nursing and from the applied life, health and social sciences.

Deliver person-centred, high quality and safe nursing care based on a collaborative relationship with a person receiving such care, that respects her/his dignity, autonomy, self-determination and rights to make health and life choices across the health spectrum.

Demonstrate skills of effective communication, delegation, inter-professional liaison and team working to promote the quality and safety of the health care environment.

Maintain competence to develop and enhance the capacity for self-awareness, reflective practice, leadership and professional scholarship.

Apply evidence from an appraisal of research studies relevant to the division of nursing to the practice of nursing.

Midwifery Programmes enable the student to:

Communicate and collaborate effectively with women, women's families and with the multidisciplinary healthcare team.

Identify, promote and support healthy lifestyle choices that enhance the health and wellbeing of the woman, fetus and baby.

Use skills of reflection to maintain and enhance midwifery practice.

Recognise deviations from the norm in childbirth, take appropriate and corrective actions (that may include referral and the need to escalate care) and provide emergency care to women and their babies when required within their scope of midwifery practice.

Competencies

Competence is understood as the attainment of knowledge, intellectual capacities, practice skills, integrity and professional and ethical values required for safe, accountable and effective practice as a registered nurse or registered midwife.

The competencies for entry to the nurses division and the midwives division of the Register maintained by NMBI are clearly aligned with the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives (NMBI, 2014). All domains of competence outlined below represent the level the graduate must reach on completion of the education programme, for entry to the Register.

Nursing

The student nurse will be required to have achieved competence in the following domains of practice:

1: Professional values and conduct of the nurse competences

Knowledge and appreciation of the virtues of caring, compassion, integrity, honesty, respect and empathy as a basis for upholding the professional values of nursing and identity as a nurse.

2: Nursing practice and clinical decision making competences

Knowledge and understanding of the principles of delivering safe and effective nursing care through the adoption of a systematic and problem-solving approach to developing and delivering a person-centred plan of care based on an explicit partnership with the person and his/her primary carer.

3: Knowledge and cognitive competences

Knowledge and understanding of the health continuum, life and behavioural sciences and their applied principles that underpin a competent knowledge base for nursing and healthcare practice.

4: Communication and interpersonal competences

Knowledge, appreciation and development of empathic communication skills and techniques for effective interpersonal relationships with people and other professionals in health care settings.

5: Management and team competences

Using management and team competences in working for the person's wellbeing, recovery, independence and safety through recognition of the collaborative partnership between the person, family and multidisciplinary health care team.

6: Leadership and professional scholarship competences

Developing professional scholarship through self-directed learning skills, critical questioning/reasoning skills and decision-making skills in nursing as the foundation for lifelong professional education, maintaining competency and career development.

Midwifery*

The student midwife will be required to have achieved competence in the following domains of practice:

- 1.** The midwife's practice is underpinned by a philosophy that protects and promotes the safety and autonomy of the woman and respects her experiences, choices, priorities, beliefs and values.
- 2.** The midwife practises in line with legislation and professional guidance and is responsible and accountable within their scope of midwifery practice. This encompasses the full range of activities of the midwife as set out in the Directive (2005/36/EC) and the adapted Definition of the Midwife (ICM, 2011) as adopted by NMBI.
- 3.** The midwife uses comprehensive knowledge, skills and professional behaviours to provide safe, competent, kind, compassionate and respectful care. The midwife keeps up to date with current midwifery practice by undertaking relevant continuing professional development.
- 4.** The midwife works in equal partnership with the woman and her family and establishes a relationship of trust and confidentiality.
- 5.** The midwife communicates and collaborates effectively with women, women's families and with the multidisciplinary healthcare team.

* The competencies for entry to the Midwives Division of the Register are based upon the Practice Standards for Midwives (NMBI, 2015).

SECTION 3

Making an Application

Applying to the CAO

Application through the CAO can be done either on-line (www.cao.ie) or paper. Before completing the application form, an applicant should carefully study the literature of the HEI/s and the CAO Handbook 2018 and any subsequent changes to these documents. If an applicant has any queries regarding her/his eligibility to be considered for a place on a nursing or midwifery programme, she/he is advised to consult the literature of the HEI/s and contact the admission office of the HEI/s. All the courses on the CAO Application Form are categorised as:

- Level 8, which includes NURSING AND MIDWIFERY
- Level 7 & Level 6

Up to 10 Nursing and Midwifery course codes may be chosen in Level 8 category, listed in order of preference.

Course Codes

Each nursing/midwifery programme has an identifying course code. Since 2017, all applicants use the same course codes.

A **Standard Applicant** is an applicant who is applying on the basis of examination results. Applicants are advised to check the relevant HEI literature regarding the minimum entry age. The applicant must meet the minimum education requirements of both NMBI and the HEI/s.

A **Mature Applicant** is an applicant who is twenty-three years of age or over by 1 January in the year of entry and who wishes to be considered for a place on grounds of mature years and not on examination results. **All mature applicants must sit an assessment test to be considered for a place on a nursing or midwifery programme.**

Mature applicants need only apply once and can be considered as mature and on QQI FET/FETAC and/or Leaving Certificate.

Applying for the Assessment Test [Mature Applicants Only]

Mature Applicants who wish to apply for nursing and midwifery programmes must register and apply to sit an assessment test, which is conducted by the Public Appointments Service (PAS) on behalf of NMBI. Each mature applicant must register and apply for the test between 2 February and 22 February 2018.

To register and apply with the PAS you should have to hand your CAO number (if you have one), a valid e-mail address and your Personal Public Service (PPS) number (if you have one).

1. Register: Log-on to the PAS website www.PublicJobs.ie and if you have not previously registered and you are a New User you must 'Register' before applying. Please make a note of your User Name and Password as you will need it for all steps involved in the assessment test.

