

PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS
CAREERS

Pre-Registration Honours
Degree Programmes 2023

Nursing/Midwifery
A career for you



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

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Key dates for all applicants to Nursing and Midwifery programmes

	Mature applicant	Applicant
Application to CAO	  Closing date February 2023 5.00pm www.cao.ie	  Closing date 1 February 2023 5.00pm www.cao.ie
Application for mature applicants' assessment test	  See Section 6 Applying for the assessment test on page [38] of this booklet	  n/a
Late application to CAO	  Closing date 1 May 2023 5.00pm ^{1&2} www.cao.ie	  Closing date 1 May 2023 5.00pm ¹ www.cao.ie
Change of mind	  Beginning of May to 1 July 2023 5.00pm	  Beginning of May to 1 July 2023 5.00pm
Offers	  From CAO in early July 2023	  FET ³ – early August Round 1 – mid-August 2023

For further information please visit the [NMBI website](http://www.nmbi.ie)
or email: careersinformation@nmbi.ie

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

² Check closing date for Mature Application Registration on the [NMBI website](http://www.nmbi.ie).

³ Further education and training.

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
- Mental Health (Psychiatric) Nursing⁴

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](#) and on the [CAO website](#).

The onus is on each applicant to check our NMBI website, and with the education bodies (EBs) and the CAO for any changes regarding the competition.

For 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 document

ATU Donegal:	Atlantic Technological University, Donegal
ATU Galway-Mayo:	Atlantic Technological University, Galway-Mayo
ATU Sligo St Angela's:	Atlantic Technological University, Sligo St Angela's
CAO:	Central Applications Office
CHI:	Children's Health Ireland
CMS:	Clinical Midwife Specialist
CNS:	Clinical Nurse Specialist
DARE:	Disability Access Route to Education
DCU:	Dublin City University
DkIT:	Dundalk Institute of Technology
DOH:	Department of Health
EB:	Education Body
EU:	European Union

⁴ Psychiatric Nursing is also called Mental Health Nursing in some Education Bodies.

FET:	Further Education and Training
FETAC:	Further Education and Training Awards Council
HEAR:	Higher Education Access Route
HETAC:	Higher Education and Training Awards Council
ICM:	International Confederation of Midwives
ICN:	International Council of Nurses
IT:	Institute of Technology
MTU:	Munster Technological University
NFQ:	National Framework of Qualifications
NMBI:	Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland
NMPDU:	Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development Unit
NVB:	National Vetting Bureau
PHN:	Public Health Nurse
QOI:	Quality and Qualifications Ireland
RAMP:	Registered Advanced Midwife Practitioner
RANP:	Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner Registered
RCN:	Children's Nurse
RGN:	Registered General Nurse
RCSI:	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
RM:	Registered Midwife
RMT:	Registered Midwife Tutor
RN:	Registered Nurse
RNID:	Registered Nurse Intellectual Disability
RNT:	Registered Nurse Tutor
RPHN:	Registered Public Health Nurse
RPN:	Registered Psychiatric Nurse
SCBU:	Special Care Baby Unit
SETU:	South East Technological University
SIF:	Supplementary Information Form
SUSI:	Student Universal Support Ireland
TCD:	Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
TUS:	Technological University of the Shannon
UCC:	University College Cork
UCD:	University College Dublin
UG:	University of Galway
UL:	University of Limerick

About NMBI

NMBI is the regulator for the professions of nursing and midwifery in Ireland. It has a statutory obligation to protect the integrity of the practice of the professions of nursing and midwifery and to protect the public.

- It maintains a Register of Nurses and Midwives and a Candidate Register for student nurses and midwives
- Sets the standards for the education and training of nurses and midwives
- Approves and monitors programmes of education necessary for registration
- Provides guidance on professional conduct and ethics for registered nurses and midwives
- Investigates and considers complaints against nurses and midwives who practise in Ireland.

NMBI's functions are defined in the Nurses and Midwives Act 2011.

Contacts

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI)

18/20 Carysfort Avenue

Blackrock

County Dublin

A94 R299

Tel: (01) 639 8528

Fax: (01) 639 8577

Email: careersinformation@nmbi.ie

Website: www.nmbi.ie/careers-in-nursing-midwifery

Central Applications Office (CAO)

Tower House

Eglinton Street

Galway

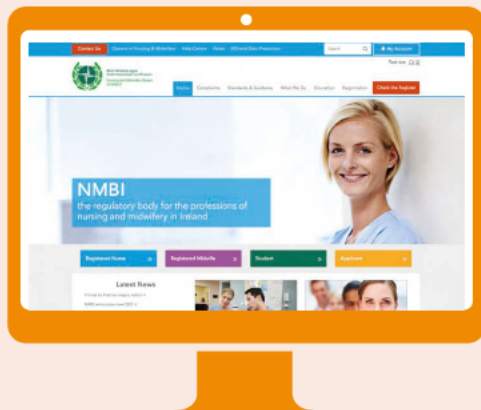
H91 X25V

Tel: (091) 509800

Fax: (091) 562344

Website: www.cao.ie

For current news on careers, please visit our website at www.nmbi.ie/careers-in-nursing-midwifery.



If you have a question, email us directly at careersinformation@nmbi.ie.

Please note that the terms 'candidate', 'student', 'student nurse' and 'student midwife' are all used interchangeably in this booklet.



01

What is Nursing
and What is
Midwifery?

This section provides an overview of nursing and midwifery and the core values of the professions.

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, education, participation in shaping health policy, and in patient and health systems management are also key nursing roles ([ICN](#)).

Midwifery

Midwifery is the profession of midwives, only midwives practise midwifery. It has a unique body of knowledge, skills and professional attitudes drawn from disciplines shared by other health professions such as science and sociology but practised by midwives within a professional framework of autonomy, partnership, ethics and accountability.

