

# Nursing/Midwifery A Career for You

Pre-Registration Honours Degree Programmes 2009 in:  
Children's and General Nursing (Integrated)  
General Nursing  
Intellectual Disability Nursing  
Midwifery  
Psychiatric Nursing

Nursing Careers Centre  
Managed by An Bord Altranais

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

Throughout this publication, 'she' means 'she/he' and 'her' means 'her/him/his,' except when used in the context of a direct quote.

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

Updates to this publication (for example new courses) may be viewed on the NCC website [www.nursingcareers.ie](http://www.nursingcareers.ie) and on the CAO website [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)

The onus is on each applicant to check the Nursing Careers Centre (NCC) website and with the Higher Education Institutions and the Central Applications Office (CAO) for any changes regarding the following.

## Abbreviations used in this publication

CAO: Central Applications Office

DCU: Dublin City University

HEI: Higher Education Institution

IT: Institute of Technology

NCC: Nursing Careers Centre

NMPDU: Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development Unit

NUIG: National University of Ireland Galway

PAS: Public Appointments Service

TCD: University of Dublin Trinity College

UCC: University College Cork

UCD: University College Dublin

UL: University of Limerick

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# An Bord Altranais

An Bord Altranais (the Nursing Board) is the statutory regulatory body for the nursing/midwifery profession in Ireland. Its main functions relate to the promotion of high standards of professional education and training and professional conduct among nurses/midwives including:

- the maintenance of the Register of Nurses
- the control of the education and training of student nurses/midwives and the post-registration education and training of nurses/midwives
- the operation of fitness to practise procedures
- the ensuring of compliance with European Union Directives on nursing and midwifery.

The present Board was established under the *Nurses Act, 1985*. It consists of twenty-nine members, seventeen of whom are nurses and midwives elected by the nursing profession and the remainder, appointed by the Minister for Health and Children, are representative of the Department of Health and Children, the medical profession, the management of the health services, educational interests and the general public.

Upon successful completion of an education programme, a student nurse/midwife may apply to register in the appropriate part of the Register maintained by An Bord Altranais. The attention of applicants is drawn to the provisions of Section 28 (5) of the *Nurses Act, 1985*, whereby:

*Nothing in this section shall operate to prevent the Board from refusing to register the name of any person, who is otherwise entitled to be registered, on the grounds of the unfitness of that person to engage in the practice of nursing.*

Nursing/Midwifery is both a physically and mentally challenging profession. In any event where the Board considers an application for registration it will consider any information relating to the professional conduct and/or fitness of an applicant to engage in nursing/midwifery practice.

The Board may only consider such applications **at the point of application for registration**. Decisions pursuant to Section 28 (5) of the *Nurses Act, 1985*, are not made at point of entry to a nursing/midwifery education programme or at any time during a nursing/midwifery education programme. In any such consideration, the Board may also consider any prior convictions of an applicant. In any such consideration, the Board will consider each case on an individual basis, and the applicant will be invited to make written representation to the Board in the matter, will be invited to attend such Board meeting to make such representation, or may be represented at such meeting.

Any applicant subject to a decision by the Board to refuse registration pursuant to Section 28 (5) of the *Nurses Act, 1985*, may apply to the High Court for cancellation of this decision pursuant to Section 28 (7) of the Act.

Please contact An Bord Altranais in regard to any general queries that you may have in regard to this section of the Act. Any personal queries in regard to this section of the Act should be brought to the attention of the Nurse/Midwife Education Programme Director at your point of entry to training or at any time during your nurse/midwife education programme.

# Nursing Careers Centre

Set up under the management of An Bord Altranais in November 1998, the Nursing Careers Centre (NCC) is responsible for:

## The Processing of Mature Code Applications to the Pre-Registration Honours Degree Programmes

The NCC is committed to the principles of good recruiting practice. These principles involve fair and impartial selection of the best candidates for the pre-registration honours degree programmes. In carrying out this function, the NCC works closely with:

- the Central Applications Office (CAO) to which application is made
- the Higher Education Institutions
- the Public Appointments Service (PAS) regarding the written assessment
- the personnel involved in the interview.

## The Promotion and Marketing of Nursing and Midwifery

In carrying out this function, the NCC works closely with all the key stakeholders involved in the education and training of student nurses/midwives, including the Department of Health and Children, personnel in healthcare agencies, the national promotion and marketing liaison group, personnel in HEIs, and personnel in the second-level education sector, including guidance counsellors, and many others.

## The Provision of Information to Registered Nurses and Midwives

The NCC has developed the publication *Nursing/Midwifery: Career Development. Post Registration Courses*, outlining various post-registration education opportunities for Registered Nurses and Midwives.

Details are also included on the NCC web site [www.nursingcareers.ie](http://www.nursingcareers.ie) Refer Further Education.

# Pre-Registration Honours Degree Programmes

## Programmes leading to registration with An Bord Altranais

There are eight divisions to the Register maintained by An Bord Altranais.

Five programmes are at pre-registration level:

Title	Duration	Leading to Registration
Children's and General Nursing (Integrated)	4.5 years	Registered Children's Nurse (RCN) and Registered General Nurse (RGN)
General Nursing	4 years	Registered General Nurse (RGN)
Intellectual Disability Nursing	4 years	Registered Nurse Intellectual Disability (RNID)
Midwifery	4 years	Registered Midwife (RM)
Psychiatric Nursing	4 years	Registered Psychiatric Nurse (RPN)

Children's Nursing (not integrated with general nursing) programmes and Midwifery programmes are also offered at post-registration level (Refer to section in this publication on post-registration programmes).

Nurse Tutor programmes, Public Health Nursing programmes, and Nurse Prescriber programmes are only at post registration level (Refer to section in this publication on post-registration programmes).

## Programme Level and Academic Award

The National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI) has placed the pre-registration honours degree programmes in nursing/midwifery at Level 8 Honours Bachelor Degree (NQAI, 2004).

The academic award is Bachelor of Science (BSc).

### Number of Programmes and Places

All Pre-Registration Honours Degree Programmes in Children's and General Nursing (Integrated): RCN & RGN) General Nursing (RGN) Intellectual Disability Nursing (RNID) Midwifery (RM) and Psychiatric Nursing (RPN) take place in 13 HEIs in association with 57 main Healthcare Agencies (Hospitals/Clinical Sites).

There are 44 programmes with a total of 1880 places in Nursing and Midwifery at pre-registration level:

#### Children's and General Nursing (Integrated): 4.5 years leading to BSc plus RCN & RGN

4 Programmes, with a total of 100 places, in 4 HEIs in association with 4 main Healthcare Agencies

#### General Nursing: 4 years leading to BSc plus RGN

14 Programmes, with a total of 1057 places, in 13 HEIs in association with 22 main Healthcare Agencies

#### Intellectual Disability Nursing: 4 years leading to BSc plus RNID

8 Programmes, with a total of 240 places, in 8 HEIs in association with 10 main Healthcare Agencies

#### Midwifery: 4 years leading to BSc plus RM

6 Programmes, with a total of 140 places, in 6 HEIs in association with 7 main Healthcare Agencies

#### Psychiatric Nursing: 4 years leading to BSc plus RPN

12 Programmes, with a total of 343 places, in 12 HEIs in association with 14 main Healthcare Agencies.

### Quota of Places

A quota of places is allocated to mature code applicants. As a guide only, this is approximately:

- 15% for children's and general nursing (integrated) programmes
- 15% for general nursing programmes
- 35% for intellectual disability nursing programmes
- 20% for midwifery programmes
- 35% for psychiatric nursing programmes.

However, this is a dynamic quota and it may vary.

### Course Codes

Each nursing/midwifery programme has two identifying course codes: standard code and mature code. The standard course code is for an applicant who is applying on the basis of examination results, regardless of age. The applicant must meet the minimum education requirements of both An Bord Altranais and the HEI/s.

The mature course code is for an applicant who is twenty-three years of age or over on 1 January 2009 and who wishes to be considered for a place on grounds of mature years and not on examination results. Such an applicant must enter in her list of course choices the appropriate mature course codes and not the codes for those presenting education qualifications (i.e. standard course code). Failure to use the correct codes will prevent consideration as a mature code applicant.

A mature code application cannot be considered unless:

- it has been included among an applicant's original course choices by 1 February
- or
- it has been added to the existing application not later than the final date for correction of errors or omissions. Check with the CAO.

An applicant who wishes to be considered under both standard code and mature code categories must enter both appropriate codes as separate preferences. Only one course code may appear in a preference box; a single course code is a preference.

### Making an Application

Application is through the CAO: on-line ([www.cao.ie](http://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 2009 and any subsequent changes to these documents.

