County Carlow Adult Educational Guidance & Information Service

APPLYING FOR A NURSING DEGREE
CAO APPLICATION

The Public Appointments Service (PAS) has developed an on-line self-assessment questionnaire for prospective nursing and midwifery learners. This facility allows candidates to assess their personal suitability to nursing and to gain an understanding of the role –
www.quickstart360.co.uk/runtestsnquest.aspx

Overall number of places on nursing degree courses in Ireland =1,832

Degree Programme	Number of places	Duration
Children's and General nursing (integrated)	130	4.5 years
General nursing	925	4 years
Intellectual disability nursing	210	4 years
Midwifery	144	4 years
Psychiatric nursing	423	4 years

There are three possible entry routes onto a nursing degree
1) Mature Student Entry
2) Specific QQI FET Level 5 Awards (previously FETAC)
3) Leaving Certificate points

Each nursing/midwifery programme has an identifying course code. For applications in 2019, both standard and mature applicants will use the same code.

1) A Standard Applicant is for an applicant who is applying on the basis of examination results. The applicant must meet the minimum education requirements of both An Bord Altranais and the HEIs they apply to.

2) A Mature Applicant is for an applicant who is twenty-three years of age or over on 1st January of the year of entry to the course and who wishes to be considered for a place on grounds of mature years and not on examination results. All mature applicants must sit an assessment test to be considered for a place on a nursing or midwifery programme.

A mature application cannot be considered unless:-
- it has been included among an applicant's original course choices by 1st February in the year of application or
- it has been added to the existing application not later than the final date for correction of errors or omissions.

Mature Student Entry to a Nursing Degree

Quota of places – mature student entry

Each year a quota of places are reserved for mature code applicants (this quota can vary from year to year). Approximate numbers below:-

Degree Programme	Percentage of places	Number of places
Children's and General nursing (integrated)	15%	19
General nursing	15%	138
Intellectual disability nursing	35%	73
Midwifery	20%	29
Psychiatric nursing	35%	148
Overall Total		**407**

Important timetable for mature student candidates 2019

1)   Applicants must apply to the Central Applications Office (CAO) before 1st February 2019 (5.15pm)

For further information please see our fact sheet on "CAO pointers for mature students". Alternatively, go online to www.cao.ie to request instructions and an application form or make your application online.

Mature applicants need only apply once and can be considered as mature and on QQI FET and/ or Leaving Certificate.

2)   Registering & Applying to PAS - www.publicjobs.ie

Applications for mature code nursing and midwifery must register and apply to www.publicjobs.ie, between, 1st – 21st February 2019. Please do not confuse registering with applying. Once you have registered you must then access the application form, complete and submit it. If your application has been successfully submitted you will receive a confirmation email. If not received within two days contact PAS on (01) 8587750

3)   Assessment Test – Early to Mid-April 2019

- You should receive further details from the PAS in relation to the written assessment test by 22nd March providing details of the assessment, including time and venue. (Venues – Dublin/ Cork/ Galway) If you have not received the invitation, email PAS by this date by contacting them on maturecode19@publicjobs.ie.
- Test Familiarisation Booklet – details relating to the test familiarisation material will be made available on your PAS message board by 22nd March 2019. Applicants should read this document to help prepare for the written assessment. The assessment consists of:
    - a verbal test
    - a numerical test
    - a job simulation exercise

- The written assessment test will be held early to mid-April 2019
- The results of the written assessment will be available on applicant's message board in **early June 2019**. You will need your username and password to access the message board. If you have not received your results by 8th June 2019, you should email PAS on maturecode19@publicjobs.ie.

Important Note:
Success at the NCC written assessment does not guarantee an offer of a place.

If you do not complete all three steps – (1) apply to CAO (2) register with PAS and (3) apply to PAS for assessment test, your application will be invalid and you will receive no further consideration.

QQI Qualifications/ Awards (previously FETAC)

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

The courses that are considered by some Higher Education Institutions are:
- 5M4349 Nursing Studies
- 5M4339 Healthcare Support
- 5M4468 Community and Health Services
- 5M3782 Health Service Skills

The applicant must achieve a **minimum** grade of Distinction (i.e. 80% or greater) in each of 5 modules, which must include:
- 5N0749 Anatomy and Physiology
- 5N4325 Nursing Theory & Practice
- 5N1279 Human Growth & Development or 5N2746 Biology.

Note:
Not all HEI's accept the qualifications as an entry route and those that do, may not accept all of the above courses. Please check with the Admissions Office of the relevant HEI.

Course Offers

Offer of places to mature code applicants:
- First offers of places to mature code applicants will take place in early July 2019. If course vacancies remain, further offers may be made in early August 2019.
- First offers of places to QQI FET (standard applicants) will take place in early August
- Course place offers will be made by post but will also be available online at www.cao.ie.

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 relevant HEI. An applicant who wishes to defer a place is strongly urged to check directly, and well in advance, with the Admissions Office of the appropriate HEI about the conditions under which deferred entry might be granted. Refer also to page 19 in the CAO Handbook 2019.

Further Information

Nursing Careers Centre (NCC)
An Bord Altranais
18/20 Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
Tel: (01) 6398528
Email: careersinformation@nmbi.ie
Website: www.nmbi.ie/Careers-in-Nursing-Midwifery

Central Applications Office (CAO)
Tower House, Eglinton Street, Galway
Tel: (091) 509800
Website: www.cao.ie

Public Appointments Service (PAS)
Chapter House, 26-30 Abbey Street Upper, Dublin 1
Tel: (01) 8587400
Email: maturecode19@publicjobs.ie
Website: www.publicjobs.ie

If you need assistance with filling out the CAO form then please refer to our factsheets:
- What is CAO?
- CAO pointers for mature students
- CAO Mature Student Checklist