Midwifery is an approach to care of women and their newborn infants whereby midwives:

- optimise the normal biological, psychological, social and cultural processes of childbirth and early life of the newborn
- work in partnership with women, respecting the individual circumstances and views of each woman
- promote women's personal capabilities to care for themselves and their families
- collaborate with colleagues and other health professionals as necessary to provide holistic care that meets each woman's individual needs.

Midwifery care is provided by an autonomous midwife ([ICM](#)).

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 in, and has authority to perform.

An individual nurse's or midwife's scope of practice is dynamic – that is, it will change and grow with career progression. Graduation, followed by registration, is the first rung on the career ladder to a fulfilling, challenging and exciting career as a nurse or midwife. It is the springboard for a career that provides a diversity of opportunity. Career opportunities and pathways are for the most part divided between:

- Clinical
- Management
- Education and research

Clinical roles

Clinical means working as a nurse or midwife directly with patients and clients. The career options to work as a clinician are:

- Staff Nurse/Staff Midwife
- Enhanced Nurses/Enhanced Midwife
- Clinical Nurse/Midwife Specialist (CNS/CMS)
- Registered Advanced Nurse/Midwife Practitioner (RANP/RAMP)

Management roles

Management means supervising nursing/midwifery staff and their provision of care to patients and clients. There are three front-line nursing and midwifery management roles: Clinical Nurse/Midwife Manager I, II and III. Additionally there are Assistant Director of Nursing, Assistant Director of Midwifery, Director of Nursing and Director of Midwifery roles. These roles are organisational and strategic, and are generally part of corporate management and stewardship of organisations.

Education and research

Education career pathways tend to be either in education bodies (EBs), Nursing and Midwifery Practice Development Departments or in the Centres of Nursing and Midwifery Education where undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing professional development courses are delivered. Opportunities include nurse/midwife tutor posts, practice development managers, lecturers with progression to senior lectureships or professorships within the Schools of Nursing and Midwifery.

Research pathways may be within a clinical role or nurses/midwives can work as researchers in a variety of research facilities and universities.

Opportunities to learn

There are countless opportunities to learn and to build on skills. For further education opportunities following initial registration, see [Section 9](#).

Further information

For further information on the **various roles** outlined here, please visit the HSE website: <https://healthservice.hse.ie/about-us/onmsd/careers-in-nursing-and-midwifery/career-pathways-nurses-midwives.html>

To find out more about pursuing a career in a **clinical specialist role** go to: <https://healthservice.hse.ie/en/about-us/onmsd/advanced-and-specialist-practice/specialist-practice.html>

To find out more about pursuing a career in an **advanced practice role** go to: <https://healthservice.hse.ie/en/about-us/onmsd/advanced-and-specialist-practice/advanced-practice.html>



02

What Programmes
are Available in
Nursing and
Midwifery?

Programmes leading to registration with NMBI

There are 45 pre-registration honours degree programmes in Ireland. These programmes are divided into nursing (four disciplines) and midwifery. Each programme leads to a specific registration (see Table 1).

The nursing disciplines include:

- Children's and General (Integrated)
- General Nursing
- Intellectual Disability Nursing
- Mental Health (Psychiatric) Nursing

All 45 programmes are honours bachelor's degree programmes at Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). The academic award is Bachelor of Science (BSc).

Number of programmes and places

The number of places on the 44 programmes through the CAO are illustrated in Table 1 overleaf.

Table 1: Number of pre-registration programmes and places

Programme title	Programme duration (years)	Leading to registration as	No. of programmes	No. of places ⁷	Quota of places for mature applicants ¹	No. of EBs	No. of main healthcare agencies
Children's and General (Integrated) Nursing	4.5	Registered Children's Nurse (RCN) and Registered General Nurse (RGN)	4	132	15%	4	4
General Nursing	4	Registered General Nurse (RGN)	14	1061	15%	14	22
Intellectual Disability Nursing	4	Registered Nurse Intellectual Disability (RNID)	8	378	35%	8	10
Mental Health (Psychiatric) Nursing ⁸	4	Registered Psychiatric Nurse (RPN)	12	441	35%	12	14
Midwifery	4	Registered Midwife (RM)	6	162	20%	6	7

⁷ This is a dynamic quota and it may vary.

⁸ This is also called Mental Health Nursing in some EBs.

⁹ Correct at time of publication

Independent Provider - Hibernia College

Hibernia College offers an undergraduate general nurse education programme. The programme is designed to provide learning opportunities for mature students, graduates of further education programmes and school leavers who wish to undertake a full-time Level 8 Degree programme. Applications are not managed through the CAO. For information on the application process and fee structure, please refer to the [Hibernia College website](#).

Pre-registration honours degree programmes in nursing and midwifery

Table 2 gives details of the 13 EBs offering the 44 pre-registration honours degree programmes, together with the main associated healthcare agencies and the number of places per programme. The clinical part of a programme will be completed with the healthcare agencies.

Please note that although the main associated healthcare agencies are listed, other healthcare agencies may also be used for clinical placements. Such healthcare agencies may be a considerable distance from those listed in Table 2. Contact the individual EBs for further details about the location of the placements.

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

It is essential to use the correct course code when making an application. Check the [CAO website](#) for any changes to programme details.

In relation to the Children's and General (Integrated) Nursing programmes, Table 2 only indicates the children's healthcare agencies concerned. Clinical placements for General Nursing will be allocated by the general healthcare agencies associated with the EB.

Please refer to our [website](#) for full details of all approved Nursing and Midwifery courses.