If an applicant has any queries regarding her eligibility to be considered for a place on a nursing/midwifery programme, she 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/MIDWIFERY
- Level 7 & Level 6

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

Item	Closing Date	Note
Application	1 February (5:15 p.m.)	
Late Application	1 May (5:15 p.m.)	Late applications may not be submitted by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mature code applicants for any nursing/midwifery programme</li> <li>• standard code or mature code applicants for the Adelaide School of Nursing</li> </ul>

### Order of Merit Lists

An order of merit list is drawn up for each course code.

A mature code applicant who passes the NCC written assessment and interview is placed on the list for each mature course code for which she has applied. The overall score in the NCC written assessment determines an applicant's position on the order of merit list for each mature course code for which she applied.

A standard code applicant who meets the minimum education entry requirements is placed on the list for each standard course code for which she has applied. A standard code applicant's position on the order of merit list/s is determined by the points achieved in the Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate or equivalent examination.

An applicant's position on each order of merit list may differ, because not all applicants apply for the same programmes.

HEIs generally distinguish between applicants on equal overall scores by appending to each score a randomly generated number. The combined overall score/random number is the final determinant of position in order of merit.

Places allocated to each course code will be offered to an appropriate number of applicants, beginning with those at the top of each order of merit list.

The order of merit lists are drawn up just prior to the Offers stage.

It is not possible to predict an applicant's position on an order of merit list. Neither is it possible to predict if an applicant will receive an offer.

### Offers

First offers of places to mature code applicants will take place in early July. If necessary, further offers may be made early August.

First offers of places to FETAC (standard code applicants) will take place in early August.

First offers of places to standard code applicants (excluding FETAC) issue following the results of the Leaving Certificate Examination (Round One).

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](http://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.

Refer to the CAO Handbook 2009 for details regarding Offers and how places are allocated.

### Available/Vacant Places Competition

Where there are available/vacant places in specific programmes, HEIs will advertise these on the CAO website ([www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)) under the heading of 'Available/Vacant Places'.

An applicant for Available/Vacant Places must meet the normal minimum entry terms for the programme/s in question.

### Deferred Entry

An applicant who receives an offer of a place and who wishes to defer taking up the place for one year must seek the agreement of the appropriate HEI. Such agreement is not guaranteed and is totally at the discretion of the appropriate HEI. An applicant who wishes to defer a place is strongly urged to check directly, and well in advance, with the admission office of the appropriate HEI about the conditions under which deferred entry might be granted. Refer to CAO Handbook 2009.

### Candidate Register of An Bord Altranais

In preparation for the professional dimension of the programme, a student will be required, within thirty days of commencing the programme, to have her name entered on the Candidate Register of An Bord Altranais. A student must provide a birth certificate or other legal/official documents as required with the application. There is no charge for entering a name on the Candidate Register (*Nurses' Rules, 2004 S.10.2*)

### Allowances and Grants

#### Uniform

A uniform (clothing) allowance is administered by the health service.

#### Salary

Part of the programme in the Fourth Year consists of a continual 36 week rostered clinical placement. During that placement, the student is paid 80% *pro rata* of the 1st point of the Staff Nurse/Midwife pay scale. Payment is administered by the health service.

#### Free Fees Initiative

Contact:

Higher Education – Equity of Access  
Department of Education and Science  
Portlaoise Road  
Tullamore  
County Offaly

Telephone (057) 932 5317 or (01) 889 6400

[www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)

#### Third-Level Maintenance Grant

Contact the local County Council or Local Vocational Educational Committee (VEC).

### Programme Structure

A minimum number of hours/weeks in theoretical and clinical instruction must be successfully completed before applying to register as a nurse/midwife with An Bord Altranais.

An Bord Altranais Requirements		
Aspect	General, Intellectual Disability, Midwifery, Psychiatric	Children's & General Integrated
Theoretical Instruction (to include self-directed study, exams)	58 weeks	70 weeks
Clinical Instruction (supernumerary clinical placement)	40 weeks	54 weeks
Internship (inclusive of annual leave)	36 weeks	36 weeks
Other	10 weeks	10 weeks
<b>TOTAL Minimum</b>	<b>144 Weeks</b>	<b>170 Weeks</b>

For most of the programme the student receives a combination of theoretical and clinical instruction and this period generally includes normal third-level college holidays. During this period the student is not a paid employee of the health service. The usual entitlements/conditions regarding a means-tested third-level grant applies to student nurses/midwives.

The first clinical placement occurs early in the programme, usually within three months of commencement.

A continual 36 week rostered clinical placement (internship) takes place during the fourth year. During this period the student is a paid employee of the health service.

For details of the programme structure in each HEI, contact the relevant HEI.

### Purpose of Programme

A student engaging in a Pre-Registration Honours Degree Programme is required to observe standards of conduct and behaviour commensurate with the requirements of An Bord Altranais to enter the nursing/midwifery profession.

The purpose of the Pre-Registration Honours Degree Programme is to ensure that the student is equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to practise as a competent nurse/midwife.

The programmes in **nursing** enable the student to:

- Assist individuals, families and groups achieve optimum health, independence, recovery or a peaceful death in a professional caring manner
- Provide and manage direct practical nursing whether health promotional, preventive, curative, rehabilitative or supportive, to individuals, families or groups
- Demonstrate a knowledge base and a level of competence in clinical practice skills essential for safe practice, which are grounded in recent evidence-based nursing research, where available
- Identify and meet the nursing care needs of the individual, family, or community in all healthcare settings
- Demonstrate the development of skills of analysis, critical thinking, problem-solving and reflective practice
- Act as an effective member of the healthcare team and participate in the multi-disciplinary team approach to the care of patients/clients.

The programme in **midwifery** enables the student to:

- Provide competent, safe midwifery care to women, their babies and, where possible, their wider family circle
- Demonstrate respect for the individuality of each woman and support shared decision-making throughout the woman's childbirth experience
- Promote and support lifestyle choices that enhance the health and wellbeing of women, their families and the wider community
- Recognise the scope of midwifery practice, initiate appropriate referrals to other healthcare providers and provide emergency care when required
- Take responsibility for maintaining a level of knowledge and clinical skills that is based on the best available evidence.

## Competencies

On completion of the programme, the student will be required to have achieved competence in the following five domains of practice:

### Nursing

- Professional/ethical practice
- Holistic approaches to care and the integration of knowledge
- Interpersonal relationships
- Organisation and management of care
- Personal and professional development.

### Midwifery

- Professional/ethical midwifery practice
- Holistic midwifery care
- Interpersonal relationships
- Organisation and co-ordination of midwifery care
- Personal and professional development.

# 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. 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

Aspect	Minimum weeks		
	Adult	Child	Integrated
General and Specialist Medicine	14	14	28
General and Specialist Surgery	14	14	28
Specialist placements (minimum 2 weeks placement in each speciality)			18
• Accident & Emergency			
• Mental Health and Psychiatry			
• Care of the older person			
• Home Nursing/community			
• Operating theatre			
• Maternity care			
• Intellectual Disability			
Remaining regulated placements (can be in core/specialist clinical areas)	7	7	14
Discretionary			5

## 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. Curriculum planners will be expected to demonstrate that the programme is relevant and responsive with the most recent policy and legislative change.

### Clinical Placements

Aspect	Minimum weeks
General and Specialist Medicine	18
General and Specialist Surgery	18
Specialist placements (minimum 2 weeks placement in each speciality):	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accident and Emergency</li> <li>• Child Care and Paediatrics</li> <li>• Mental Health and Psychiatry</li> <li>• Care of the older person</li> <li>• Home Nursing/community</li> <li>• Operating theatre</li> <li>• Maternity care</li> </ul>	
Remaining regulated placements (can be in core/specialist clinical areas)	20
Discretionary	5

## Intellectual Disability Nursing

The philosophy of care of a person with an intellectual disability contains a number of implicit principles, which embrace the concept that all persons with all levels of ability have the same rights and, in so far as possible, the same responsibilities as other members of society.

They have a right and a need to live within the community like other people and they have a right to 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 the individuality of each person.

Nurses who work with persons with an intellectual disability have a diversity of roles, from intensive physical nursing of individuals with profound handicap to supportive guidance in the management and habilitation of children, adolescents and adults.

The care of persons with an intellectual disability forms part of the nursing profession as a whole, yet it is specialised and very different from other disciplines of nursing.

The syllabus is indicative. It allows scope for the continuing development of subject matter and for the extension of new knowledge to accommodate emerging trends. Curriculum planners will be expected to demonstrate that the programme is relevant and responsive with the most recent policy and legislative change.

