MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics

Major Code: X723
Programme Code: MTHSS004

For the most up to date information relevant to this year, please visit our website http://www.ucd.ie/phpps/

Understanding your Degree

The MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics is a full-time programme, designed for graduates who wish to develop expertise in areas ranging from the promotion of nutrition and health throughout the lifespan through to the management of clinical nutrition in community, primary care and acute settings. Moreover, practitioners in medicine, nursing, physiotherapy and the other health and social care professions, as well as practitioners in sport and exercise science have a need for evidence-based expertise in nutrition, health promotion and clinical nutrition so that they can manage clients and patients in a manner that permits optimal client/patient outcomes.

At the end of the programme, students will have developed the integrated scientific, clinical, psychological, communication, multidisciplinary team working and professional proficiencies that underpin a career in clinical nutrition and dietetics. The MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics aims to train graduates eligible to apply to the Dietitians Registration Board (CORU) for registration as a dietitian. (UCD is currently preparing application for Dietitians Registration Board (CORU) registration).

Today’s clinical nutrition and dietetics experts have an expanding field of career opportunities. For instance, the current rise in lifestyle-related conditions and diseases has been identified by international and national government agencies and programmes as requiring nutritional interventions for their prevention and management. The expanding older population requires nutritional care to prevent and manage lifestyle-related conditions such as obesity, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, sarcopenia and osteoporosis. The creation of links between nutrition, health and community development provide opportunities for health promotion through nutrition interventions in many community settings, including pre-schools, schools, services for older people and those with disability or mental illness. Within the acute hospital setting, the effective management of chronic and acute medical and surgical conditions and the prevention and treatment of disease-related malnutrition are critical, wherein effective nutritional management is central to reducing the personal and economic costs associated with poor nutrition and health. The importance of nutrition to optimise sports performance is increasingly recognised with many career opportunities in this area.

Admission requirements

- Applicants should hold a second class honours degree (2.1 or 2.2 in exceptional circumstances e.g. extensive prior clinical experience) or higher in science e.g. human nutrition, nutritional science, human biology, biochemistry, food science, pharmacology, physiology; or in health sciences e.g. medicine, nursing or a health and social care profession or in sports performance science.
- Prior qualifications should include evidence of study of human biochemistry and physiology or other relevant degree from a recognised university.
- The pre-requisite to undertake the Graduate Diploma in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics is a MSc/PhD in Nutrition/Nutrition Science such that candidates do not need to complete a dissertation but can practice Dietetics upon qualification.
- Details of two referees should be included in the online application.
- Garda vetting is required, prior to undertaking practice placements.
- All students must attend UCD Student Health Services for pre-entry screening and must be compliant with Irish Immunisation Guidelines. All costs associated with health screening and vaccination must be met by the student.

In exceptional circumstances, where an individual has substantial and significant experiential learning, a portfolio of written evidence demonstrating the meeting of graduate qualities (including subject-specific outcomes, as determined by the Course Committee) may be considered as an alternative entrance route. Evidence used to demonstrate graduate qualities may not be used for exemption against modules within the programme.

Mapping your Diploma/Degree

- This programme is mapped at level 9 on the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI) framework.
- On successful completion of this programme, graduates will be able to progress to a variety of graduate degrees.

Modules include

- Dietetics through the Lifecycle
- Dietetics Professional Practice 1 & 2
- Medicine for Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics
- Nutrition and Communication
- Clinical Nutrition
- Health Promotion
- Nutrition Epidemiology
- Applied Nutrition Health Exercise & Sports Performance
- Practice Placement
- Advanced Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics
- Health Economics.

Commitment required from students

- This full time programme is designed to be completed over two academic years.
- Lectures will normally be held on Mondays - Fridays.
- Practice placements are compulsory and may take place throughout the country. Placements are unpaid and students are responsible for their own upkeep during these placements.

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- Assessment strategies include continuous assessment, assignments, projects and examinations.
- Exit routes from this programme include a Graduate Certificate and a Graduate Diploma in Clinical Nutrition. Graduates availing of these exit routes will not be able to apply to the Dietitians Registration Board (CORU) for registration as a dietitian.
- UCD expects that students who register for its programmes are in a position to commit to attending and being available on scheduled programme and assessment dates.

Career opportunities
Graduates with the MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics will be well placed to gain employment in the following sectors and agencies:
- Clinical nutrition & dietetics (hospital and community dietetics)
- Public health nutrition, government health promotion agencies
- Clinical nutrition industry (product development, marketing, consumer information)
- Sports nutrition
- Teaching opportunities (second or third level)
- Academic, nutrition and medical research (public and private sectors)
- Private practice

Venue
Classes are normally held on the UCD Belfield campus.

Programme fees
Fees include tuition and examination fees. The fee schedule for all programmes is shown on the UCD Fees website (http://www.ucd.ie/fees/) and refers to the fee for a single academic year, including the fee schedule for non-EU nationals and the annual fee for the outgoing year.

Important dates and information
- Successful applicants will be notified promptly.
- Closing date for receipt of completed applications is November 30th 2015.

- Late applicants will be considered if the quota is not reached by applicants who have applied on time.
- An orientation day will be held in January 2016. Successful applicants will be notified closer to the time.

How to apply
Applicants apply using the UCD online application system. To apply, simply click on http://www.ucd.ie/apply and follow the instructions. A non-refundable application fee applies. The application fee is paid online.

What must be provided with each application
All of the following items must be submitted on or before the application closing date. They may be submitted online or in hard copy format.
- CV (maximum 2 pages).
- A personal statement of approximately 500 words. The personal statement should focus on the applicant’s interest in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics and how they expect the programme will impact on their career.
- Copies of degree parchments as well as full transcripts of results.
- Details of two referees should be included in the online application.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must submit the original certificate of completion of an English test.

English language requirements
- Applicants whose first language is not English and whose primary degree was obtained in a country where English is not the official language of instruction must provide proof of proficiency in English such as IELTS or TOEFL.
- The original certificate of completion of an English language test must be submitted with the application (IELTS score of 7.0 (or equivalent) with no element below 6.5).
- Test results must not be more than 2 years old.

Further information
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