2. Apply: Once you have registered you must then access the application form, complete and submit it. The application form will only be available on www.PublicJobs.ie between 2 February and 22 February 2018, under the job category 'Medical', sub category 'Nurse/Nurse Management'.

Applicants will receive an immediate email confirming that their application has been successfully submitted. This message should be retained. If the confirmation email is not received within two days please contact General Service Recruitment in the PAS at (01) 858 7730 immediately.

Please do not confuse Registering with Applying. Failure to register and apply will lead to disqualification of your application.

Please note that once you have applied, you are advised to check your Message Board (located within your personal profile) for communications from PAS.

Please note: your application will be invalid if you do not complete all three steps

1. Apply to CAO (by 1 May 2018)
2. Register with PAS (2-22 February 2018)
3. Apply to PAS for assessment test (2-22 February 2018).

Application using the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)

The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. HEAR is for school leavers who are under 23 years of age on 1 January in the year of entry, who have completed an Irish Leaving Certificate. HEAR Applicants must meet a range of financial, social and cultural indicators to be considered for a reduced points place and extra college support. See details at www.accesscollege.ie/hear/index.php. (HEAR is only applicable to Standard applicants). Not all HEI's offer this access route to nursing (see CAO handbook).

Application using the Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)

The Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places on a reduced points basis to school leavers with disabilities who were under 23 years of age on 1 January in the year of entry. DARE is for school leavers who have the ability to benefit from and succeed in higher education but who may not be able to meet the points for their preferred course due to the impact of their disability. See details at www.accesscollege.ie/dare/index.php. Please also refer to the section Health Requirements on page 33 of this booklet if utilising this scheme.

Change of Mind

At the beginning of May, a change of mind facility is available through the CAO until 1 July. This allows you to change the courses that you have already applied for. For full details about the change of mind facility, please visit the CAO's website (www.cao.ie).

Offers

Applications are assessed in accordance with CAO procedure. Please read CAO Handbook 2018, sections: "The Offer Stage", "Deferring a place" and "Available places."

Timetable for Offers

| | |
|------|--|
| JULY | First offers of places to mature applicants will take place in early July. If necessary, further offers may be made early August. |
| AUG | First offers of places to QQI FET (standard applicants) will take place in early August. |
| AUG | First offers of places to standard applicants (excluding QQI FET) issue following the results of the Leaving Certificate Examination (Round One). |
| OCT | Offers continue to be made, as needed, until mid-October. |

Offers will be issued by post and may also be viewed and accepted on the CAO website (www.cao.ie).

It is important to remember that cut-off points/scores for each programme are determined by the relative supply-demand situation including:

- The number of applicants
- The points/scores achieved by the applicants
- The number of places available.

Allowances and Grants

Uniform

A set allocation of uniforms are provided by the healthcare agency.

Salary

Student nurse pay rates are set at 70 per cent of the first point of the staff nurses incremental pay scale (see HSE HR Circular 005/2016, www.hse.ie/eng/staff/Resources/HR_Circulars/hrcirc0052016.pdf).

Free Fees Initiative

The Higher Institutes of Education determine eligibility for free fees. If you have a query about fees, you should contact the relevant college for further information.

Third-Level Student Grants

SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) is Ireland's single national awarding authority for all higher and further education grants. If you wish to apply for a grant, you may indicate this on your CAO online application. The CAO will provide your Identification, Contact and Offer/Acceptance details to the grant authority. Other than providing these details to the grant authority, the CAO plays no role in processing grant applications. For full details on applying for a grant, go visit www.susi.ie.

SECTION 4

Clinical Component of the Pre-Registration Honours Degree Programmes

Children's and General Nursing (Integrated)

The Children's and General Nursing (Integrated) programme facilitates the development of professional knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to meet the healthcare needs of individuals along the life span continuum. This programme offers a dual registration in both the children's division and the general division of the Register. Children's nurses care for children of all ages, and mostly within the hospital environments. Children have unique needs and one of these needs is the involvement of their family in their care. Children's nurses therefore work in partnership with the child and the family to promote, maintain or restore optimum health and wellbeing. Children's and General nurses work with a multidisciplinary team across a wide range of healthcare settings and in different roles.

The list of topics included in the syllabus is not exhaustive. It provides an indication of the content of Children's Nurse and General Nurse Registration Education Programme in terms of the range of topics and gives no indication of the weighting of each topic in the curriculum. The syllabus allows scope for the continuing development of subject matter and for the acquisition of new knowledge to accommodate emerging trends in nursing, healthcare and society.

Clinical Placements

The following is the minimum number of weeks to be spent in different aspects of practice instruction over the educational programme.

| Practice Instruction | Minimum number of weeks |
|--|---|
| General and Specialist Medicine (EU) | 28 weeks (Adult 14 weeks and Child 14 weeks) |
| General and Specialist Surgery (EU) | 28 weeks (Adult 14 weeks and Child 14 weeks) |
| Care of the Older Person | 4 weeks (Community/other) |
| Primary Health Care and Community Nursing (EU) | 4 weeks (e.g. PHN, Primary care, RN in the community) |
| | 2 weeks (Care of the person in an Intellectual Disability service area) |
| Specialist Placements | 10 weeks (as specified below) |
| Emergency Department | 4 weeks (Child and Adult) |
| Operating Theatre | 2 weeks (Child and Adult) |
| Mental Health and Psychiatry (EU) | 2 weeks |
| Maternity Care (EU) | 2 weeks |
| Remaining Regulated Placement | 19 weeks (Adult 9 weeks and Child 10 weeks) |
| Total | 95 weeks (supernumerary and internship) |

General Nursing

Nursing is an interpersonal caring process that acknowledges the uniqueness of the person. The general nursing programme contains the essential elements that facilitate the development of professional knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to meet the nursing needs of patients who are acutely or chronically ill. General nurses also have an important role in the promotion of health.