### Clinical Placements

Aspect	Minimum weeks
Education and Development of the Child and Education and Development of the Adult (minimum 12 weeks in each area)	36
Disorders of human behaviour	18
Acute nursing Specialist areas (minimum 2 weeks placement in each speciality)	
Remaining regulated placements (can be in core/specialist placements)	20
Discretionary	5

## 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, the newly developed 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 (NMPDUs, 2003).

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 the Health Strategy (Department of Health and Children, 2001) 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

Aspect	Minimum weeks
Antenatal (to include clinics, antenatal wards and antenatal/parenthood education)	14
Intra-natal	16
Postnatal	14
Specialist placements (minimum placement of 2 weeks in each specialist area):	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neonatal (SCBU/NICU/Neonatal clinic)</li> <li>• Community midwifery</li> <li>• Gynaecology</li> <li>• Mental health</li> <li>• Medical</li> <li>• Surgical, including Theatre</li> </ul>	
Additional regulated placements (may be in core or specialist areas)	10
Discretionary	5

## Psychiatric Nursing

Psychiatric nursing is a specialist nursing discipline. Psychiatric nurses work with people who are experiencing mental health problems. The aim of psychiatric nursing is to work in partnership with the person, family/advocate to enable them to mobilise their own inner resources as well as professional resources, in a way that promotes personal growth, maximum development of potential and recovery. At the heart of psychiatric nursing is the development of an empowering therapeutic relationship. The psychiatric nurse journeys with the person/family through their time of distress and through the interpersonal relationship facilitates the person to find hope, healing, meaning and personal resourcefulness.

Psychiatric nursing care is constantly evolving to meet the challenging mental health needs of the people in Ireland. Psychiatric nurses work with and care for people, both in community and hospital 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 nurses with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to meet the needs of the person and family in an individualised, empowering and culturally sensitive manner.

### Clinical Placements

Aspect	Minimum weeks
Psychiatric nursing (including in-patient and community care settings)	36
Specialist care	18
Care of the older person	
Adult general nursing	
(minimum 2 weeks placement in each speciality)	
Remaining regulated placements (can be in core/specialist clinical areas)	20
Discretionary	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.

The following is a list of some of the theoretical subjects that comprise the theoretical component of the programmes:

- Communication and Interpersonal Skills
- Healthcare Systems
- Health Promotion
- History of Nursing
- Individual and Health and Illness
- Person-Centred Care
- Personal and Professional Development
- Research
- Theory of Nursing
- Biological Sciences for Nursing
- Social Sciences for Nursing
- Development of Nursing Practice.

For a detailed content of the theoretical component of each nursing programme, refer to *Requirements and Standards for Nurse Registration Education Programmes (2005)* available in the Publications section of the NCC website [www.nursingcareers.ie](http://www.nursingcareers.ie)

## Midwifery

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

The following is a list of some of the subject areas that comprise the theoretical component of the programmes:

- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Ethical issues in midwifery practice
- Biological sciences for midwifery practice
- Legal issues in midwifery practice
- Knowledge and skills for midwifery practice
- Non-pharmaceutical approaches to symptom relief
- Pharmacology
- Professional and personal development
- Promoting maternal, child and community health
- Psychology
- Research
- Sociology and midwifery practice
- Provision of maternal and social care services in Ireland
- Women-centred care.

For a detailed content of the theoretical component of the midwifery programme, refer to *Requirements and Standards for Midwife Registration Education Programmes (2005)* available in the Publications section of the NCC website [www.nursingcareers.ie](http://www.nursingcareers.ie)

## Biological Sciences

### Anatomy

Anatomy is a branch of natural science that studies the structures, organisation and relationships within the body.

Human anatomy provides the student nurse/midwife with a knowledge of the structure and relationships between the systems within the body.

The study of anatomy is conducted within systems such as the circulatory and respiratory systems.

This knowledge informs the nurse/midwife of the normal structure.

The proper understanding of structure, however, implies knowledge of the functioning of the body.

Anatomy is therefore almost inseparable from physiology.

### Physiology

Physiology is the study of the physical and chemical processes that take place within the body during the performance of life functions.

It is concerned with the study of basic activities such as metabolism, respiration and growth as they are carried out within cells, tissues, organs, and systems of the body.

Knowledge of the normal structure (anatomy) and function (physiology) is essential to inform the practice of nursing/midwifery.

### Physics

Physics is a science that deals with the fundamental constituents of the universe, the forces they exert and the results produced by these forces.

These forces have been harnessed to provide diagnostic and therapeutic instruments and they explain the processes behind many body functions.

### Chemistry

Chemistry is the study of the composition, structure and properties of material substances and the interaction between them. Chemical reactions occur continuously, everywhere, including our bodies.

Knowledge of chemistry is essential to the development of a knowledge of physiology (how the body functions) and pharmacology (how drugs act on the body and how the body acts on the drugs).

### Bio-Chemistry

Bio-chemistry is the study of substances found in living organisms and it studies the chemical reactions underlying body processes that form the basis of our body functions.

It is a branch of both chemistry and biology.

It aims to give an understanding of the structure and behaviour of bio-molecules such as amino-acids, enzymes, carbohydrates and fatty substances, all of which play vital roles in cell functioning.

It is essential to support an understanding of the body physiology (functions).

### Genetics

Genetics is the study of how physical and behavioural traits or characteristics are transmitted or passed from parents to children.

It is the study of DNA, chromosomes and genes. It provides a knowledge-base to support an understanding of how some illnesses are acquired.

### Pathology

Pathology studies the nature and course of diseases.

It is the study of cells and chemicals from body fluids and tissue taken for analysis in order to provide diagnosis. It is the study of abnormal function associated with disease.

### Microbiology

Microbiology is the study of organisms of microscopic size including bacteria, protozoas, viruses, certain algae and fungi.

The study contributes to understanding how infection is caused and spread. This is essential to prepare the nurse/midwife to prevent and fight infection.

### Pharmacology

Pharmacology is the science that studies the interaction between chemical substances such as prescribed drugs and living cells, tissues and organs.

It studies how drugs are absorbed by the body, where they act in the body, the effect they have on the body and how the body breaks down and excretes them.

Nurses/Midwives are responsible for the safe and effective administration of drugs.

## Social Sciences

### Psychology

Psychology is the study of human behaviour and experience. It is the study of how people sense, think, learn and know.

Psychological theories help to explain and understand people's behaviour, including behaviour in relation to health or ill health.

There are many different sub-fields within psychology such as clinical psychology, health psychology and educational psychology.

### Sociology

Sociology is the study of people within social or group life.

It studies social structures such as families and communities.

Patients and nurses/midwives, and how they as social groups develop relations, are informed by sociology.

### Philosophy

Philosophy is the logical and analytical examination into basic principles.

It is also used to mean a set of basic beliefs and values about life, nature, nursing/midwifery and education.

### Ethics

Ethics is the study of principles or standards of human conduct or morals.

Ethical principles help guide decision making at a personal and professional level.

# Nursing-An Overview

The World Health Organisation in its publication *Health for All Nursing Series: Mission and Functions of the Nurse* (1991) states:

*The mission of nursing in society is to help individuals, families and groups to determine and achieve physical, mental and social potential, and to do so within the challenging context of the environment in which they live and work. This requires nurses to develop and perform functions that relate to the promotion and maintenance of health as well as to the prevention of ill health. Nursing also includes the planning and implementation of care during illness and rehabilitation, and encompasses the physical, mental and social aspects of life as they affect health, illness, disability and dying.*

*Nursing is the provision of care for individuals, families and groups throughout the entire life span - from conception to death.*

*Nursing is both an art and a science that requires the understanding and application of the knowledge and skills specific to the discipline. It also draws on knowledge and techniques derived from the humanities and the physical, social, medical and biological sciences.*

*Nurses ensure the active involvement of the individual and his or her family, friends, social group and community, as appropriate, in all aspects of health care and, in this context, encourage self-reliance and self-determination. Nurses also work as partners with members of other professions and occupations involved in providing health and related services.*

*The nurse - who is the professional practitioner of nursing - accepts responsibility for and exercises the requisite authority in the direct provision of nursing care to individuals, families, groups and communities.*

*The nurse is an autonomous practitioner of nursing, accountable for the care she or he provides.*

*The nurse is the linchpin of the nursing care team. The nurse also has a responsibility to assess her or his own personal needs for refresher and advanced professional education in management, teaching, clinical practice and research, and to take the appropriate action to meet those needs.*

*The functions of the nurse derive directly from the mission of nursing in society. These functions remain constant, regardless of the place (home, workplace, school, university, prison, refugee camp, hospital, primary healthcare clinic and other sites) or time in which nursing care is given, the health status of the individual or group to be served, or the resources available.*

*These functions relate to:*

*Providing and managing direct practical nursing, that is, employing the primary nursing method to provide nursing care, whether promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative or supportive, to individuals, families or groups*

*Teaching patients/clients and health care personnel*

*Acting as an effective member of a healthcare team at the various levels of a healthcare system*

*Developing nursing practice based on critical thinking and research.*

*The activities and tasks in which the nurse fulfils the aforementioned functions are a product of the knowledge and skills of the practitioners in the discipline and are influenced by the*

*health status of the individual or group served, and the self-care abilities of the patients/clients. The activities and tasks of nursing are determined by the nurse's mission and functions, prevailing legislation and policies, and available resources (WHO, 1991).*

The scope of nursing practice regarding nursing in the Republic of Ireland is the range of roles, functions, responsibilities and activities that a nurse is educated, competent, and has authority to perform. Competence is the ability of the nurse to practise safely and effectively, fulfilling her professional responsibility within her scope of practice. Nursing practice is underpinned by values that guide the way in which nursing care is delivered.