Table 2 List of all 45 pre-registration programmes

No.	Education body	Healthcare agency	Places	Course
1	Atlantic Technological University, Donegal (074) 918 6000	Letterkenny General Hospital, Co Donegal Intellectual Disability Services, Donegal Donegal Mental Health Services Sligo/Leitrim Mental Health Services	31 20 16 16	General Intellectual Disability Mental Health Mental Health
2	Atlantic Technological University, Galway-Mayo (094) 902 5700	Mayo University Hospital, Castlebar Mayo Mental Health Services, Mayo University Hospital	31 26	General Psychiatric
3	Atlantic Technological University, Sligo St Angela's (071) 914 7285	Sligo University Hospital Sligo/Leitrim Disability Services	70 25	General Intellectual Disability

continued

No.	Education Body	Healthcare agency	Places	Course
4	Dublin City University (01) 700 5000	Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Temple Street, Dublin 1 / Mater University Hospital, Dublin / Bon Secours Hospital, Dublin / Blackrock Health Hermitage Clinic Beaumont Hospital, Beaumont, Dublin 9 Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 St Joseph's Intellectual Disability Services, Portrane, County Dublin Avista (Formally Daughters of Charity), Portrane, County Dublin St Michael's House, Ballymun Road, Dublin 9 North Dublin Mental Health Services, HSE Dublin North Mental Health Services, HSE St Vincent's Hospital, Fairview, Dublin 3 National Forensic Mental Health Services, HSE	40 68 19 17 27 15 22 22 21 9	Children's & General (Integrated) General General Intellectual Disability Intellectual Disability Intellectual Disability Mental Health Mental Health Mental Health Mental Health

continued

No.	Education Body	Healthcare agency	Places	Course
5	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 HSE Dublin North East and North West, Maternity Services Louth/Meath and Cavan/Monaghan, Mental Health Services	48 30 21 31	General Intellectual Disability Midwifery Mental Health
6	Hibernia College (01) 661 0168	Blackrock Clinic, Dublin Blackrock Health Galway Clinic The Hermitage Clinic, Dublin The Mater Private Hospital, Dublin The Bons Secours Hospital, Galway	25	General General General General General
7	MTU (066) 714 5600	University Hospital, Kerry Bantry General Hospital Bon Secours Hospital, Tralee Kerry and West Cork South Mental Health Services	60 27	General General General Mental Health

continued

No.	Education Body	Healthcare agency	Places	Course
8	South East Technological University (051) 302 000	HSE South Eastern Region General Nursing Services	70	General
		HSE South Eastern Region and Voluntary Intellectual Disability Nursing Services	25	Intellectual Disability
		HSE South Eastern Region Mental Health Nursing Services	43	Mental Health
9	TCD (01) 896 1000	Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght, Dublin 24	26	Children's & General (Integrated) General
		Tallaght University Hospital, Tallaght, Dublin 24	66	General
		St James's Hospital, Dublin 8	76	Intellectual Disability
		Muirfosa Foundation, Moore Abbey, Monasterevin, County Kildare	15	
		Stewart's Care Services Limited, Palmerstown, Dublin 20	17	Intellectual Disability
		Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital, Dublin 8	22	Midwifery
		Rotunda Hospital, Dublin 1	22	Midwifery
		Community Healthcare Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Health Services	40	Mental Health
		St Patrick's Mental Health Services, James's Street, Dublin 8	19	Mental Health

continued

No.	Education Body	Healthcare agency	Places	Course
10	Technological University of the Shannon (090) 646 800	Regional Hospital Mullingar Regional Hospital Tullamore Regional Hospital Portlaoise Longford, Westmeath, Laois, Offaly Mental Health Services	50 26	General Mental Health
11	University College Cork (021) 490 3000	Cork University Hospital Bon 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, Cork HSE South, Mental Health Services	24 20 62 27 17 25 28 40	Children's & General (Integrated) General General General General Intellectual Disability Midwifery Mental Health

continued

No.	Education Body	Healthcare agency	Places	Course
12	University College Dublin (01) 716 6407	Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin, Dublin 12	42	Children's & General (Integrated)
		Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin 7	68	General
		St Vincent's Healthcare Group, Dublin 4	96	General
		National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street, Dublin 2	20	Midwifery
		St John of God Hospital, Stillorgan, County Dublin & HSE	15	Mental Health
		Mental Health HSE Community Healthcare Organisation East (formerly CH06)	11	Mental Health
13	University of Galway (091) 524 411	Galway University Hospitals	80	General
		Portiuncula Hospital, Balinasloe, County Galway	25	Midwifery
		University College Hospital Galway HSE West Mental Health Nursing Services	30	Mental Health

continued

No.	Education Body	Healthcare agency	Places	Course
14	University of Limerick (061) 202 015	University of Limerick Hospitals Group (ULHG) HSE West	77	General
		AVISTA, Lisnagry, County Limerick	30	Intellectual Disability
		Mid-West Mental Health Services (Limerick, Clare and North Tipperary)	36	Mental Health
		CHO3 Community Services University Maternity Hospital HSE West (Limerick, Clare and North Tipperary) University Hospital Waterford St Luke's General Hospital, Kilkenny South Tipperary General Hospital	24	Midwifery

Programme purpose

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 midwife registration programme should facilitate midwifery students to acquire the skills of problem-solving, decision-making, critical analysis and reflection essential to the art and science of midwifery. Safe and effective midwifery practice requires a sound underpinning of theoretical knowledge that informs practice and is, in turn, informed by that practice.

The purpose of midwife registration education programmes is to equip midwifery students with the necessary knowledge and skills and professional behaviours (ICM, 2017) 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.

Table 3 NMBI total requirements of the programmes

Practice instruction Essential requirements of the programme	General, Intellectual Disability, Mental Health and Midwifery Number of weeks	Children and General (Integrated) Number of weeks
Theoretical instruction	63	75
Clinical instruction	45	59
Internship ¹⁰	36	36
Total	144	170

The 36-week internship takes place during the fourth year and includes a salary (see page 32). Normal third-level college holidays do not apply during the internship year.

Students undertaking the registration education programme have supernumerary status¹¹ during the programme with the exception of a final placement of 36 weeks' rostered clinical placement (internship), which consolidates the completed theoretical component of the programme.

Following any interruption¹² in the educational programme, the education body in partnership with the healthcare institutions must ensure that students meet the programme requirements.

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

¹⁰ Inclusive of annual leave.

¹¹ The student will be surplus to the rostered complement of nurses/midwives.

¹² Any leave (other than annual leave and bank holidays).