The healthcare services and the work trends of general nurses are changing continuously and the general nurse must be able to respond to the health needs and demands of the Irish population.

Nursing practice also involves working with other professions and the general nursing programme aims to develop nurses who will act as effective members of a healthcare team at various levels of the healthcare system.

The list of topics included in the syllabus is not exhaustive. It provides an indication of the content of the General Nurse Registration Education Programme in terms of the range of topics and gives no indication of the weighting of each topic in the curriculum. The indicative syllabus allows for the development of a curriculum that is relevant and responsive to the most recent policy and legislative change.

Clinical Placements

The following is the minimum number of weeks to be spent in different aspects of practice instruction over the educational programme.

| Practice Instruction | Minimum number of weeks |
|--|---|
| General and Specialist Medicine (EU) | 18 weeks |
| General and Specialist Surgery (EU) | 18 weeks |
| Care of the Older Person | 6 weeks |
| Primary Health Care and Community Nursing (EU) | 4 weeks (e.g. PHN, Primary care, RN in the community, Care of the person with an Intellectual Disability) |
| Specialist Placements | 10 weeks (as specified below) |
| Emergency Department | 2 weeks |
| Operating Theatre | 2 weeks |
| Child Care and Paediatrics (EU) | 2 weeks |
| Mental Health and Psychiatry (EU) | 2 weeks |
| Maternity Care (EU) | 2 weeks |
| Remaining Regulated Placement | 25 weeks |
| Total | 81 weeks (supernumerary and internship) |

Intellectual Disability Nursing

The RNID, who works with persons with an intellectual disability, has a diversity of roles. This includes providing nursing support across a variety of environments such as home, education and community settings as well as specialist practice e.g. the family home, residential and respite services, schools, primary health care and acute settings. Health promotion, guidance and nursing support is provided by the RNID to children, adolescents, adults and their families.

A guiding philosophy of RNID practice is that persons with all levels of ability have the same rights and, in so far as possible, the same responsibilities as other members of society. People with intellectual disability have a right and a need to live within the community and receive those services necessary to meet their specialised and changing needs. They should receive, if and when necessary, professional assistance and services which will allow recognition, development and expression of their individuality. As members of the nursing profession, RNIDs provide specialist nursing services and support that are reflective of the healthcare needs of people with intellectual disability and their families.

The intellectual disability nursing programme contains the essential elements that facilitate the development of professional knowledge, skills and attitudes. The curriculum is diverse, incorporating both theoretical and clinical components. It allows scope for the continuing development of subject matter and for the extension of new knowledge to accommodate emerging trends. This ensures graduate nurses are up-to-date and prepared to embark on a professional career in intellectual disability nursing.

Clinical Placements

The following is the minimum number of weeks to be spent in different aspects of practice instruction over the educational programme.

| Practice Instruction | Minimum number of weeks |
|---|---|
| Health and Social Development of the Child | 8 weeks |
| Health and Social Development of the Adult including Care of the Older Person | 30 weeks |
| Specialist Intellectual Disability nursing | 12 weeks e.g. CNS/ ANP nurse led services, behaviours that challenge |
| Nursing of client groups in other settings | 6 weeks, with a minimum of 2 weeks in each of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General nursing• Mental health nursing• Care of the older person |
| Remaining Regulated Placement | 25 weeks |
| Total | 81 weeks (supernumerary and internship) |

Psychiatric Nursing

Psychiatric Nursing also known as Mental Health Nursing is a specialist nursing discipline. Psychiatric nurses work with people who are experiencing mental health challenges. The aim of psychiatric nursing is to work in partnership with the person, their family and supporters to enable them to mobilise their own inner resources along with professional supports, in a way that promotes personal growth, development and recovery. At the heart of psychiatric nursing is the development of an empowering therapeutic relationship. The psychiatric nurse journeys with the person and their family through their time of distress facilitating them to find hope, control and opportunity on their recovery journey.

Psychiatric nursing is constantly evolving to meet the challenging mental health needs of diverse groups across Ireland. Psychiatric nurses promote the concept of health and wellbeing both in the hospital environment and community services.

The nature of psychiatric nursing demands that nurses acquire a broad-based education with particular emphasis on personal and interpersonal knowledge, as well as knowledge from nursing theory, social, psychological and biological sciences. The education programme provides student nurses with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to meet the needs of the person and their family in an individualised, empowering and culturally sensitive manner.

Clinical Placements

The following is the minimum number of weeks to be spent in different aspects of practice instruction over the educational programme.

| Practice Instruction | Minimum number of weeks |
|--|--|
| Mental health nursing | 36 weeks (Acute, community, recovery and other mental health services) |
| Mental health in older life | 6 weeks (psychiatry of later life/ care of older person) |
| Specialist mental health nursing | 8 weeks e.g. CNS/ ANP nurse led services, drug/ alcohol dependence, forensic/prison medical services, child and young person services, suicide/ self-harm prevention, homeless team, perinatal services, voluntary agencies, dual/complex needs, other. This is not inclusive of possible specialist mental health settings. Undergraduates may see some but not all of such environments. |
| Nursing of client groups in other settings | 6 weeks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 weeks General Nursing• 2 weeks other e.g. Care of the person with an intellectual disability, midwifery |
| Remaining Regulated Placement | 25 weeks |
| Total | 81 weeks (supernumerary and internship) |

Midwifery

The term 'midwife' means 'with woman'. Midwifery involves the provision of care and support to women during pregnancy, labour and birth, and to women and their babies following birth. Midwives have a key role in health promotion and education for women, their babies and their wider family circle. Midwifery care is underpinned by a philosophical approach that views pregnancy as part of the life cycle, a normal healthy event. The concept of partnership between the woman and the midwife is fundamental to midwifery practice and is based on mutual trust, support and collaboration.