An Bord Altranais (2000a) considers that the following values should underpin nursing practice and provide the basis for the formulation of a philosophy of nursing:

- *In making decisions about an individual nurse's scope of practice, the best interests of the patient/client and the importance of promoting and maintaining the highest standards of quality in the health services, should be foremost*
- *Nursing care should be delivered in a way that respects the uniqueness and dignity of each patient/client regardless of culture or religion*
- *Fundamental to nursing practice is the therapeutic relationship between the nurse and the patient/client that is based on trust, understanding, compassion, support and serves to empower the patient/client to make life choices*
- *Nursing practice involves advocacy for the individual patient/client and for his/her family. The practice is based on the best available evidence*
- *Nursing practice should always be based on the principles of professional conduct as outlined in the latest version of the Code of Professional Conduct for Each Nurse and Midwife produced by An Bord Altranais (An Bord Altranais, April 2000b).*

# Midwifery-An Overview

The International Confederation of Midwives, the International Federation of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians, and the World Health Organisation has adopted and amended the following definition of a midwife (ICM):

*A midwife is a person who, having been regularly admitted to a midwifery educational programme, duly recognised in the country in which it is located, has successfully completed the prescribed course of studies in midwifery and has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practise midwifery.*

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

The scope of practice regarding midwifery in the Republic of Ireland is the range of roles, functions, responsibilities and activities that a midwife is educated, competent, and has authority to perform. Competence is the ability of the midwife to practise safely and effectively, fulfilling her professional responsibility within her scope of practice. Midwifery practice is underpinned by values that guide the way in which midwifery care is delivered.

An Bord Altranais (2000a) considers that the following values should underpin midwifery practice and provide the basis for the formulation of a philosophy of midwifery:

- *In making decisions about an individual midwife's scope of practice, the best interests of the patient/client and the importance of promoting and maintaining the highest standards of quality in the health services, should be foremost*
- *Midwifery care should be delivered in a way that respects the uniqueness and dignity of each patient/client regardless of culture or religion*
- *Fundamental to midwifery practice is the therapeutic relationship between the midwife and the patient/client that is based on trust, understanding, compassion, support and serves to empower the patient/client to make life choices*
- *Midwifery practice involves advocacy for the individual patient/client and for his/her family. The practice is based on the best available evidence*
- *Midwifery practice should always be based on the principles of professional conduct as outlined in the latest version of the Code of Professional Conduct for Each Nurse and Midwife produced by An Bord Altranais (An Bord Altranais, April 2000b).*

# Programmes for Standard Code and Mature Code Applicants 2009

The following table gives details of the 13 HEIs offering the pre-registration honours degree programmes in 2009, together with the associated main healthcare agencies, and the number of places per 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 on the following 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 code when making application.

Check CAO documents for any changes to programme details.

In relation to the children's and general (integrated) nursing programmes, the following chart indicates the children's healthcare agencies concerned. The experience in relation to general nursing will be with the general healthcare agencies associated with the HEI.

# Programmes for Standard Code and Mature Code Applicants 2009

No	HEI	Healthcare Agencies	Places	Course
1	<b>Athlone IT</b> (090) 642 4400 www.aith.ie	HSE Midland Area General Nursing Services HSE Midland Area Psychiatric Nursing Services	42 18	General Psychiatric
2	<b>Dublin City University</b> (01) 700 5000 www.dcu.ie	Children's University Hospital, Temple Street Beaumont Hospital, Beaumont, Dublin 9 Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 St Joseph's Intellectual Disability Services, Portrane, County Dublin Daughters of Charity Intellectual Disability Services, Dublin St Ita's Psychiatric Nursing Services, Portrane, County Dublin St Vincent's, Fairview, Dublin 3	30 75 27 15 35 40 20	Children's & General (integrated) General Intellectual Disability Psychiatric
3	<b>Dundaik IT</b> (042) 937 0200St www.dkit.ie	HSE Dublin North East, General Nursing Services John of God North East Services, and HSE, Dublin North East, Intellectual Disability Nursing Services HSE, Dublin North East, Maternity Services HSE, Dublin North East, Psychiatric Nursing Services	55 30 20 25	General Intellectual Disability Midwifery Psychiatric
4	<b>Galway Mayo IT</b> (091) 753161 www.gmit.ie	Mayo General Hospital, Castlebar HSE Western Area Psychiatric Nursing Services, Mayo	40 15	General Psychiatric
5	<b>IT Tralee</b> (066) 714 5600 www.ittralee.ie	Kerry General Hospital, Tralee HSE Southern Psychiatric Nursing Services, Kerry	60 20	General Psychiatric
6	<b>Letterkenny IT</b> (074) 918 6000 www.lyit.ie	Letterkenny General Hospital, County Donegal Intellectual Disability Services, Donegal Donegal & Sligo/Leitrim Mental Health Services	30 20 25	General Intellectual Disability Psychiatric
7	<b>NUIG</b> (091) 524411 www.nuigalway.ie	Galway University Hospitals Portunula Hospital, Ballinasloe, County Galway University College Hospital Galway HSE West Psychiatric Nursing Services	75 20 20 20	General Midwifery Psychiatric
8	<b>St Angela's College</b> (071) 914 7285 www.stacs.edu.ie	Sligo General Hospital Cregg House, Sligo	40 25	General Intellectual Disability
9	<b>TCD</b> (01) 896 1000 www.tcd.ie	The National Children's Hospital, Tallaght, Dublin 24 Adelaide Hospital, Tallaght, Dublin 24 Meath Hospital, Tallaght, Dublin 24 St James's Hospital, Dublin 8 St Anne's, Moore Abbey, Monasterevin, County Kildare Stewart's Hospital 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 Hospital, James's Street, Dublin 8	20 35 35 78 20 20 20 20 30 15	Children's & General (integrated) General Intellectual Disability Midwifery Psychiatric
10	<b>UCC</b> (021) 490 3000 www.ucc.ie	Cork University Hospital Bon Secours Hospital, Cork Cork University Hospital Mercy University Hospital South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital COPE Foundation, Cork HSE South, Cork University Maternity Hospital HSE South, Psychiatric Nursing Services, Cork	20 25 70 30 20 25 20 30	Children's & General (integrated) General General General Intellectual Disability Midwifery Psychiatric
11	<b>UCD</b> (01) 716 7777 www.ucd.ie	Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Dublin 12 Water Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin 7 St Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin 4 National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street, Dublin 2 St John of God Hospital, Stillorgan, County Dublin	30 75 40 65 20 15	Children's & General (integrated) General General Midwifery Psychiatric
12	<b>UL</b> (061) 202700 www.ul.ie	HSE Mid Western Region General Nursing Services Daughters of Charity, St Vincent's Centre, Lishnagry, County Limerick St Munchin's Regional Maternity Hospital HSE Mid Western Region Psychiatric Nursing Services	65 30 20 30	General Intellectual Disability Midwifery Psychiatric
13	<b>Waterford IT</b> (051) 302000 www.wit.ie	HSE South Eastern Region General Nursing Services HSE South Eastern Region & Voluntary Intellectual Disability Nursing Services HSE South Eastern Region Psychiatric Nursing Services	55 20 40	General Intellectual Disability Psychiatric

# Entry Requirements Common to Mature and Standard Code Applicants

## Health Requirements

Nursing/Midwifery is a demanding profession, 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

Garda Vetting/Garda Vetting Enquiry Forms, and/or Police Certificates will be required as determined by a HEI/Healthcare Agency.

The HEIs use the Garda Central Vetting Unit (GCVU) vetting service and/or International Police Agencies, to assess the suitability of an applicant and may also require an applicant to provide an enhanced disclosure by completion of an affidavit. Therefore, offers are conditional and could subsequently be withdrawn if an applicant does not meet the Garda/Police vetting requirements. Further details from the HEI/Healthcare agency.