Competencies

The competencies for entry to the nurses division and the midwives' division of the NMBI Register are clearly aligned with the *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives* (NMBI, 2021). All domains of competence outlined below represent the level students must reach, on completion of the education programme, for entry to the NMBI Register.

Nursing¹³

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

- **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.
- **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 nursing care based on an explicit partnership with the person and their primary carer.
- **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.
- **Communication and interpersonal competences**
Knowledge, appreciation and development of empathic communication skills and techniques for effective interpersonal relationships with people and other professionals in healthcare settings.

¹³ Nursing includes general, psychiatric, intellectual disability and children's. Refer to: *Nurse Registration Standards and Requirements* (NMBI, 2016).

- **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 healthcare team.

- **Leadership potential 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.

Midwifery¹⁴

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

- 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.
- 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 Directive 2005/36/EC and the adapted Definition of the Midwife (ICM, 2017) as adopted by NMBI).
- 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.
- The midwife works in equal partnership with the woman and her family and establishes a relationship of trust and confidentiality.
- The midwife communicates and collaborates effectively with the woman, and the woman's family and with the multidisciplinary healthcare team.

¹⁴ The competencies for entry to the midwives division of the Register are based upon the *Midwife Registration Programmes: Standards and Requirements* (NMBI, 2016).



03

What Do I Need
to Apply for
Nursing or
Midwifery?

Please note that a new grading system for the Leaving Certificate was introduced in 2017. We have mapped our 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

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—
 - (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:
 - (i) Irish or English;
 - (ii) Mathematics;
 - (iii) a Laboratory Science Subject (Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics and Chemistry or Agricultural Science); and
 - (iv) three other subjects,
 - (b) have achieved the equivalent minimum educational attainments to those referred to in subparagraph (a), such equivalent attainments to be adjudicated upon by the third level institution concerned,
 - (c) meet the minimum educational requirements specified by the third level institution concerned for entry to the programme, provided that such requirements are not of a lower standard than those set out in subparagraph (a).

Please note that foundation level Mathematics or foundation level Irish are not acceptable.

Education Bodies' education entry requirements

The following are the basic minimum requirements for each EB. Each EB may have specific requirements regarding combination of subjects permitted or subjects that may not be presented at all. It is essential to consult the EB literature regarding the information in Table 11.

Table 11 Education Body entry requirements

Education body	Entry requirements
ATU Donegal ATU Galway/ Mayo ATU Sligo, St Angela's DCU DKIT MTU Kerry SETU TUS	<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 and Chemistry, or Agricultural Science) • Three other subjects <p>Or Equivalent qualifications</p>
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 and Chemistry, or Agricultural Science) • Two other subjects <p>Or Equivalent qualifications</p>

continued

Education Body	Entry requirements
TCD	<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 and Chemistry, or Agricultural Science) • Two other subjects <p>Or</p> <p>Equivalent qualifications</p>

The National University of Ireland (NUI) colleges

Table 12 NUI entry requirements

NUI college	Entry requirements
UCC UCD	<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"> • Irish⁵ (not foundation level) • English • Mathematics (not foundation level) • A laboratory science subject (Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics and Chemistry, or Agricultural Science) • Any two other subjects accepted for matriculation registration purposes <p>Or</p> <p>Equivalent qualifications</p>

⁵ Applicants that have an official Department of Education 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.

Equivalent qualifications

Applicants not presenting the Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate Examination minimum education requirements, must have obtained equivalent education qualifications⁶.

Applicants must clarify this 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.

Applicants must consult the EB literature and contact the admission office of the EB, and refer to the CAO website for further information.

Mature applicants

Mature applicants must be 23 years of age or over by 1 January in the year of entry to be considered for a place.

If you choose to apply as a mature applicant, you must be successful in the current year of the assessment tests. However, due to the number of places available on the programme, success at the assessment tests does not guarantee an offer of a place and the results may not be carried forward to a future year (unless a deferred entry has been granted by an education body). There are approximately 350 places available. The onus is on you to apply for the assessment tests in addition to your application to the Central Applications Office (CAO).

See Section 6 for more information.

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)

QQI is responsible for the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and makes awards based on agreed standards for the 10 levels of the NFQ. Awards made by the former agencies of FETAC and HETAC continue to be recognised. QQI through NARIC Ireland provides advice on foreign qualifications.

NARIC Ireland provides advice on the academic recognition of a foreign qualification by comparing it, where possible, to a major award type and level on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

For advice on foreign qualifications, please refer to www.naric.ie where information on the comparability of foreign qualifications can be provided by NARIC Ireland.

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 (to the Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate Examination) entry route for applicants to nursing and midwifery, using the CAO application process.

For details of participating institutions and their quota of places, please visit www2.cao.ie/fetac/fetacnursingquota.pdf.

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)

Must achieve 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 EBs or visit www.cao.ie or www.qqi.ie.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

Education Bodies award points for results in Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme Link Modules, in place of a sixth Leaving Certificate subject. This is for points purposes 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 sitting will be counted for points purposes.

Table 13 Leaving Certificate Examination points system

%	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

Please note that the CAO adds 25 bonus points to the points score for Leaving Certificate higher level Mathematics at grades H6 and above.

Points for applicants

For information on the minimum points required, please visit the CAO website www.cao.ie.

The background is a solid light orange color. It features several large, semi-transparent circles in various shades of orange and peach. One large circle is in the upper left, another is in the upper right, and a third is in the lower left. A medium-sized circle in the center-right contains the text.

04

How do I Apply?

Applying to the CAO

Applications are made to the CAO online at www.cao.ie. Before completing the application form, carefully study the literature of the EBs and the CAO Handbook 2023 and any subsequent changes to these documents. For queries regarding eligibility for consideration of a place on a Nursing or Midwifery programme, please consult the literature of the EBs and contact the admission office of the EBs.

Please choose up to 10 Nursing and Midwifery course codes in the Level 8 category, listed in order of preference.

Applications

Applicant

Application based on examination results. Please check the relevant EB literature regarding the minimum entry age. Minimum education requirements of both NMBI and the EB(s).