The provision of midwifery care is constantly evolving to respond to the changing needs of women in Ireland and their families. Midwives provide care in maternity hospitals/units, midwife-led units and increasingly through the provision of midwife-led services in the community. Midwives work in partnership with obstetricians and other members of the healthcare team in the provision of care, particularly to women with complicated pregnancies.

The syllabus of the midwife registration education programme is indicative. This allows for change to address the changing nature of Irish society and the environment in which midwives practise. The programme provides midwives with the knowledge and skills to meet the needs of women and their families in an individualised, culturally sensitive manner. This supports the vision for the maternity services set out in Creating a Better Future Together-National Maternity Strategy 2016-2026 (Department of Health, 2016), to provide responsive, high-quality maternity care, which is woman-centred, equitable across different parts of the country, accessible to all, safe and accountable.

Clinical Placements

| Practice Instruction | Minimum no. of weeks | Clinical experience |
|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| Antenatal | 16 | Must include antenatal clinics and antenatal wards May include <ul style="list-style-type: none">• admissions, day and fetal assessment units• preparation for birth and parent education• placement with Clinical Midwife Specialists and Advanced Midwife Practitioners |
| Intranatal | 16 | Care of women in labour and birth which optimises the normal birth processes in any setting |
| Postnatal | 14 | Includes postnatal care in any setting |

| Practice Instruction | Minimum no. of weeks | Clinical experience |
|---|----------------------|--|
| Midwife-led care placement | 4 | Includes any situation where the midwife is the lead professional in partnership with the woman planning, organising and delivering care to the woman, and referring to other professionals as appropriate May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pre pregnancy clinics • antenatal clinics • antenatal/parenthood education classes • home birth services • DOMINO services • midwifery led units • early transfer home services • postnatal care provided by midwives in the community |
| High Dependency Care and Care of the Critically Ill woman | 2 | Provision of care to women in pregnancy, labour, birth or in the postnatal period who have high dependency needs and/or require monitoring or intervention that may include support for a single failing organ (HSE, 2014) |
| Neonatal unit | 4 | SCBU /Neonatal clinics |
| Gynaecology | 4 | May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ward • day ward • theatre or outpatients |
| Mental health | 2 | May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acute units • day hospitals • primary care settings • a focus on perinatal mental health where available |
| Theatre and recovery | 2 | Must include experience of obstetric theatre and recovery |
| Primary healthcare | 2 | May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • primary healthcare team • child development clinics • working with PHNs • family planning clinics etc |
| Elective placement | 2 | Must be in an area relevant to midwifery practice which could be situated locally, nationally or internationally and is driven by the student and the student's learning needs |

SECTION 5

Theoretical Component of the Pre-Registration Honours Degree Programmes

Nursing

67% of the theoretical content is the art and science of nursing care.

33% of the theoretical content is devoted to the applied biological and social sciences, which are the science subjects that are taught as they apply to, and inform, nursing care.

The nursing content of the theoretical component of the programme aims to develop the necessary professional knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to meet the nursing needs of patients/clients.

The theoretical component of the pre-registration honours degree programmes has common elements as well as areas very specific to the particular area of nursing.

Midwifery

The content of the theoretical component of the midwifery programme aims to develop the necessary professional knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to meet the midwifery needs of women and their families.

Subjects

The following tables outline some of the subject areas that comprise the theoretical component of the programmes.

| Nursing | Midwifery |
|---|--|
| Professional values and the conduct of the nurse | Biological sciences |
| Nursing practice and clinical decision making | Psychology as applied to midwifery practice |
| Knowledge and cognitive skills | Pharmacology |
| Life and Health Sciences (Applied) | Research, audit and innovation in practice |
| Pharmacology for Nursing Practice and Health Care | Midwifery practice – knowledge, skills and professional behaviours |
| Ethics for Nursing Practice and Health Care | Health promotion |
| Health Promotion | Sociology as applied to midwifery practice |
| Nursing Research | Communication and interpersonal skills |

| Nursing | Midwifery |
|---|--|
| Nursing Informatics | Maternal and social care services in Ireland |
| Psychology as Applied to Nursing | Professional and personal issues |
| Sociology as Applied to Nursing | Ethical and legal issues |
| Social Policy as Applied to Nursing | Information and technology for Midwifery |
| Communication and inter personal skills | |
| Management and team working | |
| Leadership potential and professional scholarship | |

Please refer to the Standards and Requirements documents which can be downloaded from www.NMBI.ie for a more detailed account of the theoretical components.

SECTION 6

Entry Requirements Common to all Applicants

Health Requirements

Nursing and Midwifery are demanding professions, both physically and emotionally. A successful applicant must be of good mental and physical health and have the ability to achieve the required competencies of a nurse/midwife.

Applicants will be required to complete a Medical Assessment Self-Declaration Form and undergo a Medical Assessment/Screening and a Vaccination programme etc. as determined by a HEI/Healthcare Agency.

Satisfactory completion of these or other health requirements will be necessary to commence/continue with the programme.

Garda Vetting

Healthcare Agencies use the National Vetting Bureau (NVB) to provide a disclosure for each applicant. The assessment of the suitability of an applicant is the responsibility of the relevant organisation and offers are conditional and could subsequently be withdrawn if an applicant does not meet the Garda/Police vetting requirements. NMBI has no involvement in garda vetting.

Further details are available from the HEI/Healthcare agency.

English Competence

An applicant, whose First Language/Primary Mode of Expression is not English, will be required to produce evidence of English competence. Such an applicant must clarify her/his position well in advance of the closing date. Such an applicant must consult the HEI literature and contact the admission office of the HEI/s to which she/he intends to apply for nursing/midwifery.