## References

Other requirements as determined locally may include references, etc

## 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 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 intends to apply for nursing/midwifery.

## 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 intends to apply for nursing/midwifery in order to have fully appraised herself 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 the NCC has no role regarding visas/permits nor in defining non EU status.

## Applicants Expressing a Preference for the Adelaide School of Nursing

In respect of entry to the Adelaide School of Nursing the following note from the Adelaide Hospital Society is for applicants expressing a preference for the Adelaide School of Nursing.

*The Adelaide and Meath Hospital, Dublin, Incorporating the National Children's Hospital, Tallaght, Dublin 24, provides a focus for Protestant participation in the health services within a multi-denominational and pluralist setting. The Charter of the Hospital guarantees freedom of conscience and the free profession and practice of religion.*

*The Adelaide Hospital Society, which is a voluntary charitable organisation, nominates up to 40 suitable applicants each year to the Adelaide School of Nursing. In selecting applicants, the Society has regard to its particular obligation to applicants from the Protestant community and also to members of inter-church families. It also has regard to the multi-denominational and pluralist character of the Hospital. The selection of applicants to the Adelaide School of Nursing will be done with this in mind.*

*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 Hospital Society for consideration. Such applicants will be issued with a further Application Form by the Adelaide Hospital Society for completion and return to the Society. All such applicants will have an opportunity to outline reasons for applying for nursing education through the Adelaide School of Nursing on this further Application Form.*

*This Form will be used to decide which applicants will have an interview conducted by an Interview Board appointed by the Adelaide Hospital Society.*

PLEASE NOTE:

Success at the Adelaide School of Nursing interview does not guarantee an offer of a place.

Applicants must still be eligible to be offered a place by the CAO.

An unsuccessful interview at 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 has applied for nursing/midwifery to determine fees and any other matters.

**Note to All Applicants**

An applicant is responsible for ensuring that she 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.

# Entry Requirements Specific to Mature Code Applicants

**Overview**

An applicant must be successful at the NCC written assessment and the NCC interview before being considered for an offer as a mature code applicant.

However, success at the NCC written assessment and interview does **not** guarantee an offer of a place.

The NCC written assessment and interview are 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 is in receipt of all communication from the NCC and the PAS. The NCC 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 inform the CAO in writing. Do NOT contact the NCC or the PAS regarding such changes.

Success at any stage of the competition does not guarantee an offer of a place.

**The Written Assessment**

The written assessment is carried out by the PAS on behalf of the NCC.

It consists of three obligatory competitive pencil and paper tests that are in multiple choice short-answer format. They have been designed so that they are fair to all applicants.

The answers to these tests are objectively scored using a standardised answer and score key.

There are no penalties for incorrect answers on any of the tests.

It is important to put maximum effort into each of the tests as they all contribute to an applicant's overall test result. A minimum standard is required on each of the three tests. A final overall score is awarded.

**Test 1: Skills/Experiences Questionnaire**

This questionnaire is about the applicant and her experience, interests and achievements. The purpose of collecting this information is to compare an applicant's preferences with characteristics that have been identified as being necessary for a career in nursing/midwifery, in a way that is fair and consistent with everyone.

**Test 2: Verbal Test**

This test is designed to measure the ability to understand relationships between pairs of words.

**Test 3 Numerical Test**

This test is designed to measure the ability to work out the relationships between numbers.

**Preparing for the Written Assessment**

An applicant must fully appraise herself with the publication: *Test Familiarisation Booklet*. It is important to have the most up-to-date issue. The 2008 issue is on the Publications section of the NCC website. The 2009 version will be placed on the PAS web site on Wednesday 25th March 2009. As this is not being sent by post, the onus is on each applicant to download/print off this document from the website: [www.publicjobs.ie](http://www.publicjobs.ie)

In response to feedback by applicants requesting suggested reading, the following books (which are by no means definitive) may be of assistance. These books are not necessary in order to perform well at test sessions.

- Mike Bryon and Sanjay Modha (1998) *How to Pass Selection Tests*. Kogan Page
- David Cohen (1999). *How to Succeed in Psychometric Tests*. Sheldon Press
- Paul Pelshenke (1993) *How to Win at Aptitude Tests*. Torsons.

Books about sitting selection tests should be available from bookshops and/or the local library. However, it should be emphasised that the most useful material that an applicant could read in advance of the testing session is the Test Familiarisation Booklet. This provides comprehensive information on the format of the tests, practice questions and useful hints and tips. It contains information about the different tests being used, how the actual test booklets and answer sheets work, the time limits for each test and how the tests are scored. Practice questions are provided for each test. Familiarisation with the exercises in advance of the testing session will help optimise performance on the day.

The PAS, the NCC, and An Bord Altranais do NOT endorse, nor contribute to, any private/commercial preparatory courses for the written assessment.

#### **Checklist of what to bring to Written Assessment**

Do NOT send any of the below to the NCC or the PAS either before or after the written assessment.

- A print-off of the invitation to attend the written assessment with your name and number identifier.
- Photographic identification: Driving Licence or Passport.
- 2 soft pencils.
- 1 eraser.
- 1 pencil sharpener.

#### **Proceeding in the Competition**

Those who do not pass the written assessment or those who do not attend the written assessment cannot proceed further in the mature code competition for nursing/midwifery for that year.

The result is final and there is no appeals mechanism. Results will not be given over the telephone or discussed with a third party.

### **The Interview**

An applicant who achieves the required standard at the written assessment will receive a letter of invitation to attend for interview, together with an Interview Information Pack and Interview Preparation Questionnaire.

It is important to have the most up-to-date version of the Interview Information Pack and Interview Preparation Questionnaire. The 2008 version is on the Publications section of the NCC website. The 2009 version will be placed in the publications section of the NCC website towards the end of March 2009.

#### **The Interview Information Pack**

This comprises:

- An overview of the interview format
- Guidance on preparing for the interview
- Guidance on how to do best during the interview
- Guidance for completing the Interview Preparation Questionnaire.

#### **The Interview Preparation Questionnaire**

There are six areas on the Interview Preparation Questionnaire. All six areas in relation to the interview must be passed.

The first five areas relate to the Experiences/Skills/Qualities that have been identified as required by a Student Nurse/Midwife. The applicant will need to give examples from her experience that shows an ability to handle the five areas:

- Communication, Interaction and Teamwork
- Taking Responsibility
- Caring/Helping and Sensitivity to Others
- Motivation to Do Things Well
- Ability to Make Decisions.

The sixth area deals with the applicant's Awareness and Understanding of Nursing/Midwifery. It is essential that an applicant familiarises herself with the pre-registration honours degree programmes, including reading *Nursing/Midwifery A Career for You* (2009) and *Requirements and Standards for Nurse Registration Education Programmes* (2005) and *Requirements and Standards for Midwife Registration Education Programmes* (2005), all available in the Publications section of the NCC website. The applicant should also familiarise herself with other aspects in relation to nursing/midwifery, including other items on the NCC website.

The PAS, the NCC, and An Bord Altranais do NOT endorse, nor contribute to, any private/commercial preparatory courses for the interview.

### Checklist of what to bring to Interview

Do NOT send any of the below to the NCC either before or after the interview.

- Checklist page (p 12 of interview information pack) signed, of what to bring to interview.
- The original completed Interview Preparation Questionnaire (7 pages) with recent photograph attached, with one staple on the top left corner. Do NOT bind. Do NOT bring CD or any other device containing the information as facilities to use such devices will NOT be available.
- Three copies of the completed Interview Preparation Questionnaire, each one stapled separately, with one staple on the top left corner. Do NOT bind. Photocopying facilities will NOT be provided at the interview venue.
- The letter inviting you to attend for interview with name and number identifier.
- An official document that contains a recent photograph, i.e. Driving Licence or Passport.
- Your Birth Certificate (if your official document is your PASSPORT you do not need to bring your Birth Certificate)
- Evidence of English Competence. Mature code applicants who are successful at the written assessment and whose first language/primary mode of expression is not English must bring a clear copy of evidence of English competence (documented in English) to the NCC interview. Put your CAO number on top of every page and staple pages together. If you have any query regarding this matter, contact the HEIs for which application for nursing/midwifery has been made (refer centre pages of this publication). Do not contact the NCC regarding English competence.

### Proceeding in the Competition

Those who do not pass the NCC interview or those who do not attend the NCC interview cannot proceed further in the mature code competition for nursing/midwifery for that year.

The result is final and there is no appeals mechanism. Results will not be given over the telephone or discussed with a third party.