Mature applicant

Must be 23 years of age or over by 1 January in the year of entry to be considered for a place on the grounds of mature years. **Consideration will be based on performance in the assessment test.**

QQI/FET applicant

It is possible to enter this course through the QQI FET entry route rather than leaving certificate points. Please refer to the [How do I get in?](#) guide on the NMBI website.

Application using the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)

The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a third level alternative admissions scheme for school leavers, resident in the Republic of Ireland, who are underrepresented at Higher Education due to their socio-economic background. Applicants applying for HEAR must be under the age of 23 as 1 January in the year of entry. HEAR applicants must meet a range of financial, social and cultural indicators to be considered for a reduced points place and extra college support. Further Educational Training (FET) students have different admissions routes. See details at www.accesscollege.ie/hear/index.php.

To be considered for HEAR, applicants must have registered on the CAO system by 1 February 2023 at 5.00pm. To apply to HEAR, indicate this on the CAO application and fully and correctly complete all elements of the online HEAR form by 5.00pm on 1 March 2023. Supporting documents for HEAR applicants must be sent to CAO offices before 15 March 2023 at 5.00pm.

Application using the Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)

The Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) is a third level alternative admissions scheme for school leavers whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education. Applicants applying for DARE must be under the age of 23 as of 1 January in the year of entry. Eligible DARE applicants can compete for reduced points places in participating colleges. Applicants to DARE can present with an Irish Leaving Certificate, A-Levels and/or other EU qualifications. Applicants applying on the basis of Further Education and Training (FET) results have different admission routes. See details at www.accesscollege.ie/dare/index.php. Please also refer to the section Health Requirements on page 34 of this booklet if using this scheme.

To be considered for DARE, applicants must have registered on the CAO system by 1 February 2023 at 5.00pm. To apply to DARE please answer YES to Question 1 ('Do you wish to be considered for DARE?') on Section A of the fully completed Supplementary Information Form (SIF) by 5.00pm on 1 March 2023. Supporting documents for DARE applicants must be sent to CAO offices before 15 March 2023 at 5.00pm.

Late applications

Late applications are those received after 5.00pm on 1 February 2023. The closing date for late applications is 5.00pm on 1 May 2023, subject to the restrictions listed in the CAO Handbook 2023. Late applications are not available for applications to the Adelaide School of Nursing.

The online facility for late applications opens on 4 March 2023 at 12.00 noon – a fee applies.

Change of mind

At the beginning of May, a change of mind facility is available through the CAO until 1 July 2023. This facilitates a change the courses already applied for. For full details about the change of mind facility, please visit the [CAO's website](#).

Offers

Applications are assessed in accordance with CAO procedure. Please read CAO Handbook 2023 sections: The Offer Stage, Deferring a Place and Available Places.

The timetable of offers is as follows:

July	First offers of places to mature applicants will take place in early July. If necessary, further offers may be made in early August.
August	<p>First offers of places to applicants (QQI FET) will take place in early August.</p> <p>First offers of places to applicants (excluding QQI FET) will take place following the results of the Leaving Certificate Examination (Round One).</p>
September	Offers continue to be made as needed until late September.

Offers will be issued by post and may also be viewed and accepted on the [CAO website](#).

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

Allowances and grants

Uniform

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

Salary

Student nurse and midwife pay rates, in respect of their 36 week placement period, are set at 70% of the first point of the staff nurses and midwives incremental [pay scale](#).

Free fees initiative

The education bodies determine eligibility for free fees. For queries about fees, please 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. To apply for a grant, indicate this on the CAO online application. The CAO will provide identification 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, please visit the [SUSI website](#).



05

Entry Requirements
for All Applicants

Health requirements

Nursing and midwifery are demanding professions, both physically and emotionally. This requires good mental and physical health and the ability to achieve the required competencies of a nurse/midwife.

Students 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 an EB/healthcare agency.

Students must satisfactorily complete these or other health requirements 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 suitability is the responsibility of the relevant organisation. Offers are conditional and could subsequently be withdrawn if garda/police vetting requirements are not met. NMBI have no involvement in garda vetting.

Further details are available from the EB/healthcare agency.

English competence

If an applicant's first language/primary mode of expression is not English, evidence of English competence will be required. Please consult the EB literature and contact the admission office of the relevant EB for entry requirements.

Additional capabilities

The Nursing and Midwifery programmes require the student to attain competencies by the end of each programme. These include competencies associated with professional and ethical practice, managing and organising nursing and midwifery 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. These characteristics inform the values framework of the *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives* (NMBI, 2021) and the *Values for Nurses and Midwives* (Department of Health, 2016).

Non-EU applicants

Applicants that are now, or have been in the past, resident outside the EU, must have consult the EB literature and have contacted the admission office of the EBs for the following:

- Definition of non-EU
- Entry requirements and conditions
- Application procedure and eligibility to apply
- Selection procedure
- Economic fee
- Any other matters

If places remain vacant after offers have been made to eligible EU applicants, a person with non-EU status may be considered.

Please note that we have no role regarding visas/permits nor in defining non-EU status.

Applicants expressing a preference for the Adelaide School of Nursing

The Adelaide School of Nursing is a restricted CAO application course (TR093, overseen by the Adelaide Health Foundation (AHF), a voluntary charitable organisation.

The Adelaide School of Nursing is open to all who wish to study general nursing (there is no restriction on religious grounds. The restricted nature of the course allows the AHF to fulfil its responsibilities under the Tallaght University Hospital Charter (ensuring that the hospital remains multi-denominational and pluralist). There are limited places available.

The AHF offers ongoing financial support in the form of means tested bursaries and scholarships to nursing students in Tallaght University Hospital.

Details of applicants who have expressed a preference for the Adelaide School of Nursing through the CAO are provided to the AHF by Trinity College Dublin. The AHF in turn issues an application form. The completed forms are evaluated by the AHF and nominations are made. Nominated students are eligible to be offered a place in the Adelaide School of Nursing once all other CAO criteria are met.