Additional Capabilities

The Nursing and Midwifery Programme requires students to attain the competencies by the end of the programme. These include competencies associated with professional and ethical practice, managing and organising care, being an effective communicator and within the professional context assessing and making clinical judgements that support persons in meeting their individual health and social needs.

Respect, trust, caring, compassion, commitment and empathy are key personal characteristics associated with the competencies required of nurses and midwives and inform the values framework of the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives (NMBI, 2014) and the Values for Nurses and Midwives (Department of Health, 2016).

Non-EU Persons

An applicant who is now, or who has been in the past, resident outside the EU must have consulted the HEI literature and have contacted the admission office of the HEI/s to which she/he intends to apply for nursing/midwifery in order to have fully appraised her/himself of the following:

- Definition of Non-EU
- Entry Requirements and Conditions
- Application Procedure and Eligibility to Apply
- Selection Procedure
- Economic Fee
- Any other matters.

In the event that places remain vacant after offers have been made to eligible EU applicants, a person with Non-EU status may be considered.

Please note that NMBI has no role regarding visas/permits nor in defining non EU status.

Applicants Expressing a Preference for the Adelaide School of Nursing

Applicants who express an interest in the Adelaide School of Nursing should note that this is a restricted application course. The Adelaide Health Foundation, which is a voluntary charitable organisation, nominates suitable applicants each year to the Adelaide School of Nursing. For further information please refer to www.adelaide.ie/adelaide-school-of-nursing/.

Names and addresses of those applicants who express a preference for the Adelaide School of Nursing on the CAO Application Form will be forwarded to the Adelaide Health Foundation. Such applicants will be issued with a further application form by the Adelaide Health Foundation for completion and return to the Foundation.

This Application Form will be the basis for deciding which applicants are nominated for a place in the Adelaide School of Nursing.

Please note:

Being nominated for the Adelaide School of Nursing does not guarantee an offer of a place. Applicants must still be eligible to be offered a place by the CAO.

Not being nominated for the Adelaide School of Nursing does not prejudice an applicant's chance of an offer of a place elsewhere.

This process by the Adelaide School of Nursing is additional to the other requirements as outlined in this publication.

Applicants who are attending or who have attended a third-level programme in Ireland

An applicant who is undertaking a programme at a HEI or who has previously undertaken a programme at a HEI must contact the admission office of the HEI to which she/he has applied for nursing/midwifery to determine fees and any other matters.

Applicants who have previously been unsuccessful (academic and/or placement) in any Nursing or Midwifery programme or have any issues which would affect suitability to pursue a career in nursing or midwifery will only be considered for re-entry to another Nursing or Midwifery programme on a case-by-case appeal basis as the relevant Programme Board. Such applicants should make their case in writing to the Admissions Officer, and include any relevant details of extenuating circumstances.

Note to All Applicants

An applicant is responsible for ensuring that she/he meets the specified entry requirements and conditions.

The processing of an application at any stage of the competition should not be taken as an indication of eligibility for the programme/s.

An applicant is responsible for meeting all costs in relation to the application process.

Any attempt by an applicant or by any person(s) acting on the applicant's instigation, directly or indirectly by means of written communication or otherwise, to canvass or otherwise influence in the applicant's favour, will automatically disqualify the applicant from the competition.

If at any time between applying and the end of the competition you change any contact details, you must immediately notify the CAO online or in writing.

SECTION 7

Entry Requirements Specific to Mature Applicants

Overview

An applicant must be successful in the assessment test for the current year before being considered for an offer as a mature applicant. However, success in the test does not guarantee an offer of a place.

The assessment test is year specific and results may not be carried forward to a future year (unless a deferred entry has been granted by a HEI).

The onus is on each applicant to ensure that she/he is in receipt of all communication from the PAS. NMBI and the PAS accept no responsibility for communication not accessed or received by an applicant.

If you change any of your contact details you must immediately a) inform the CAO either online or in writing and b) update your PAS profile online. Do NOT contact NMBI regarding such changes.

The Assessment Test

The assessment test is carried out by the PAS on behalf of NMBI. These assessments will be held early April 2018. Familiarisation material for the test will be sent to your PAS (www.PublicJobs.ie) message board in late March 2018.

Proceeding in the Competition

Those who pass the assessment test will be placed on order of merit lists for the courses they have applied for (see CAO Handbook for further details).

Those who do not pass the assessment test or those who do not attend the assessment test cannot proceed further in the mature competition for nursing/midwifery for that year. To appeal the result of the assessment test, applicants should contact the PAS (email: maturecode18@publicjobs.ie) within 7 days on receipt of results.

Timetable for Mature Applicants 2018

| What | How and When | Important Notes to Applicants |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| Application to CAO | You are advised to apply to the CAO before 5.15pm on 1 February 2018 (www.cao.ie). The CAO late application facility will be available from early March until 1 May at 5.15pm. | Before completing the CAO application form, an applicant should carefully study the CAO handbook 2018 |
| Application to PAS | A) register on www.PublicJobs.ie and B) apply to www.PublicJobs.ie between 2 February 2018 and 22 February 2018 | If your application has been successfully submitted you will receive a confirmation email. If not received within two days contact the PAS at maturecode18publicjobs.ie |
| Details of Assessment | You should receive further details from the PAS in relation to the assessment test by 24 March 2018 | If you do not hear from PAS by 24 March 2018 please contact them on maturecode18publicjobs.ie |
| Test Familiarisation Booklet | Details relating to the test familiarisation material will be made available by 24 March 2018 | Applicants should read this document to help prepare for the assessment |
| Assessment Test | Will be held Early April 2018 (confirmation on message boards by 24 March) | Check PAS message board for specific test dates |
| Results of Assessment Test | Your results will be available on your www.PublicJobs.ie message board in early June 2018 | You will need your username and password to access your message board If not received by 8 June 2018 , contact the PAS at maturecode18@publicjobs.ie |
| Offers | First offers from CAO to mature applicants will take place in early July 2018 . If necessary, further offers may be made in early August. | |

Sponsorship for Public Health Service Employees wishing to train as nurses/midwives

The Sponsorship Scheme, whereby a candidate's salary is paid for the duration of the programme is open to Irish public health service employees, such as healthcare assistants and support staff, who are directly involved in the delivery of care to patients or clients within a nursing or midwifery context. This scheme is reviewed and offered on an annual basis.