### Timetable for Mature Code Applicants 2009

What	How and When	Important Notes To Applicants
Letter with Nursing/Midwifery A Career for You 2009	Posted on Friday 13 March 2009	If not received by 19 March 2009 contact the NCC. If you received a deferral and you have complied with the deferral requirements, you do not need to retake the written assessment or interview.
Details of Written Assessment, including time and venue	Placed on PAS website www.publicjobs.ie on Wednesday 25 March 2009	Details are NOT automatically sent by post. If you have difficulty accessing the information, or if you have a special request or need regarding the written assessment, contact the PAS on Wednesday 25 March 2009. See Venue Allocation below
Written Assessment	Saturday 04 April 2009 in Cork, Dublin, Galway	When signing in on the day of the written assessment, the onus is on each applicant to ensure that she is signing opposite the correct name and number identifier.
Special Request re Interviews	Applicant contacts NCC, in writing and preferably via email, before Monday 20 April 2009 (we are aware that this is before the results of the written assessment)	See Venue Allocation below
Results of Written Assessment	Posted on Friday 08 May 2009	Results are ONLY available by post. If not received by Wednesday 13 May 2009 contact the NCC
Invitation to attend interview (to those who were successful at written assessment)	Posted on Friday 08 May 2009	If not received by Wednesday 13 May 2009 contact the NCC. Refer to Checklist of What to Bring to Interview
Interviews	Monday 18 May 2009 to Friday 22 May 2009 only (or earlier depending on numbers) in Cork, Dublin, Galway, only	When signing in on the day of the interview, the onus is on each applicant to ensure that she is signing opposite the correct name and number identifier.
Results of Interview	Posted Friday 19 June 2009	Results are ONLY available by post. If not received by 26 June contact the NCC. An applicant, who is successful at both the NCC written assessment and the NCC interview, will receive her score at the written assessment plus the highest and lowest score achieved, in the letter with the interview result.

## Venues for Written Assessment and Interviews 2009

If the address you put on your CAO Application Form is as below, then the tick in the venue box indicates the county where you will automatically be called for the written assessment and interview (if successful at the written assessment). Details of the exact venues for the written assessment in the three counties listed below will be available on 25 March 2009 (PAS website). Details of the exact venues for the interviews in the three counties listed below will be in the letters of invitation posted on 08 May 2009.

Address	Cork Venue	Dublin Venue	Galway Venue
Carlow		✓	
Cavan		✓	
Clare			✓
Cork	✓		
Donegal			✓
Dublin		✓	
Galway			✓
Kerry	✓		
Kildare		✓	
Kilkenny		✓	
Laois		✓	
Leitrim			✓
Limerick	✓		
Longford		✓	
Louth		✓	
Mayo			✓
Meath		✓	
Monaghan		✓	
Offaly		✓	
Roscommon			✓
Sligo			✓
Tipperary	✓		
Waterford	✓		
Westmeath		✓	
Wexford		✓	
Wicklow		✓	
Other		✓	

## Scores for Mature Code Applicants 2003 to 2008

The following table shows the scores required for each programme from 2003 to 2008. Not all on these scores may have been offered a place (i.e. where random generated scores occurred). Of the 717 Mature Course Code Applicants who were placed on the order of merit lists for nursing/midwifery in 2008, the lowest overall score was 116 and the highest overall score was 199. Not all were offered a place.

For the final scores for 2008 check the NCC website ([www.nursingcareers.ie](http://www.nursingcareers.ie)) in mid December.

HEI & Programme	Final 03	Final 04	Final 05	Final 06	Final 07	First 08	Final 2008
Athlone IT General	157	162	168	173	166	168	
Athlone IT Psychiatric	148	140	151	167	160	157	
DCU Childrens & General (Integrated)	N/A	N/A	N/A	164	154	161	
DCU General	157	165	161	160	142	153	
DCU Intellectual Disability	135	136	129	139	145	130	
DCU Psychiatric	131	139	129	139	146	135	
Dundalk IT General	163	163	169	164	159	159	
Dundalk IT Intellectual Disability	129	139	135	137	143	153	
Dundalk IT Midwifery	N/A	N/A	N/A	187	174	169	
Dundalk IT Psychiatric	127	131	149	137	156	149	
GMIT General	169	171	165	158	174	170	
GMIT Psychiatric	160	157	151	147	161	167	
IT Tralee General	151	161	157	155	161	153	
IT Tralee Psychiatric	133	145	140	131	147	134	
Letterkenny IT General	171	179	180	176	174	176	
Letterkenny IT Intellectual Disability	151	167	165	158	157	161	
Letterkenny IT Psychiatric	173	170	163	165	160	155	
NUIG General	163	169	168	164	161	167	
NUIG Midwifery	N/A	N/A	N/A	162	175	174	
NUIG Psychiatric	148	151	152	149	157	166	
St Angela's General	166	172	166	165	167	169	
St Angela's Intellectual Disability	150	130	151	146	139	147	
TCD Children's & General (Integrated)	N/A	N/A	N/A	164	167	168	
TCD General (Adelaide)	158	168	166	162	160	171	
TCD General (Meath & St James's)	155	158	160	167	157	159	
TCD Intellectual Disability	137	133	132	127	122	141	
TCD Midwifery	N/A	N/A	N/A	162	153	170	
TCD Psychiatric	132	142	134	129	138	130	
UCC Children's & General (Integrated)	N/A	N/A	N/A	173	177	174	
UCC General	156	166	168	162	159	161	
UCC Intellectual Disability	130	134	136	135	133	131	
UCC Midwifery	N/A	N/A	N/A	169	179	180	
UCC Psychiatric	155	151	149	147	150	138	
UCD Children's & General (Integrated)	N/A	N/A	N/A	161	159	154	
UCD General	154	160	155	156	146	150	
UCD Midwifery	N/A	N/A	N/A	177	153	162	
UCD Psychiatric	140	151	150	144	146	137	
UL General	162	171	174	170	170	170	
UL Intellectual Disability	136	130	139	141	133	127	
UL Midwifery	N/A	N/A	N/A	164	172	183	
UL Psychiatric	141	152	133	131	145	157	
Waterford IT General	157	165	171	161	157	174	
Waterford IT Intellectual Disability	133	137	134	126	135	157	
Waterford IT Psychiatric	135	136	144	147	142	160	

### Healthcare Workers Sponsorship Scheme

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 ward attendants, who are directly involved in the delivery of care to patients/clients within a nursing/midwifery context.

There are a minimum of 54 places available and these are part of the quota of places for mature code applicants.

An applicant must:

- Meet all conditions as outlined by the Department of Health and Children Circular 1/2004 and any subsequent amendments
- Apply as a Mature Code Applicant to the CAO
- Be successful at the NCC written assessment and interview
- Have applied for Sponsorship to the relevant Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development Unit (NMPDU) by the closing date as specified by the NMPDU
- Be offered a place in nursing/midwifery as a mature code 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.

For details of the scheme, contact the NMPDU in the region where you work.

HSE NMPDU	Address	Tel	Website
Dublin Mid Leinster	Block 4, Central Business Park, Clonminch, Portlaise Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly	(057) 9357866	www.hse.ie
Dublin North East	St. Brigid's Complex, Kells Road, Ardee, County Louth	(041) 6853206	www.hse.ie
Eastern Region	Mill Lane, Palmerstown, Dublin 20	(01) 6201772	www.hse.ie
Mid West	Head Office, 31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick	(061) 483521	www.hse.ie
South (Cork & Kerry)	Unit 8A, South Ring Business Park, Kinsale Road, Cork	(021) 4927460	www.hse.ie
South	Office Complex, Kilcreene Hospital Grounds, Kilkenny	(056) 7785629	www.hse.ie
West	HR Department, Merlin Park University Hospital, Galway	(091) 775841	www.hse.ie
West	Iona House, Main Street, Ballyshannon, County Donegal	(071) 9822106	www.hse.ie

## Entry Requirements Specific to Standard Code Applicants

### An Bord Altranais Education Entry Requirements

The *Nurses Rules, 2004*, 6.1 provide that:

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

*(a) have obtained in the Leaving Certificate Examination a minimum grade of C3 in two higher level papers and a minimum grade of D3 in four ordinary or higher level 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.

**DCU****Athlone IT****Dundalk IT****Galway-Mayo IT****Letterkenny IT****Tralee IT****Waterford IT**

C3 in two higher level papers and D3 in four ordinary or higher level papers in the Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate Examination in the following subjects:

- 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.

Or

Equivalent Qualifications.

**UL**

C3 in two higher level papers and D3 in four ordinary or higher level papers in the Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate Examination in the following subjects:

- 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.

Or

Equivalent Qualifications.

**TCD**

C3 in three higher level papers and D3 in three ordinary or higher level papers in the Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate Examination in the following subjects:

- 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.