For further information, please refer to the [Adelaide Health Foundation's website](#).

Please note that being nominated for the Adelaide School of Nursing does not guarantee an offer of a place. The Adelaide School of Nursing application form process is **additional** to the other requirements as outlined in this publication.

Not being nominated for the Adelaide School of Nursing does not prejudice the opportunity of an offer of a place on other nursing courses applied for.

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

Applicants undertaking a programme at a EB or have previously undertaken a programme at a EB must contact the admission office of the EB to determine fees and any other matters.

Applicants previously 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 to the relevant Programme Board. This can be done in writing to the Admissions Officer, and include any relevant details of extenuating circumstances.

Note to all applicants

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the specified entry requirements and conditions are met.

Applicants should not take the processing of an application at any stage of the competition as an indication of eligibility for the programme(s).

Applicants are responsible for meeting all costs in relation to the application process.

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

If at any time between applying and the end of the competition a change of contact details is required, immediately notify the CAO online.



06

Entry Requirements
for Mature
Applicants

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 an assessment test.

The assessment test

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.

Timetable for mature applicants 2023

Table 10 Timetable for mature applicants 2023

What	How and when	Important notes to applicants
Application to CAO	Applicants must apply to the CAO before 5.00pm on 1 February 2023 (www.cao.ie).	Before completing the CAO application form, review the CAO Handbook 2023.
Application for assessment	For entry to programmes in 2023, we are reviewing our assessment processes, and details about the assessment will be made available by year end. Full details about the assessment will be publicised on our website www.nmbi.ie at this time. The CAO will also issue an email about the assessment to all mature applicants after 1 February 2023. It is expected that the test will take place in March/April 2023 but this is subject to change.	Information about the assessment test will not be available until the end of 2022.
Offers	First offers from CAO to mature applicants will take place in early July 2023 . If necessary, further offers may be made in early August.	

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 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 EB 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



07

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 spectrum. This programme offers a dual registration in both the children's division and the general division of the NMBI Register. Children's nurses provide nursing care for children and young people, mostly within the hospital environment. 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 the Children's and General Nursing (Integrated) 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.

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

Table 4 Clinical placements – Children’s and General Nursing (Integrated)

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 Healthcare and Community Nursing (EU)	4 weeks (e.g. PHN ¹⁵ , Primary care, RN ¹⁶ 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.

¹⁵ Public Health Nurse

¹⁶ Registered Nurse

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.

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

Table 5 Clinical placements – General Nursing

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 Healthcare 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 (Registered Nurse Intellectual Disability), 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 healthcare 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.

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

Table 6 Clinical placements – Intellectual Disability Nursing

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 ¹⁷ /RANP ¹⁸ 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)

Mental Health (Psychiatric) Nursing

Mental Health (Psychiatric) nursing also known as mental health nursing is a specialist nursing discipline. Mental Health nurses work with people who are experiencing mental health challenges. The aim of mental health 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 mental health nursing is the development of an empowering therapeutic relationship. The mental health 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.

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

¹⁷ Clinical Nurse Specialist

¹⁸ Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner

The nature of mental health nursing demands that nurses acquire a broad-based education with particular emphasis on personal and interpersonal knowledge, as well as knowledge from nursing theory and the 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.

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

Table 7 Clinical placements – Mental Health (Psychiatric) Nursing

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/RANP 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. Students 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 provides an indication of the content. 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.

Table 8 Clinical placements – Midwifery

Practice instruction	Minimum no. of weeks	Clinical experience
Antenatal	16	<p>Must include antenatal clinics and antenatal wards</p> <p>May include:</p> <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
Midwife-led care placement	4	<p>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.</p> <p>May include:</p> <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

continued

Practice instruction	Minimum no. of weeks	Clinical experience
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 ¹⁹ /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

¹⁹ Special Care Baby Unit



08

Theoretical
Component of the
Pre-Registration
Honours Degree
Programmes

Nursing

Of the theoretical component, two-thirds covers the art and science of nursing care practice.

Approximately one third of the theoretical component is devoted to the applied biological and social sciences, which are the science subjects taught as they apply to, and inform, nursing care practice.

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

Subjects

Table 9 outlines some of the subject areas that comprise the theoretical component of the programmes.

Table 9 Theoretical component subject areas

Nursing subjects	Midwifery subjects
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 healthcare	Midwifery practice – knowledge, skills and professional behaviours
Ethics for nursing practice and healthcare	Health promotion
Health promotion	Sociology as applied to midwifery practice
Nursing research	Communication and interpersonal skills
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 interpersonal skills	
Management and team working	
Leadership potential and professional scholarship	

Please refer to the Standards and Requirements documents which can be downloaded from the [NMBI website](#) for a more detailed account of the theoretical components of the programmes.



09

Further Education
Opportunities
Following Initial
Registration

Nursing and midwifery are lifelong careers. Once successfully completing a pre-registration programme in nursing/midwifery and registering as a nurse or midwife, further education and development is available. For details of our approved courses visit the [NMBI website](#).

NMBI has also approved a number of programmes that lead to further registration and these are outlined below.

Post-registration programmes

There are seven post-registration programmes leading to an additional registration with NMBI:

- Children's Nursing
- Midwifery
- Mental Health (Psychiatric) Nursing
- Nurse/Midwife Tutor
- Public Health Nursing
- Nurse/Midwife Prescriber
- Advanced Nurse/Midwife Practitioner

Please note that the programme in Children's Nursing is available at both pre-registration level (i.e. integrated with General Nursing) and at post-registration level.

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

Children's Nursing

Nurses registered in one of the three divisions (RNID, RPN, RGN) of the NMBI Register, may apply to enter the Post-Registration RCN (Registered Children's Nurse) programme. The programme is 12 months full-time in duration.

Eligibility of additional registration as an RCN is based on successful completion of the programme, and an award of a higher diploma from an EB.