There are a limited number of places available nationally and these are part of the quota of places for mature applicants. These places are reviewed annually.

An applicant must:

- Meet all conditions as outlined in HSE HR Circular 009/2010
- Apply as a Mature Applicant to the CAO
- Be successful at the assessment test in the current year
- Have applied for Sponsorship to the Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development Unit (NMPDU) Kilkenny by the closing date as specified by the NMPDU
- Be offered a place in nursing/midwifery as a mature applicant by the CAO. An offer of a place does not guarantee an offer of sponsorship
- Meet the required terms and conditions as determined by a HEI and Healthcare Agency

Further information is available from:

| HSE Area | NMPDU | Address | Tel |
|----------|------------|---|-------------|
| South | South East | Office Complex, Kilcreene Hospital Campus, Co. Kilkenny | 056 7785620 |

SECTION 8

Entry Requirements Specific to Standard Applicants

Please note: A new grading system for the leaving certificate has been introduced and will apply to students who commenced the Senior Cycle in September 2015 and thereafter. NMBI has mapped its entry requirements to the new grading system. For full details on the system, visit: www2.cao.ie/downloads/documents/CommonPointsScale2017.pdf

NMBI Education Entry Requirements

Before admission to a programme leading to Registration in the Register of Nurses and Midwives the applicant must:

(a) *have obtained in the Leaving Certificate Examination a minimum of Grade H5 in two papers and a minimum of Grade O6/H7 in four papers in the following subjects:*

- *Irish or English*
- *Mathematics*
- *A Laboratory Science subject (Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics & Chemistry or Agricultural Science)*
- *Three other subjects*

or

(b) *have achieved the equivalent minimum educational attainments to the foregoing, such equivalent attainments to be adjudicated upon by the Higher Education Authority established under the Higher Education Act, 1971 (No. 22 of 1971)*

or

(c) *meet the minimum educational requirements specified by the third level institution concerned for entry to the course provided that such requirements are not of a lower standard than those set out in sub-paragraph (a) above...*

(Note: Foundation Level Mathematics or Foundation Level Irish are not acceptable).

Higher Education Institutions Education Entry Requirements

The following are the basic minimum requirements for each HEI. Each HEI may have specific requirements regarding combination of subjects permitted or subjects that may not be presented at all. It is essential to consult the HEI literature regarding all aspects of the following.

| HEI | ENTRY REQUIREMENTS |
|--|---|
| DCU Athlone IT Dundalk IT Galway-Mayo IT Letterkenny IT Tralee IT Waterford IT | <p>H5 in two higher level papers and O6/H7 in four ordinary or higher level papers in the Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate Examination in the following subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English or Irish (not Foundation Level) • Mathematics (not Foundation Level) • A Laboratory Science subject (Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics & Chemistry, or Agricultural Science) • Three other subjects. <p>Or</p> <p>Equivalent Qualifications.</p> |

| HEI | ENTRY REQUIREMENTS |
|-----|---|
| UL | <p>H5 in two higher level papers and O6/H7 in four ordinary or higher level papers in the Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate Examination in the following subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • A language other than English (excluding Foundation Level Irish) • Mathematics (not Foundation Level) • A Laboratory Science subject (Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics & Chemistry, or Agricultural Science) • Two other subjects. <p>Or</p> <p>Equivalent Qualifications.</p> |

| HEI | ENTRY REQUIREMENTS |
|---------|--|
| Trinity | <p>H5 in three higher level papers and O6/H7 in three ordinary or higher level papers in the Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate Examination in the following subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • A language other than English (excluding Foundation Level Irish) • Mathematics (not Foundation Level) • A Laboratory Science subject (Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics & Chemistry, or Agricultural Science) • Two other subjects. <p>Or</p> <p>Equivalent Qualifications.</p> |

The National University of Ireland (NUI) Colleges

| NUI | ENTRY REQUIREMENTS |
|--|---|
| UCC UCD NUIG St Angela's College Sligo | <p>H5 in two higher level papers and O6/H7 in four ordinary or higher level papers in the Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate Examination in the following subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Irish * (not Foundation Level)• English• Mathematics (not Foundation Level)• A Laboratory Science subject (Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics & Chemistry, or Agricultural Science)• Any two other subjects accepted for matriculation registration purposes. <p>Or</p> <p>Equivalent Qualifications.</p> <p>*An applicant who has an official Department of Education and Science exemption from Irish in the Leaving Certificate must: apply to the NUI for exemption and include another subject to make up the six subjects specified above.</p> |

Accumulation of Results

The minimum education requirements may be accumulated over any number of sittings of the Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate Examination. However, one sitting only of the examination will be counted for points purposes.

Equivalent Qualifications*

A standard applicant who is not presenting the Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate Examination minimum education requirements must have obtained equivalent education qualifications.

Such an applicant must clarify her/his position well in advance of the closing date, including the methods of evaluation of results of examinations and qualifications other than the Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate Examination.

An applicant must consult the HEI literature and contact the admission office of the HEI/s, and refer to the CAO website for further information.

www2.cao.ie/downloads/documents/Guidelines-EU-EFTA.pdf

* For advice on foreign qualifications refer to www.naric.ie where information on the comparability of foreign qualifications can be provided by NARIC Ireland. This service is hosted by QQI.

