

PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS
CAREERS

2023 Entry Requirements for Mature Applicants



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

NMBI entry criteria

The criteria for admission to education and training programmes are set out in the *Nurses and Midwives (Education and Training) Rules 2018*:

4. (1) A person seeking admission to an education and training programme leading to first time registration in the register of nurses and midwives must—
 - (d) in the case of a person who is 23 years of age or over on the first day of January of the year of admission, satisfy the Board in such manner as may be determined by it of his or her suitability to undertake the programme (SI 218 of 2018).

In that respect, we require that all those applicants over 23 years applying for admission to a nursing or midwifery programme must sit assessment tests.

The assessment tests

Step 1: Complete an application to the CAO

Step 2: Using a valid CAO number, register for the assessment tests

Step 3: Complete the suite of tests within the timeframe

Applicants must be successful in the assessment test to be 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 the results may not be carried forward to a future year unless a deferred entry has been granted by an EB.

Proceeding in the competition

On passing the assessment test, applicants will be placed on order-of-merit lists for the programmes you have applied for (see [CAO Handbook 2023](#) for further details).

Applicants must meet the registration requirements and complete the full suite of assessment tests in order to proceed in the mature competition for nursing/midwifery.

Key dates for 2023 mature applicants to nursing and midwifery programmes

Steps	Dates	Notes for applicants
Application to CAO	<p>You are advised to apply to the CAO before 5pm on 1 February 2023 (www.cao.ie).</p> <p>The CAO late application facility will be available from 12pm on 6 March 2023 until 1 May 2023 at 5pm.</p>	<p>Before completing the CAO application form, you should carefully study the CAO Handbook 2023.</p>
Application for assessment	<p>For entry to programmes in 2023, we are reviewing our assessment processes and details about the assessment will be made available on our website, www.nmbi.ie.</p> <p>The CAO will also issue an email about the assessment to all mature applicants after 1 February 2023. It is expected that registration will open in April and the test will take place in May 2023 but this is subject to change.</p>	<p>Information about the assessment tests will be available on our website.</p>
Offers	<p>First offers from CAO to mature applicants will take place in early July 2023. If necessary, further offers may be made in early August.</p>	

Sponsorship for public health service employees wishing to qualify as nurses/ midwives

The sponsorship scheme 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. Under the scheme your salary is paid for the duration of the programme. 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.

To be considered for the sponsorship scheme, applicants must:

- meet all of the conditions as outlined in the relevant [Health Service Executive circular 40/2020](#)
- 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 an education body and healthcare agency.

Further information is available from:
Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development Unit South East
Kilcreene Hospital Complex
Kilkenny
Telephone: (056) 778 5620
Email: nmpdu.kilkenny@hse.ie