Or

Equivalent Qualifications.

**The National University of Ireland (NUI) Colleges****UCC****UCD****NUIG****St Angela's College Sligo**

C3 in two higher level papers and D3 in four ordinary or higher level papers in the Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate Examination in the following subjects:

- 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.

Or

Equivalent Qualifications.

\*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

include another subject to make up the six subjects specified above.

**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**

An applicant using the Standard Code 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 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.

Refer to CAO Handbook [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)

### FETAC/NCVA Qualifications

The Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) was set up as a statutory body in June 2001. FETAC has responsibility for awards previously made by a number of bodies, including the National Council for Vocational Awards (NCVA).

Most of the HEIs offering the pre-registration honours degree programmes in nursing/midwifery consider specific FETAC/NCVA Level 5 (previously NCVA Level 2) qualifications as an equivalent (i.e. equivalent to the Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate Examination) entry route for standard code applicants to nursing/midwifery, using the CAO application process.

The courses that are considered by some HEIs are:

DCHSN Nursing Studies  
DCHSX Community and Health Services  
DHSXX Healthcare Support.

The applicant must achieve a **minimum** of Distinctions (i.e. 80% or greater) in 5 modules, which must include:

D20001 Anatomy and Physiology  
D20012 Introduction to Nursing  
D20032 Human Growth & Development or C20006 Biology.

Not all HEIs accept the qualifications as an entry route and those that do may not accept all of the above courses.

For a list of HEIs that accept which of the above courses as an entry route for nursing/midwifery, together with the number of places, check with the HEIs or visit the NCC website [www.nursingcareers.ie](http://www.nursingcareers.ie) and click on Becoming A Nurse and then on Standard Code Entry Requirements.

The places per HEI allocated to applicants presenting with the required FETAC/NCVA Level 5 qualification are on a **competitive** basis. The best eight modules are considered for scoring purposes.

For details and availability of the above-mentioned FETAC/NCVA Level 5 courses and modules, refer to the Department of Education website: ([http://www.education.ie/servlet/blobServlet/fe\\_plccourses.htm?language=EN](http://www.education.ie/servlet/blobServlet/fe_plccourses.htm?language=EN)).

Offers to FETAC applicants (Standard Code) take place early August.

It is essential to consult the HEI literature and contact the admission office of the HEI to which an applicant is applying for nursing/midwifery to determine any up-to-date changes, including any changes regarding requirements.

### 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 = 70 points
- Merit = 50 points
- Pass = 30 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 Paper	Ordinary Level Paper
A1	100	60
A2	90	50
B1	85	45
B2	80	40
B3	75	35
C1	70	30
C2	65	25
C3	60	20
D1	55	15
D2	50	10
D3	45	5

### Points for Standard Code Applicants 2003 to 2008

The following table shows the points required for each programme from 2003 to 2008.

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

For the final points for 2008 check the NCC website ([www.nursingcareers.ie](http://www.nursingcareers.ie)) in mid December.

HEI & Programme	Final 03	Final 04	Final 05	Final 06	Final 07	First 08	Final 08
Athlone IT General	355	360	360	365	355	365	
Athlone IT Psychiatric	305	330	325	330	320	360	
DCU Children's & General (Integrated)	N/A	N/A	N/A	430	490	430	
DCU General	350	380	385	370	400	365	
DCU Intellectual Disability	200	285	295	310	310	300	
DCU Psychiatric	235	325	320	315	320	315	
Dundalk IT General	325	345	355	340	345	340	
Dundalk IT Intellectual Disability	185	220	215	280	220	300	
Dundalk IT Midwifery	N/A	N/A	N/A	330	340	380	
Dundalk IT Psychiatric	260	310	305	280	295	320	
GMIT General	355	380	360	360	350	350	
GMIT Psychiatric	260	345	325	330	320	320	
IT Tralee General	370	370	385	380	375	375	
IT Tralee Psychiatric	300	340	365	350	345	360	
Letterkenny IT General	345	345	365	360	345	340	
Letterkenny IT Intellectual Disability	225	245	250	305	275	290	
Letterkenny IT Psychiatric	310	310	305	330	290	300	
NUIG General	380	400	410	405	405	390*	
NUIG Midwifery	N/A	N/A	N/A	395	385	380*	
NUIG Psychiatric	345	350	350	360	350	350*	
St Angela's General	335	360	360	355	345	355*	
St Angela's Intellectual Disability	190	205	210	305	305	320*	
TCD Children's & General (Integrated)	N/A	N/A	N/A	480	485	465*	
TCD General (Adelaide)	390	380	395	390	370	375	
TCD General (Meath & St James's)	350	365	380	360	360	360	
TCD Intellectual Disability	260	300	300	320	305	290	
TCD Midwifery	N/A	N/A	N/A	390	400	405*	
TCD Psychiatric	280	325	320	320	340	290	
UCC Children's & General (Integrated)	N/A	N/A	N/A	480	495	490	
UCC General	380	400	415	410	410	400	
UCC Intellectual Disability	325	340	350	355	380	380	
UCC Midwifery	N/A	N/A	N/A	400	410	425	
UCC Psychiatric	340	370	380	370	365	370	
UCD Children's & General (Integrated)	N/A	N/A	N/A	455	450	460	
UCD General	335	360	365	360	360	355	
UCD Midwifery	N/A	N/A	N/A	390	390	415	
UCD Psychiatric	330	340	350	350	355	345	
UL General	385	405	415	410	420	425	
UL Intellectual Disability	305	335	350	350	350	365	
UL Midwifery	N/A	N/A	N/A	395	405	410	
UL Psychiatric	315	350	350	340	350	355	
Waterford IT General	380	395	400	395	395	385	
Waterford IT Intellectual Disability	235	325	385	350	285	330	
Waterford IT Psychiatric	300	355	350	330	330	330	

## Post Registration Programmes

When a candidate has successfully completed the pre-registration programme in nursing/midwifery she might wish to pursue further education. Many such opportunities are available and An Bord Altranais has approved a number of specialist programmes. For details of these programmes refer to the NCC publication *Nursing/Midwifery: Career Development-Post-Registration Courses*, available on the NCC website [www.nursingcareers.ie](http://www.nursingcareers.ie)

There are five post-registration programmes leading to an additional registration with An Bord Altranais.

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

The midwifery programme is available at both pre-registration level and at post registration level.

The psychiatric programme is available at both pre-registration level and at post registration level.

### Children's Nursing: Post Registration

A nurse who is registered in one of the four divisions – RNID, RPN, RGN, RM - of the Register maintained by An Bord Altranais 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 An Bord Altranais (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
- TCD 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 An Bord Altranais before applying for the post registration programme in midwifery.

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

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 TCD
- Rotunda Hospital and TCD
- Cork University Maternity Hospital and UCC
- National Maternity Hospital and UCD
- St Munchin's Regional Maternity Hospital and UL

### Psychiatric Nursing: Post Registration

A nurse who is registered as a nurse (RNID/RGN/RCN/RM) with An Bord Altranais may apply for the twelve months course in psychiatric nursing in:

HEI	Healthcare Institutions	Places
DCU	HSE Dublin North East	Total 40
	HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster Regions	
	St Patrick's Hospital, Dublin	
	St John of God Hospital, Dublin	

Successful completion of the course entitles the student to apply for registration with An Bord Altranais (RPN) and the award of a Higher Diploma from the HEI.

Approval has been granted for two cohorts, with the first cohort commencing in February 2008. Further information from the School of Nursing in the HEI.

### Nurse Tutor

A nurse/midwife who is registered with An Bord Altranais 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 An Bord Altranais as a nurse tutor (RNT). There is not a separate register for midwife tutors.

A nurse/midwife who is registered with An Bord Altranais 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 An Bord Altranais, undertake a further post-graduate qualification in education, and subsequently may apply for registration as a nurse tutor with An Bord Altranais.

### Public Health Nursing

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

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

- NUIG
- UCD
- UCC
- St Angela's College

### Nurse Prescriber

A nurse who is registered as a nurse (RNID/RPN/RGN/RCN/RM) with An Bord Altranais may apply for the six months course in nurse/midwife prescribing in RCSI and UCC.

Provided that the student is currently employed as a nurse/midwife, successful completion of the course entitles her to apply for registration with An Bord Altranais (RNP) and the award of a Certificate from the HEI.

Further information from the Schools of Nursing in RCSI and UCC.

NOTE: Updates, if they become available, will be placed on the NCC website [www.nursingcareers.ie](http://www.nursingcareers.ie) under the section on FURTHER EDUCATION: Courses Leading To An Additional Registration.

