



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

NURSE



“Nursing is the essence of caring and I feel privileged to be in a position of making a difference to patients who depend on me.”

THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TEAM NEEDS YOU

NURSE

There has never been a more exciting time for nursing within the Health and Personal Social Services in Northern Ireland. Nursing practice takes place in a context of continuing change and development - changes in people's health and social care needs, advances in technology and rising public expectation. The changing pattern of practice and the organisation of care delivery within the Health and Personal Social Services create challenges and many opportunities for nurses. Professional nursing encompasses the Art and Science of nursing, the provision of safe, effective and high quality care. Care that is delivered in real partnership with patients and communities, in collaboration with other members of the healthcare team and that embraces the human values of caring and compassion. Different people have different needs and to meet these needs nurses complete preparation programmes in one of four areas of practice - Adult Nursing, Mental Health Nursing, Learning Disability Nursing or Children's Nursing. The Nursing and Midwifery Council regulates these programmes and successful completion of the programmes leads to registration with the Council.

Skills Required:

The HPSS requires nurses who have a desire to help people. You need to be a practical individual and know how to manage your time. You will need to have an ability to get on well with people from a wide range of backgrounds; emotional and mental strength; good observational skills; the ability to act on your own initiative; willingness to take responsibility; ability to remain calm in stressful situations and a mature approach. Preparation programmes for nursing help students develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and competencies required for professional nursing practice.

Training Programmes:

Pre-registration nursing programmes are provided by Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster at Magee and Coleraine Campuses. They are three-year programmes leading to registration as a nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and a degree or diploma in nursing sciences in one of four branches - adult, mental health, learning disability or children's nursing. All programmes are constructed with a one-year common foundation programme and two-year branch programme and 50% theory, 50% practice. The practice component is provided through practice placements in hospitals and in community based facilities. In order to accommodate the large numbers of students completing the adult nursing programme practice placement guidance issued by the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety for this programme requires each university to avail of practice placements in specific Health and Social Services Board areas. The practice placement component is a compulsory and extremely important element of pre-registration nursing programmes and applicants to these programmes must consider carefully the requirements and commitment in this regard before accepting a place on a pre-registration nursing programme.

Entry Qualifications:

The Nursing and Midwifery Council require programme providers to ensure that applicants for pre-registration nursing programmes have provided evidence of literacy and numeracy. This may be integral to academic or vocational qualifications, or alternative evidence such as Key Skills abilities (Key Skills Level 3) or meet the requirements of Higher Education Institute processes for non-standard entrants. Additionally programme providers may set their own specific educational requirements, agreed in partnership with local service providers.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council also require programme providers to satisfy themselves that applicants to pre-registration nursing programmes have good health and character sufficient for safe and effective practice as a nurse. The Council further requires that processes will be in place for ongoing assessment of good health and character for the continued participation of students in pre-registration nursing programmes. On completion of the pre-registration programme the Nursing and Midwifery Council will require confirmation of good health and good character in order for the student to enter the register.

Career Pathway:

Career prospects for registered nurses are excellent. The majority of newly qualified nurses move rapidly to permanent posts within the HPSS. There is a range of varied career opportunities in nursing progressing to posts that influence and shape the future of nursing and healthcare practice. Nurses are valued for their communication skills, practical abilities, management ability, leadership and their responsiveness to the needs of patients and communities. Whether you lead a nursing team, are a member of a nursing team or are a nurse consultant, manage limited resources or develop new approaches to nursing care, your skills will have a direct impact on patients.

Professional Recognition:

Registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council on Part One of the Nursing and Midwifery Council Register as a Registered General Nurse (RGN) – Adult Nursing, Registered Mental Nurse (RMN), Registered Nurse Mental Handicap (RNMH)- Learning Disability Nursing, Registered Sick Children’s Nurse (RSCN) Children’s Nursing.

How to Apply:

Contact universities for application pack.

Web Links:

Queen’s University Belfast – www.qub.ac.uk/nur/

E-mail: nursing@qub.ac.uk

The University of Ulster – www.ulster.ac.uk

Nursing & Midwifery Council – www.nmc-uk.org

Contact address for further copies

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