The three EBs and the three linked Dublin healthcare agencies offering the Post-Registration RCN programme are:

- DCU in partnership with Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street
- TCD in partnership with Children's Health Ireland at Tallaght
- UCD in partnership with Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin

Midwifery

The Post-Registration Midwifery programme leading to the qualification of Registered Midwife (RM) is 18 months full-time in duration. Applicants must first be registered as a general nurse (RGN) before applying for the Post-Registration Midwifery programme.

Eligibility of additional registration as an RM is based on successful completion of the programme and an award of a higher diploma from an EB.

The seven maternity hospitals and linked EBs currently offering the Post-Registration Midwifery programme are:

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

For a midwife that has completed an 18-month Post-RGN Midwifery Programme in Ireland and wishes to have an automatic right to register in another EU Member State, they must complete one year's professional practice pursuing all the activities of a midwife in a hospital or healthcare institution (EU Directive 2005, Section 41(c)).

Mental Health (Psychiatric) Nursing

Nurse registered in one of the three divisions (RGN, RNID, RCN) of the NMBI Register, may apply to enter the Post-Registration RPN (Registered Mental Health Nurse) programme. The programme is 12 months full-time in duration.

Eligibility of additional registration as an RPN is based on successful completion of the programme and an award of a higher diploma from an EB.

The EB and linked Dublin healthcare agencies offering the Post-Registration RPN programme are:

- 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/Midwife Tutor

Registered nurses and midwives may apply to undertake a specific master's programme. Successful completion of the master's programme with the appropriate strand, entitles applicants to register as a Registered Nurse Tutor (RNT) or Registered Midwife Tutor.

If a registered nurse/midwife already holds a master's honours degree in nursing/midwifery or in an allied health science subject, may (subject to the honours degree being deemed suitable) undertake a further postgraduate qualification in education, and subsequently apply for registration as a Registered Nurse Tutor or Registered Midwife Tutor.

This programme is available at:

- MTU
- UCD
- UG
- TCD

Public Health Nursing

Public health nurses provide primary, secondary and tertiary care to individuals, families and communities across the lifespan to a geographic area. They are key health and primary care practitioners who have been trained and educated as public health workers using a partnership and empowerment approach with individuals, families and communities.

Public health nurses provide a range of services to people in a local community including child health visits and school visits, care on discharge from hospital, and visits and care for older people. Public health can be viewed as a way of looking at health that takes the population as the starting point. With a population perspective, it is possible to identify and address the wider determinants of health such as poverty, unemployment, social exclusion, transport, education, crime and the environment. Thus, public health is viewed as a creative process harnessing political intervention to create circumstances to enable people to live healthy lives, while community-led initiatives support the organised social and policy framework *Healthy Ireland* (Department of Health, 2014).

Registered RGNs that are *not* registered as a midwife (RM), must also complete a Child and Maternal Health module.

Eligibility of additional registration as an RPHN is based on successful completion of the programme and an award of a higher diploma from an EB. Further details are available from the EBs:

- UCC
- UCD
- NG

Nurse/Midwife Prescriber

Registrants may apply to undertake an education programme leading to registration as a Nurse or Midwife Prescriber. Further information is available from the School of Nursing in:

- DCU
- DKIT
- MTU
- RCSI
- TCD
- UCC
- UCD
- UG
- UL

Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Advanced Midwife Practitioner

Advanced practitioners are educated to master's degree level and have the competencies to be senior decision-makers who undertake a comprehensive advanced physical and/or mental health assessment of patients with complex multiple healthcare needs. They can interpret the results of multiple different assessments and investigations to make a diagnosis, and plan and deliver care.

As team leaders they can confidently and competently make ethical, evidence-based decisions and interventions, and use appropriate therapies when faced with complexity, and assess and manage the risk associated with these decisions. Advanced Nurse Practitioners and Advanced Midwife Practitioners can prescribe and work with individuals to manage their medicines.

Typically, they work independently but also as part of an interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary team where they plan and provide skilled and competent care to meet a patient's health and social care needs. Involving or referring on to other members of the healthcare team as appropriate they can safely discharge a patient within their scope of practice.

Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioners (RANPs) and Registered Advanced Midwife Practitioners (RAMPs) work within an agreed [scope of practice](#) and must meet established criteria set by NMBI to register as either a RANP or a RAMP.

NMBI's policy for registration as an RANP or RAMP includes two pathways. Path One applies to applicants who successfully complete the NMBI approved Master of Science in Advanced Practice (Nursing/Midwifery) programme and may apply for registration as an ANP/AMP, in the same way as a nurse/midwife who has obtained any other registerable post-graduate qualification. Applicants not already a registered prescriber may apply for registration at the same time as applying for registration as an advanced practitioner.

For further details of the specific criteria required to apply for registration as a RANP/RAMP, please visit the [NMBI website](#).

Path Two applies to nurses and midwives who have attained the NMBI competencies and capabilities of advanced practice through a developmental pathway and can apply to be recognised as an ANP/AMP. Applications will be reviewed against the criteria and standards of NMBI for advanced practice on a case-by-case basis. To apply for registration applicants must:

- Be a registered nurse or midwife with NMBI;
- Be registered in the division(s) of the NMBI Register for which the application is being made;

or,

- in recognition of services that span several patient/client groups and/or division(s) of the Register, provide evidence of validated competencies relevant to the context of practice;
- Hold a master's degree (or higher) in nursing/midwifery or a master's degree which is relevant, or applicable, to the advanced field of practice. The Master's programme must be at Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications (Quality and Qualifications Ireland) or equivalent. Educational preparation must include at least three modular components pertaining to the relevant area of advanced practice, in addition to clinical practicum.