# A Brief History of Nursing/Midwifery: Programme Level and Application Process

Up to 1994 pre-registration programmes in nursing were at certificate level and took place in healthcare agencies with attached schools of nursing, which were under the auspices of the health services.

In 1994 the first three-year pre-registration diploma programme commenced in general nursing with a link to a HEI (NUIG).

By 1998 all pre-registration three-year programmes in general nursing, mental handicap nursing and psychiatric nursing were at diploma level and all were linked with HEIs.

The four-year degree programme commenced in 2002 in all pre-registration programmes in general nursing, mental handicap nursing and psychiatric nursing.

The year 2001 was the first year that application to nursing was through the CAO system. In that year, although application was through the CAO, the Application Form for Nursing was separate from the main CAO Application Form. This separate form contained 3 sections: general nursing, mental handicap nursing and psychiatric nursing. This meant that an applicant could apply for 30 programmes in nursing as well as the 20 non-nursing degree and diploma courses on the main CAO Form.

In 2002, nursing was on the main CAO Form. However, the Form contained five separate sections. This meant that again an applicant could apply for 50 programmes, including 10 general nursing, 10 mental handicap nursing and 10 psychiatric nursing.

In 2003, nursing became part of the CAO Degree List for the first time, thereby giving a choice of 10 Degree programmes, including nursing. For the first time, nursing was now in competition with all degree courses on the CAO system, as well as with itself.

In 2004, the NQAI placed the pre-registration programmes in nursing at Level 8 honours degree.

In 2005, the term mental handicap nursing was changed to intellectual disability nursing.

In 2006, a four year honours degree (Level 8 NQAI) programme in midwifery was offered for the first time at pre-registration level.

In 2006, a four and a half year honours degree (Level 8 NQAI) integrated programme in children's nursing (previously called sick children's/paediatric nursing) and general nursing was offered for the first time at pre-registration level.

# Applicant Statistics 2001 to 2008

Places & Applications	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
General Nursing Places	1057	1057	1057	1057	1057	1057	1057	1042
Psychiatric Nursing Places	343	343	343	343	343	343	343	305
Intellectual Disability Nursing Places	240	240	240	240	240	240	240	200
Children's & General Nursing (integrated) Places	100	100	100	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Midwifery Places	140	140	140	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Nursing/Midwifery Places	1880	1880	1880	1640	1640	1640	1640	1547
Mode of Application	CAO	CAO	CAO	CAO	CAO	CAO	CAO	CAO
Course Choices	10	10	10	10	10	10	50	50
Nursing/Midwifery Applications - Total	8119	8640	8866	8547	8642	7507	9605	6578
Nursing/Midwifery Applications - Mature Code Valid	1738	1974	1934	1567	1671	1584	1851	1684
Nursing/Midwifery Applications - Standard Code	6698	7058	7233	7190	7172	6069	7970	N/A
Applications - General Standard	4815	5179	5353	5979	5917	5089	7283	N/A
Applications - General Mature	1263	1479	1512	1397	1436	1335	1618	N/A
Applications - General Total	5899	6397	6644	7169	7171	6289	8650	6150
First Preferences - General Nursing	2687	2806	2929	3904	3763	3367	N/A	N/A
Second Preferences - General Nursing	2223	2468	2465	3155	3148	2791	N/A	N/A
Applications - Psychiatric Standard	2124	2293	2240	2678	2740	2287	3988	N/A
Applications - Psychiatric Mature	784	937	890	839	883	871	1006	N/A
Applications - Psychiatric Total	2805	3080	3005	3418	3525	3089	4875	3540
First Preferences - Psychiatric Nursing	617	689	625	671	751	776	N/A	N/A
Second Preferences - Psychiatric Nursing	825	880	893	1067	1100	1005	N/A	N/A
Applications - Intellectual Disability Standard	1785	1686	1878	1910	1889	1519	3202	N/A
Applications - Intellectual Disability Mature	538	646	634	583	515	535	701	N/A
Applications - Intellectual Disability Total	2265	2249	2444	2449	2359	2020	3815	2778
First Preferences - Intellectual Disability Nursing	407	396	444	423	410	366	N/A	N/A
Second Preferences - Intellectual Disability Nursing	516	542	536	599	541	462	N/A	N/A
Applications Children's & General (Integrated) Standard	1435	1860	2308	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Applications Children's & General (Integrated) Mature	414	510	518	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Applications Children's & General (Integrated) Total	1807	2303	2765	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
First Preferences Children's & General (Integrated)	420	593	693	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Second Preferences Children's & General (Integrated)	377	509	733	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Applications - Midwifery Standard	1952	2020	1896	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Applications - Midwifery Mature	566	594	581	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Applications - Midwifery Total	2434	2517	2402	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
First Preferences - Midwifery	647	627	654	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Second Preferences - Midwifery	583	601	589	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
% Male of Total Applications	11%	10%	10%	11%	13%	12%	14%	N/A
Mature Passed Written Assessment	869	1003	1031	775	941	797	1065	893
Mature Passed Interview	717	833	871	626	764	640	783	717
Mature to Reach Order of Merit Lists	41%	42%	44%	39%	46%	40%	42%	42%
Applicants TOTAL to CAO	67,803	65,658	63,634	63,716	63,696	66,204		

N/A = Not available or Not applicable

NB Statistics courtesy of CAO & NCC & An Bord Altranais ©

\*2008 Statistics remain incomplete until end of CAO season. Statistics will be updated mid December 2008

# Applicants by Gender and Location 2005 to 2008

Location*	2008			2007			2006			2005		
	F	M	T	F	M	T	F	M	T	F	M	T
Carlow	81	7	88	79	8	87	88	5	93	105	11	116
Cavan	112	8	120	124	2	126	125	7	132	122	8	130
Clare	222	24	246	232	22	254	234	19	253	246	25	271
Cork	857	90	947	900	100	1000	867	89	956	922	83	1005
Donegal	324	36	360	389	43	432	421	59	480	437	65	502
Dublin	1397	178	1575	1617	196	1813	1548	181	1729	1353	177	1530
Galway	491	64	555	545	47	592	563	58	621	527	65	592
Kerry	281	50	331	348	47	395	332	53	385	368	62	430
Kildare	218	21	239	228	14	242	267	31	298	247	28	275
Kilkenny	186	20	206	164	22	186	195	24	219	178	28	206
Laois	122	13	135	122	14	136	99	14	113	140	12	152
Leitrim	67	6	73	78	3	81	76	9	85	72	10	82
Limerick	315	27	342	309	45	354	342	31	373	326	38	364
Longford	75	10	85	84	5	89	93	14	107	84	18	102
Louth	212	36	248	234	24	258	245	35	280	202	31	233
Mayo	309	37	346	366	38	404	369	47	416	368	37	405
Meath	289	18	307	281	18	299	283	20	303	246	20	266
Monaghan	125	14	139	162	18	180	164	15	179	148	19	167
Offaly	118	11	129	118	16	134	120	9	129	101	4	105
Roscommon	139	15	154	135	14	149	181	27	208	170	25	195
Sligo	158	26	184	146	19	165	163	16	179	161	26	187
Tipperary	280	37	317	262	29	291	292	25	317	275	37	312
Waterford	186	23	209	188	30	218	215	30	245	201	24	225
Westmeath	161	27	188	163	17	180	176	17	193	170	28	198
Wexford	190	28	218	190	34	224	204	32	236	202	33	235
Wicklow	175	17	192	171	20	191	173	6	179	152	8	160
NI	111	7	118	88	6	94	71	3	74	36	3	39
Britain	21	8	29	17	5	22	31	9	40	20	5	25
EU	22	1	23	20	3	23	19	4	23	13	4	17
Non EU	15	1	16	17	4	21	16	5	21	18	3	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7259</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>8119</b>	<b>7777</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>8640</b>	<b>7972</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>8866</b>	<b>7610</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>8547</b>

\* Location is based on the address provided by the applicant to the CAO

F = Female M = Male T = Total

Final 2008 statistics available in mid December. NB Statistics courtesy of CAO & NCC & An Bord Altranais ©

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# Contacts

## Nursing Careers Centre (NCC)

An Bord Altranais  
18/20 Carysfort Avenue  
Blackrock  
County Dublin  
Telephone: (01) 639 8500  
Facsimile: (01) 639 8577  
Email: ncc@nursingboard.ie  
Website: www.nursingcareers.ie

## Central Applications Office (CAO)

Tower House  
Eglinton Street  
Galway  
Telephone: (091) 509800  
Facsimile: (091) 562344  
Website: www.cao.ie

## Public Appointments Service (PAS)

Chapter House  
26-30 Abbey Street Upper  
Dublin 1  
Telephone: (01) 858 7400  
Email: maturecode09@publicjobs.ie  
Website: www.publicjobs.ie

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