

NURSING & MIDWIFERY

Sector Background

General Nursing

General Nursing offers a wide variety of career options. A General Nurse works as part of a multidisciplinary team in promoting and maintaining the health of individuals, families and communities, caring for those who develop health problems and supporting them to live their lives to the maximum potential. General Nurses are equipped to work in a variety of settings such as hospitals, in the community, nursing homes, hospice care, the army, universities etc. A General Nursing qualification can also lead to careers in such areas as Health Service Management or Medical Research. It worth noting that a General Nursing qualification is recognised in many other countries, so can provide opportunities to travel and work abroad.

An online [self-assessment questionnaire for prospective nursing and midwifery candidates](#) is available from the Public Appointments Service (PAS). This questionnaire will assist both school leavers and mature candidates in their personal understanding of the role of the nurse and midwife and their suitability to undertake the education programme.

Midwifery

Midwives provide 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. They work in partnership with obstetricians and other members of the healthcare team in the provision of care, particularly to women with complicated pregnancies. Midwifery care includes preventative measures, the detection of abnormal conditions, making referrals to doctors and taking emergency action when necessary. They also have an important task in health counselling and education, not only for women but also within the family and the community.

Click [here](#) for more information on Nursing and Midwifery for 2016 created by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland.

Typical Roles

Some roles involved in Nursing and Midwifery include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clinical Nurse Specialist ● Community Nurse ● General Nurse ● Intellectual Disability Nurse ● Midwife ● Nurse Manager 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Orthopaedic Nurse ● Palliative Care Nurse ● Paediatric/ Children's Nurse ● Psychiatric/ Mental Health Nurse ● Public Health Nurse ● Theatre Nurse
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Entry Routes

[Pre-Registration Degree Programmes Leading to Registration with NMBI](#)

To work as a qualified nursing professional, you must first successfully complete a programme of nursing education, and then apply to register with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI), the statutory body for regulation of the nursing profession in Ireland. There are five Pre-Registration level nursing training programmes available, all of which are at Level 8 Honours Bachelor Degree:

- BSc in General Nursing (RGN) (4 Years Duration)
- BSc in Children's and General Nursing (integrated) (4.5 years Duration)
- BSc in Psychiatric Nursing (RPN) (4 Years Duration)
- BSc in Intellectual Disability Nursing (RNID) (4 Years Duration)
- BSc in Midwifery (4 Years Duration)

General Nursing degree courses are offered by Universities and Colleges throughout Ireland. Students can avail of these courses by applying through the CAO as school leavers or Mature Students. Certain Specific FETAC Level 5 PLC Programmes provide links to Nursing Degree Programmes. These currently are:

- Nursing Studies (5M4349 / DCHSN)
- Healthcare Support (5M4339 / DHSXXX)
- Community and Health Services (5M4468 / DCHSX)

In all cases, applicants must have achieved distinctions in five components including;

- Anatomy and Physiology (5N0749 / D20001)
- Introduction to Nursing (5N4325 / D200012)

- Human Growth and Development (5N1279 / D20032) or Biology (5N2746 / C20006)

You can find the quota of places reserved for QQI FETAC applicants on Nursing courses in 2015 [here](#).

Post- Registration Courses

Continuing education is a lifelong learning process which takes place after the completion of the basic Nursing/Midwifery education programme. Many such opportunities are available and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) has approved a number of specialist programmes as well as programmes leading to an additional registration. Career progression in Nursing depends on a combination of work experience and further study. Further post-registration programme options include: Children's Nursing, Nurse Tutor, Public Health Nursing, Nurse Prescriber, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Emergency Nursing, and Intensive Care Nursing.

Relevant Bodies & Professional Associations

An Bord Altranais	Medical Council
Department of Health	Nursing Careers Centre
INMO - The Irish Nurses & Midwives Organisation	Order of Malta
Irish Practice Nurses Association	Public Appointments Service
Irish Red Cross	St. John Ambulance Brigade