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)

QQI (www.qqi.ie) was established in 2012 as the state agency for quality assurance and qualifications for all education and training in Ireland. QQI is responsible for the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and makes awards based on agreed standards for the ten levels of the NFQ. Awards made by the former agencies of FETAC and HETAC continue to be recognised and QQI through NARIC Ireland provides advice on foreign qualifications.

Nursing and Midwifery Degree Programmes via Further Education and Training (FET) awards made by QQI

Most institutions offering the pre-registration honours degree programmes in nursing/midwifery consider specific Level 5 and some Level 6 awards as an equivalent (i.e. equivalent to the Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate Examination) entry route for standard applicants to nursing and midwifery, using the CAO application process. For details of participating institutions and their quota of places, please visit www.cao.ie/index.php?page=fetac_search.

The QQI FET awards that provide links to Nursing and Midwifery Degree programmes include:

- Nursing Studies (5M4349)
- Healthcare Support (5M4339)
- Community and Health Services (5M4468)
- Health Service Skills (5M3782)

In all cases, applicants must have achieved distinctions in five components including;

- Anatomy and Physiology (5N0749 / D20001)
- Nursing Theory and Practice (5N4325)
- Human Growth and Development (5N1279) or Biology (5N2746)

For further details please contact the Admissions Office of the individual HEI's or visit www.cao.ie or www.qqi.ie.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

HEIs award points for results in Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme Link Modules, in place of a sixth Leaving Certificate subject. This is for points purpose only - the minimum education entry requirements must be attained.

- Distinction = 66 points
- Merit = 46 points
- Pass = 28 points.

Points Scoring Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate Examination

The six best results, in recognised subjects, in one Leaving Certificate Examination will be counted for points purposes.

| % | Grade | Higher level Points | Grade | Ordinary level Points |
|--------|-------|---------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 90-100 | H1 | 100 | O1 | 56 |
| 80-89 | H2 | 88 | O2 | 46 |
| 70-79 | H3 | 77 | O3 | 37 |
| 60-69 | H4 | 66 | O4 | 28 |
| 50-59 | H5 | 56 | O5 | 20 |
| 40-49 | H6 | 46 | O6 | 12 |
| 30-39 | H7 | 37 | O7 | 0 |
| <30 | H8 | 0 | O8 | 0 |

* The CAO adds 25 bonus points to the points score for Leaving Certificate Higher Level Mathematics at grades H6 and above.

Points for Standard Applicants 2012-2016

The following table shows the cut-off points required for entry to each programme from 2012-2016. For points relating to 2017 please visit www.nmbi.ie/Careers-in-Nursing-Midwifery/Becoming-a-Nurse-Midwife/CAO-Points

| HEI & Programme | Final 12 | Final 13 | Final 14 | Final 15 | Final 16 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Athlone IT General | 415* | 410* | 410 | 420 | 425* |
| Athlone IT Psychiatric | 395 | 395 | 390 | 390 | 375* |
| DCU Children's & General (Integrated) | 495 | 485* | 475* | 490 | 485 |
| DCU General | 440 | 445 | 435* | 430* | 450 |
| DCU Intellectual Disability | 395 | 395* | 395* | 410 | 375 |
| DCU Psychiatric | 390* | 400* | 395* | 405 | 375 |
| Dundalk IT General | 405* | 400* | 395* | 400 | 400* |
| Dundalk IT Intellectual Disability | 350* | 365* | 365 | 365* | 330 |
| Dundalk IT Midwifery | 415* | 400* | 415 | 400* | 400* |
| Dundalk IT Psychiatric | 375 | 370 | 380* | 390 | 345 |
| GMIT General | 405 | 405* | 420 | 410* | 410* |
| GMIT Psychiatric | 375* | 370 | 375 | 370* | 365* |
| IT Tralee General | 435* | 415* | 415* | 415 | 425* |
| IT Tralee Psychiatric | 410 | 380 | 385* | 395 | 405 |
| Letterkenny IT General | 400* | 400* | 400 | 390* | 410 |
| Letterkenny IT Intellectual Disability | 365* | 365 | 355 | 345* | 360 |
| Letterkenny IT Psychiatric | 375 | 365* | 365 | 380 | 350 |
| NUIG General | 455* | 450* | 445* | 450* | 445 |
| NUIG Midwifery | 450* | 450* | 455 | 440 | 440 |
| NUIG Psychiatric | 410* | 410 | 405* | 425 | 405 |
| St Angela's General | 410* | 405* | 405* | 405* | 405* |
| St Angela's Intellectual Disability | 375* | 365 | 370* | 355* | 350 |
| TCD Children's & General (Integrated) | 490* | 505* | 490 | 495 | 490 |
| TCD General (Adelaide) | 400* | 420# | #395* | #400* | 400# |
| TCD General (Meath & James) | 420 | 420* | 415 | 420 | 425* |
| TCD Intellectual Disability | 395 | 390* | 390* | 385* | 380 |

| HEI & Programme | Final 12 | Final 13 | Final 14 | Final 15 | Final 16 |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| TCD Midwifery | 460* | 445 | 450* | 455 | 450* |
| TCD Psychiatric | 395* | 400* | 390* | 415 | 385 |
| UCC Children's & General (Integrated) | 525* | 520 | 525* | 505 | 505* |
| UCC General | 450* | 450* | 440 | 440 | 445* |
| UCC Intellectual Disability | 425 | 425 | 425 | 415* | 425 |
| UCC Midwifery | 455 | 445* | 445* | 455* | 445 |
| UCC Psychiatric | 430 | 430* | 420* | 415* | 420 |
| UCD Children's & General (Integrated) | 490* | 490* | 485 | 490 | 485 |
| UCD General | 420* | 425 | 415* | 415 | 420 |
| UCD Midwifery | 470 | 490 | 435* | 465* | 480 |
| UCD Psychiatric | 410 | 415 | 415 | 405* | 385 |
| UL General | 450* | 445* | 440 | 455* | 460* |
| UL Intellectual Disability | 415* | 430 | 405 | 415* | 405 |
| UL Midwifery | 450 | 435 | 445 | 455* | 440 |
| UL Psychiatric | 415* | 425* | 415 | 415* | 450 |
| Waterford IT General | 425 | 420* | 415* | 410* | 420 |
| Waterford IT Intellectual Disability | 380 | 385 | 355 | 375 | 370* |
| Waterford IT Psychiatric | 395 | 390 | 370 | 380* | 385 |

* Not all on these points may have been offered a place (i.e. where random generated scores occurred).

