

# Are you a Registered General Nurse and Interested in becoming a Midwife?



Find out if you are eligible to apply for the 18 month  
Higher Diploma in Midwifery HSE Sponsorship and  
Recruitment Programme in HSE areas :  
Cork, Drogheda, Galway and Limerick.

## Higher Diploma in Midwifery Programme

### *A Career in Midwifery in Ireland*

Midwifery is a rewarding career providing much in terms of job satisfaction and the privileged opportunity to provide care and support to women and their families, pre-conception, during pregnancy, childbirth and up to six weeks after birth. Midwives recognise pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period as a healthy and profound experience in women's lives and use their knowledge, skills and professional behaviours, to work autonomously and within a team to competently support the woman and her family.



Midwives work in a variety of settings including antenatal wards/clinics, birthing rooms, postnatal wards, Midwifery Led Units, community midwifery services, neonatal units and obstetric theatres. Registered Midwives have many opportunities to progress their careers with choices for midwives existing in the clinical, management, education and research settings through a variety of roles.

It is an exciting time to consider a career in midwifery. The National Maternity Strategy (Dept. of Health, 2016) ten-year plan maps out improved and safe choices of care pathways for women and their families, and midwives play an important role in all pathways of care. More community midwifery and midwifery led services are being developed and rolled out as part of the implementation of the strategy.

There are two pathways to becoming a midwife in Ireland – the undergraduate route (BSc (Hons) Midwifery) and the post-registration route (Higher Diploma in Midwifery) for Registered General Nurses.

This information leaflet is designed to provide you with the information you need regarding the Higher Diploma in Midwifery, HSE Sponsorship and Recruitment Programme.

### What is the Higher Diploma in Midwifery Programme?

It is a full time programme providing you with the opportunity to meet specific clinical and education requirements to enable you to be eligible for registration as a Registered Midwife (RM) with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI). The programme is awarded at Level 8 Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), on the National Qualification Authority Ireland Framework (www.Irish National Framework of Qualifications, NFQ). The Higher Diploma in Midwifery Programme builds on prior professional learning and experience of nursing. The programme duration is 18 months and consists of 26 weeks theory and 52 weeks clinical practice.

The Student Midwife is expected to successfully meet the *Midwife Registration Education Post-RGN Programme Standards and Requirements* (NMBI September 2016 and addendum 2017) which includes specified competencies to be achieved on completion of the education programme.

### Who can apply for the Higher Diploma in Midwifery HSE sponsorship and recruitment programme?

You can apply if you meet the following HSE criteria at the time of application:

- Be registered in the General Division of the Register of Nurses maintained by The Nursing

and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) or eligible to be so registered.

- Have a minimum of 6 months post registration experience as a Registered General Nurse (RGN) within the previous 3 years of application, working a minimum of 78 hours per month.

### ***When can I apply for the programme?***

The Programme is open for applications every eighteen months.

Candidates can apply on-line via the Postgraduate Applications Centre (PAC): <https://v2.pac.ie/>

### ***Where can I apply to undertake the programme?***

*The programme is provided by each of the following HSE areas:*

- Cork University Maternity Hospital (Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate) in partnership with University College Cork.
- Galway University Hospital Group (Saolta Hospital Group) in partnership with National University of Ireland Galway.
- Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda (RSCI Hospitals Group) in partnership with Dundalk Institute of Technology.
- University Maternity Hospital Limerick (UL Hospital Group) in partnership with University of Limerick.



### ***How many maternity hospitals/ Higher Education Institutes (HEI's) can I apply for?***

Only one application is required. On the application form you will have the opportunity to identify your preferred Higher Education Institute (HEI).

### ***Where can I get further information on being a student midwife?***

See Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland Website for more information:

<https://www.nmbi.ie/Careers-in-Nursing-Midwifery>

### ***Additional information is also available from the following webpages:***

School of Nursing and Midwifery UCC:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/hdmh/>

School of Nursing and Midwifery NUIG:

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/courses/taught-postgraduate-courses/midwifery.html>

Department of Nursing, Midwifery & Early Years DKIT:

<https://www.dkit.ie/midwifery/midwifery-programmes>

Department of Nursing and Midwifery, UL:

<https://www.ul.ie/nm/>

The Higher Diploma in Midwifery HSE Sponsorship programme is also provided in Dublin in the Coombe Women's Maternity Hospital and the Rotunda Hospital in partnership with Trinity College Dublin (TCD): National Maternity Hospital, in partnership with University College Dublin (UCD). Please refer to their individual websites for information on eligibility, recruitment and advertisement.

### ***Where can I get information on the sponsorship agreement?***

Further information on the content and duration of the programme, entry requirements and sponsorship terms and conditions etc. is located on the HSE website:

<https://healthservice.hse.ie/about-us/onmsd/cpd-for-nurses-and-midwives/onmsd-sponsorship-schemes/>

Selected applicants will be offered an 18 month contract of paid employment for the duration of the programme. University fees are also paid by the HSE.

### ***Will I need to do an interview?***

Yes, if shortlisted, you will be called for interview. The interview will be competency based with the competencies drawn from the job description and your experiences as a Registered General Nurse.

### ***What is the salary and working week of a Student Midwife on the Higher Diploma in Midwifery Programme ?***

Each HSE sponsored student midwife will retain their current point on the staff nurse salary scale on entry into the programme (based on verified nursing service). Students will retain their incremental date and will be granted incremental credit (if applicable) during the programme.

The working week is that of a full-time member of staff (39 hours week). College hours are as assigned with full attendance expected.



### ***References:***

Department of Health and Children (2016), Creating a Better Future Together: National Maternity Strategy, 2016-2026, Stationary House, Dublin.

Nursing And Midwifery Board Ireland (2016), Midwife Registration Programme Requirements and Standards, NMBI, Dublin.

Nursing and Midwifery Board Ireland (2017), Midwife Registration Education Post-RGN Programme Standards and Requirements, NMBI, Dublin.

Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)

[www.nfq-qqi.com](http://www.nfq-qqi.com)