

# Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery

## Proposed 18 month programme

Subject to confirmation

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### THE PROGRAMME

This proposed new 18 month post registration programme for registered general nurses leads to registration with An Bord Altranais (Nursing Board) as a Registered Midwife (RM) and the award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery from University College, Cork. The programme is fulltime and is offered in partnership with the Unified Maternity and Neonatal Services, Cork. Participants receive an 18 month contract of employment with the Unified Maternity Services.

Successful graduates of this programme can register as a Midwife in Ireland. For those who wish to register as a midwife in other EU countries, a further 12 months of midwifery practice is required under EU regulations. This must encompass all the activities of the midwife.

The programme commences in Autumn each year; and is open to Registered General Nurses with a minimum of 6 months' experience. Applicants who are under 23 years of age must satisfy the minimum entry requirements of the College of Medicine and Health

### PHILOSOPHY

The programme is grounded in the belief that childbirth is a natural process which can lead to a strengthening of families and society. Midwives aim to increase the confidence of the pregnant woman, thus enabling her to have a normal birth.

The course works towards developing a thinking, analytical, questioning midwife, who has an interest in learning and who can fully exploit the learning advantages of working within a midwifery environment. The programme is student based and designed to equip students with the clinical skills and theoretical knowledge needed by qualified midwives to provide high quality woman centred care.

Graduates will have an excellent theoretical framework which will ensure safe evidence based autonomous midwifery practice.

The course is based on a humanistic philosophy where learning is seen as a partnership, involving students, midwives, and teachers working towards mutual growth and development. Efforts to develop and expand midwifery knowledge will be central to the process. Students will explore the abstract concepts related to childbirth to clarify what is important for women and families at this time. Participants will work towards increasing self confidence and developing the art and skills of midwifery practice

### LEARNING OUCOMES

1. Will be able to undertake the activities of a midwife as set out in the E.U. Directive 80/155/EC.
2. Will have a comprehensive vision for the development of midwifery practice.
3. Have an awareness of research and evidence based practice in relation to maternity care.
4. Have an understanding of the concepts and politics of normal birth.
5. Have developed the professional identity of the midwife in health care settings

### COURSE ORGANISATION

The duration of the proposed programme is 78 weeks with 26 weeks of structured learning conducted by block release. Each student will undertake placements in the Cork University Maternity Hospital.

### COURSE CONTENT

The first year of the programme largely focuses on the role and activities of the midwife in providing care to healthy mothers and babies. It includes: Pregnancy and Childbirth, Midwifery Professionalism, Health Promotion for Midwives, Evidence Based Midwifery Practice, and Applied Social Policy for Midwifery. In addition, there is one clinical practice module each year for developing competence in midwifery practice.

The second year (duration 6 months) develops from this and challenges midwifery practice in a variety of settings. It includes: Pregnancy and Childbirth, Research for Midwives, Ethics for Midwives, and Midwifery Practice.



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## ASSESSMENT

Assessment is through a variety of approaches; including written assignments, class presentations and end of year examinations. Assessment of clinical practice is a continuous process and includes the assessment of clinical skills and competencies for midwifery practice.

## FEES

The Department of Health & Children currently undertakes to pay the fees of students undertaking the Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery. This is administered through the Health Service Executive – South and may be subject to certain conditions.

## SALARY

The Department of Health & Children pays students a salary while undertaking the Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery. This is administered through the Health Service Executive



## For Application Details and Further Information contact:

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