SECTION 9

Further Registration Education Opportunities Following Initial Registration

Nursing and Midwifery are life-long careers. Once a candidate has successfully completed a pre-registration programme in nursing/midwifery and registered as a nurse or midwife, she/he may wish to pursue further education. Many such opportunities are available and NMBI has approved a number of specialist programmes. For details of NMBI approved courses visit www.NMBI.ie/Education/post-registration-courses.

There are six post-registration programmes leading to an additional registration with NMBI.

PLEASE NOTE: The programme in children's nursing is available at both pre registration (i.e. integrated with general nursing) and at post registration level.

The Midwifery programme and the Psychiatric (Mental Health) Nursing programme are available at both pre-registration level and at post registration level.

Post Registration Programmes

Children's Nursing: Post Registration

A nurse who is registered in one of the three divisions – RNID, RPN, RGN - of the Register maintained by NMBI may apply to enter the post registration RCN programme. The programme is twelve months full-time in duration.

Successful completion of the programme entitles the applicant to apply for registration with NMBI (RCN) and the award of a Higher Diploma from a HEI.

The three HEIs and the three linked Dublin healthcare agencies offering the post-registration RCN programme are:

- DCU and Children's University Hospital, Temple Street
 - Trinity and Adelaide and Meath Hospital incorporating The National Children's Hospital, Tallaght
 - UCD and Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin
-

Midwifery: Post Registration

The post registration midwifery programme leading to the qualification of Registered Midwife is 18 months full-time in duration. An applicant must first be registered as a general nurse (RGN) with NMBI before applying for the post registration programme in midwifery.

Successful completion of the programme entitles the applicant to apply for registration with NMBI (RM) and the award of a Higher Diploma from a linked HEI.

If a midwife who completed an 18 month post-RGN midwifery programme in Ireland wishes to have an automatic right to register in another EU Member State, they must have completed one year's professional practice pursuing all the activities of a midwife in a hospital or healthcare institution (EU Directive 2005, Section 41(c)).

The seven maternity hospitals and linked HEIs currently offering the RM programme are:

- Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital and DKIT
- University College Hospital Galway and NUIG
- Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital and Trinity
- Rotunda Hospital and Trinity
- Cork University Maternity Hospital and UCC
- National Maternity Hospital and UCD
- University Maternity Hospital Limerick and UL

Mental Health Nursing: Post Registration

A nurse who is registered in one of the three divisions – RGN, RNID, RCN - of the Register maintained by NMBI may apply to enter the post registration RPN programme. The programme is twelve months full-time in duration.

Successful completion of the programme entitles the applicant to apply for registration with NMBI (RPN) and the award of a Higher Diploma from a HEI.

The HEI and linked Dublin healthcare agencies offering the post-registration RPN programme are:

- University College Dublin (UCD) School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems in partnership with the HSE Mental Health Services (Community Healthcare Organisation, Area 6, Area 7 and the National Forensic Mental Health Service).

Nurse Tutor

A nurse/midwife who is registered with NMBI may apply to undertake a specific master's programme. Successful completion of the master's programme, with the appropriate strand, will entitle the candidate to apply for registration with NMBI as a nurse tutor (RNT). There is not a separate register for midwife tutors.

A nurse/midwife who is registered with NMBI and who already holds a masters Honours Degree in nursing/midwifery or in an allied health science subject, may, subject to the Honours Degree being deemed suitable by NMBI, undertake a further post-graduate qualification in education, and subsequently may apply for registration as a nurse tutor with NMBI.

This programme is available at:

- NUIG
- UCD
- Trinity

Public Health Nursing

An applicant must be registered as a general nurse (RGN) with NMBI. A nurse (RGN) who is not registered as a midwife (RM) with NMBI must also complete a Child & Maternal Health module.

Successful completion entitles the student to apply for registration with NMBI (RPHN) and an award from the HEI. Further details from the HEIs:

- NUIG
- UCD
- UCC

Nurse Prescriber

A nurse who is registered as a nurse (RNID/RPN/RGN/RCN/RM) with NMBI may apply to undertake an education programme leading to registration as a Nurse Prescriber. Further information is available from the Schools of Nursing in DCU, NUIG, RCSI, Trinity, UCC, UCD and UL.

Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Advanced Midwife Practitioner

A nurse or midwife who is registered with NMBI and who fulfils specific criteria may apply to become a Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner (RANP) or a Registered Advanced Midwife Practitioner (RAMP) with NMBI.

A RANP/RAMP:

- is an expert in the chosen area of clinical practice
- works autonomously at an advanced level in clinical practice
- is a leader in the profession and in the clinical setting
- carries out research and audit in the promotion of high standards of patient/client care.

For details of the specific criteria needed to apply for registration as RANP/RAMP please visit www.NMBI.ie/Registration/Advanced-Practice

This publication is aimed at those interested in applying for entry to the pre-registration honours degree programmes in nursing and midwifery in 2018 and has been published on an annual basis since 2005.

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