

PROFESSIONAL  
STANDARDS  
CAREERS

# 2025 Entry Requirements for Mature Applicants



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

## NMBI entry criteria

Mature applicants must be 23 years of age or over by 1 January 2025 to be considered for a place in an undergraduate education programme leading to an honours degree in nursing and midwifery.

To apply, mature applicant must have a valid Central Applications Office (CAO) application number and must be successful in the three assessment tests outlined below.

## The application process

**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 tests to be considered for an offer as a mature applicant. However, success in the tests does not guarantee an offer of a place.

The assessment tests is year specific and the results may not be carried forward to a future year unless a deferred entry has been granted by an education body.

## The assessment tests

The tests will be delivered remotely online. This allows you to take them at your preferred location and time.

The current assessment comprises of three separate tests:

- verbal reasoning (also called understanding of basic instructions)
- numeracy
- job simulation.

To pass, applicants must reach a minimum score on each assessment test. Please note that the minimum score for each test will not be decided until the results of all the assessment tests have been analysed.

## Proceeding in the competition

On passing the assessment tests, applicants will be placed on order-of-merit lists for the programmes they have applied for. Please visit the [CAO website](#) for further information.

Applicants must meet the registration requirements and complete the full suite of assessment tests in order to be eligible for a nursing or midwifery place as a mature student.

## Key dates for 2025 mature applicants to nursing and midwifery programmes

Steps	Dates	Notes to applicants
Application to CAO	<p>You are advised to apply to the CAO before <b>5pm on 1 February 2025</b>.</p> <p>The CAO late application facility will be available from <b>12pm on 5 March 2025</b> until <b>5pm on 1 May 2025</b>.</p>	<p>Before completing the CAO application form, you should carefully read the <a href="#">CAO Handbook 2025</a>.</p>
Application for assessment tests	<p>Applications and registration will open in <b>April 2025</b>.</p> <p>Tests will take place online in <b>May 2025</b>.</p> <p>The CAO will also issue an email about the assessment to all mature applicants after <b>1 February 2025</b>.</p>	<p>Information about the assessment tests will be available on our <a href="#">website</a>.</p> <p>Please be advised the dates for assessment testing is subject to change.</p>
Offers	<p>First round offers from CAO to mature applicants will take place in early <b>July 2025</b>. If necessary, further offers may be made in early <b>August 2025</b>.</p>	

## Sponsorship

Sponsorship is available for a limited number of mature applicants who are support staff in the Irish public health service and who want to become nurses or midwives. To be eligible you must be directly involved in delivering care to patients or clients in a nursing or midwifery context in the Health Service Executive (HSE), for example employed as healthcare assistants or multi-task attendants.

The scheme ensures your basic salary is paid for the duration of your nursing or midwifery degree programme. You will be expected to return to your substantive post outside of the academic semesters for the duration of the programme.

To be considered for the sponsorship scheme, applicants must:

- meet the conditions set by the HSE
- apply as a mature student to the CAO
- be successful in the mature applicant assessment tests 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 or midwifery as a mature applicant by the CAO (an offer of a place does not guarantee an offer of sponsorship), and
- meet the required terms and conditions as determined by an education body and healthcare agency.

Applications are generally made to the HSE around May or June of each year.

Visit the [HSE website](#) for more information.

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](mailto:nmpdu.kilkenny@hse.ie)

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland  
18/20 Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, County  
Dublin, A94 R299

Telephone: (01) 639 8528

Email: [careersinformation@nmbi.ie](mailto:careersinformation@nmbi.ie)

Website: [www.nmbi.ie/careers-in-nursing-  
midwifery](http://www.nmbi.ie/careers-in-nursing-midwifery)



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