The MSc Advanced Practice (Nursing/Midwifery) that leads to registration as an RANP/RAMP is available at:

- ATU Donegal
- ATU Galway-Mayo
- DKIT
- MTU
- RCSI
- SETU
- TCD
- TUS
- UCC
- UCD
- UG
- UL

Table 1: Number of net acceptances in nursing and midwifery by programme and entry route

Education Body	Programme title	Leaving Cert route		Mature route		QQI/FET route		HEAR route		DARE route		Other route		Total	
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
ATU Donegal	General Nursing	22	20	4	3	3	2	4	6	1	1	3	4	37	36
ATU Donegal	Psychiatric Nursing	25	18	4	4	2	3	2	5	0	1	0	1	33	32
ATU Donegal	Intellectual Disability Nursing	13	10	3	5	2	2	3	2	1	4	0	0	22	23
ATU Galway - Mayo	General Nursing	14	13	6	5	10	5	0	3	0	0	1	0	31	31
ATU Galway - Mayo	Psychiatric Nursing	16	5	7	8	8	6	2	1	1	1	0	3	34	24
ATU Sligo St Angela's	General Nursing	36	30	8	4	9	1	1	4	1	1	2	2	57	42
ATU Sligo St Angela's	Intellectual Disability Nursing	12	12	9	3	5	3	0	1	0	1	4	3	30	23

continued

Education Body	Programme title	Leaving Cert route		Mature route		QQI/FET route		HEAR route		DARE route		Other route		Total	
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
DCU	General Nursing	74	52	9	11	7	6	16	7	11	8	5	6	122	90
DCU	Mental Health Nursing	43	18	17	20	8	9	8	4	6	5	3	85	65	32
DCU	Intellectual Disability Nursing	33	18	8	9	8	4	3	2	5	3	5	4	62	40
DCU	Children's and General Nursing (Integrated)	18	21	5	4	6	2	5	5	3	2	3	2	40	36
DkIT	General Nursing	27	23	9	12	7	5	1	3	2	2	5	5	51	50
DkIT	Intellectual Disability Nursing	16	13	9	8	4	3	0	3	0	2	1	3	30	32
DkIT	Mental Health Nursing	21	13	10	11	3	2	1	1	2	3	1	2	38	32
DkIT	Midwifery	7	7	4	5	3	2	2	1	0	0	5	6	21	21

continued

Education Body	Programme title	Leaving Cert route		Mature route		QQI/FET route		HEAR route		DARE route		Other route		Total	
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
MTU	General Nursing	27	29	12	14	13	11	2	2	2	2	2	3	58	61
MTU	Mental Health Nursing	12	8	8	8	9	7	1	0	1	3	1	2	32	28
SETU	General Nursing	55	51	5	5	6	2	5	5	3	2	3	2	40	36
SETU	Psychiatric Nursing	27	33	6	10	3	4	0	0	5	3	7	2	48	52
SETU	Intellectual Disability Nursing	17	10	3	6	3	3	0	0	5	2	1	0	29	21
TCD	General Nursing (Meath and St James's)	80	88	15	14	2	2	14	12	11	7	4	7	126	130
TCD	General Nursing (Adelaide School of Nursing)	18	17	4	4	1	2	4	4	3	3	3	4	33	34

continued

Education Body	Programme title	Leaving Cert route		Mature route		QQI/FET route		HEAR route		DARE route		Other route		Total	
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
TCD	Mental Health Nursing	19	23	27	24	4	4	3	5	5	3	4	3	62	62
TCD	Intellectual Disability Nursing	13	11	15	13	4	6	2	1	4	2	0	1	38	34
TCD	Children's and General Nursing (Integrated)	14	15	5	7	0	0	3	2	2	1	2	1	26	26
TCD	Midwifery	20	24	15	16	3	3	1	1	3	2	2	3	44	49
TUS	General Nursing	23	17	7	11	12	12	4	4	3	3	2	4	51	51
TUS	Mental Health Nursing	2	12	8	6	9	7	1	2	2	3	2	2	24	32
UCC	General Nursing	81	81	16	16	12	13	8	7	7	9	3	3	127	129
UCC	Children's and General Nursing (Integrated)	15	16	3	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	0	2	23	26

continued

Education Body	Programme title	Leaving Cert route		Mature route		QQI/FET route		HEAR route		DARE route		Other route		Total	
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
UCC	Mental Health Nursing	18	19	7	9	7	5	5	5	5	1	0	1	42	40
UCC	Intellectual Disability Nursing	13	12	5	8	5	5	2	1	1	1	2	1	28	28
UCC	Midwifery	19	15	1	5	3	3	3	3	2	1	0	2	28	29
UCD	General Nursing	113	121	26	23	7	7	16	15	14	17	8	4	184	187
UCD	Children's and General Nursing (Integrated)	25	25	7	7	2	2	2	5	6	3	0	3	42	45
UCD	Mental Health Nursing	18	13	9	9	1	1	2	4	1	6	2	1	33	34
UCD	Midwifery	8	14	3	4	1	1	2	4	3	1	1	1	18	25
UG	General Nursing (Galway and Portlucula)	51	47	11	10	4	5	1	4	3	1	8	5	75	72

continued

Education Body	Programme title	Leaving Cert route		Mature route		QQI/FET route		HEAR route		DARE route		Other route		Total	
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
UG	Mental Health Nursing	16	17	6	8	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	3	26	32
UG	Midwifery	14	12	4	5	2	2	0	3	2	1	3	1	25	24
UL	General Nursing	50	44	8	7	1	2	3	7	3	4	4	5	69	69
UL	Mental Health Nursing	11	17	9	6	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	1	28	30
UL	Intellectual Disability Nursing	9	9	3	6	1	1	2	3	2	1	1	2	18	22
UL	Midwifery	8	16	2	4	1	1	1	1	3	0	2	4	17	26
Total	All courses	1,173	1,089	362	379	203	171	133	152	138	127	115	126	2,124	2,044

Please note that the CAO advise that this data is based on the ratings provided by the Admissions officers in each of the education bodies. These numbers fluctuate over time.

NOTES

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This publication is aimed at those interested in applying for entry to the pre-registration honours degree programmes in nursing and midwifery in 2023. It has been published on an annual basis since 2005.

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

Telephone: (01) 639 8528

Facsimile: (01) 639 8577

Email: careersinformation@nmbi.ie

Website: www.nmbi.ie/careers-in-nursing-midwifery



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