# Fitness to Practise Statement

1. **Programme Name(s)**: MSc Human Nutrition and Dietetics

# Professional Fitness to Practise Requirements

The aim of the MSc Human Nutrition and Dietetics programme is to prepare graduates who will contribute to the development of Nutrition and Dietetics in Ireland and worldwide through their ability to act as competent, reflective and innovative practitioners by drawing upon their expertise and knowledge of evidence-based practice and research.

On successful completion of The MSc in Nutrition and Dietetics, students will be able to:

* Demonstrate mastery in the application of specialist knowledge in line with the required dietetic competencies as set out by the Dietitians Registry Board of CORU and the Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute Education Board.
* Understand the associations between nutrition, health and disease to enable the integration and application to the practice of dietetics.
* Apply advanced theoretical and conceptual knowledge in human nutrition and dietetics to analyse and synthesise complex nutrition and dietetic problems to enable effective education, communication and accountability in the provision of nutrition care for individuals, groups and communities and support safe food and dietary practices for all.
* Develop high level communication skills to effectively transmit knowledge to individuals and a range of audiences including colleagues, other health professionals and the community.
* Select and use a range of appropriate digital technologies, media and modes to locate, assess, critique and translate research findings and evaluate practice in human nutrition and dietetics.
* Use an evidence-based framework to provide practical and holistic solutions to a range of changing and complex nutrition and dietetic issues in a range of settings.
* Apply innovative and creative solutions to nutrition and dietetic theoretic and professional practice challenges.
* Fulfil the National Competency Standards for Dietitians as set out by the Dietitians Registration Board of the state registration Body CORU.
* Apply critical thinking in the dietetic assessment and management of individuals, groups and communities.
* Apply principles of research and evidence-based practice, and advanced level communication skills to justify and defend nutrition and dietetic professional reasoning and decision-making.
* Exercise professional and ethical dietetic practice for individuals, groups and communities from diverse social and cultural backgrounds and in different environments.
* Critically reflect on individual practices to identify learning and professional development needs.
* Demonstrate autonomy and self-direction to address these needs and become lifelong learners.
* Employ professionalism and reflective practice, to demonstrate expert judgement, responsibility, and safe and ethical practice in the field of nutrition and dietetics.
* Exercise independence, collaboration and leadership in decision making to ethically apply knowledge and skills-based solutions in complex and controversial nutrition and dietetic issues that take into consideration inter- disciplinary and cross-cultural perspectives.

Students on the MSc Human Nutrition and Dietetics programme are expected to act within and are assessed on their ability to meet the Standards of Proficiency identified by CORU: ***Dietitians Registration Board – Criteria and Standards of Proficiency for Education and Training Programmes May 2019***

These consider the following domains, which are used to assess the students’ achievements

of professional competency:

Domain 1: Professional autonomy and accountability

Domain 2: Communication, Collaborative Practice and Teamworking

Domain 3: Safety & Quality

Domain 4: Professional development

Domain 5: Professional Knowledge and skills

# Professional Competencies

There are two codes that outline the standards of ethical behaviour and conduct that are expected of the students of the MSc Human Nutrition and Dietetics programme:

# CORU Dietitians Registration Board (DRB) Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics January 2019

* **The Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute Code of Professional Practice January 2018**

Responsibilities are grouped into three categories:

# Conduct, Performance and Ethics Conduct:

1. Act in the best interests of service users
2. Respect the confidentiality and privacy of service users
3. Maintain high standards of personal conduct and behaviour
4. Use social media responsibly
5. Comply with obligations regarding registration

# Performance

1. Address health issues related to your fitness to practise
2. Obey laws, regulations and guidelines
3. Comply with requirements for the protection of children and vulnerable adults
4. Act within the limits of your knowledge, skills, competence and experience
5. Keep your professional knowledge and skills up to date
6. Obtain consent from service users
7. Assess service users’ capacity to consent where necessary
8. Communicate effectively with service users and others involved in their care
9. Act in accordance with the principles of open disclosure
10. Assist, advise and support colleagues, recently qualified registrants and students
11. Teach, supervise and assess students and other professionals
12. Supervise tasks that you delegate to others
13. Keep accurate records
14. Assess health, safety and welfare risks
15. Raise concerns about safety and quality of care
16. Maintain adequate professional indemnity insurance

**Ethics**

1. Demonstrate ethical awareness
2. Respect the rights and dignity of service users
3. Avoid conflicts of interest
4. Undertake research in an ethical manner
5. Make sure that any advertising is truthful, accurate, lawful and not misleading

# Health Requirements

*Professional settings and practice will generally require the student to maintain a level of good health to ensure the student and service users are not adversely affected by any health condition that may arise. As part of a general health protection, the University and/or the external placement provider may require students to undergo health screening or other forms of health assessment.*

*Students undertaking programmes with a vaccine and/or health requirement will be required to comply with the vaccination and/or health requirements of the University, as may be updated from time to time.*

*In addition, students undertaking programmes with an external placement will be required to comply with the vaccination and/or health requirements of the external placement provider, as may be updated from time to time.*

*All requirements are listed in the Table below.*

*Any restriction and supporting justification on students with disabilities enrolling on this programme and seeking to avail of accommodations provide by Disability Support Services should also be listed below in the table below.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Vaccination and/or health requirements of the University in relation to this programme of study* | *Vaccination and/or health requirements of the external placement provider in relation to this programme of study* | *Restriction and supporting justification on students with disabilities enrolling on this programme* |
|  | Available at this link: [Practice Education | University of Limerick (ul.ie)](https://www.ul.ie/ehs/school-allied-health/practice-education) |  |