

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



"To assist women to bring life into this world is a privilege and a great joyous moment in midwifery"
Student Midwife



Find out if you are eligible to apply for the
Higher Diploma in Midwifery HSE Sponsorship
and Recruitment Programme in selected
HSE Maternity Units

A Career in Midwifery in Ireland

Midwifery is a rewarding career providing support to women and their families, at pre-conception, during pregnancy, childbirth and up to six weeks after birth.

As a Midwife you will be with parents at the most special time of their lives and be involved in welcoming their new baby/babies to the world.

Midwives recognise pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period as a healthy and profound experience in women's lives. Working autonomously and within a team, midwives work in partnership with women to give the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period.



Midwives work in a variety of settings including antenatal wards and 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 clinical, management, education and research settings.

It is an exciting time to consider a career in midwifery. The National Maternity Strategy (Dept. of Health, 2016) maps out improved and safe choices of care pathways for women and their families, with midwives playing 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 post-registration route (Higher Diploma in Midwifery) for Registered General Nurses and the undergraduate route (Bsc (Hons) Midwifery).

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

What is the Higher Diploma in Midwifery Programme?

The Higher Diploma Midwifery is a full time programme that aims to prepare you to become a competent, caring, and passionate midwife practitioner who applies a systematic, evidence-based approach to care, responding sensitively to the needs of pregnant women and their families. The programme is awarded at Level 8 Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), Irish National Framework of Qualifications. The Higher Diploma in Midwifery Programme builds on the prior professional learning and experience of general nursing. The programme is minimum 18 months duration, consisting of 26 weeks theory and a minimum of 54 weeks clinical practice.

On successful completion of the programme students will be eligible for registration as a Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland.

Who can apply for the Higher Diploma in Midwifery HSE sponsorship 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 are eligible to be so registered.

When can I apply for the programme?

The Programme is open for applications every eighteen months. Please see midwifery sponsorship information within this link:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/jobs/job-search/nursing/midwifery/>

Where can I apply to undertake the programme?

The programme is provided by the following HSE Maternity Hospitals in collaboration with the relevant Education Body*.

- University Hospital Galway
- Letterkenny University Hospital
- Mayo University Hospital
- Portlinculla University Hospital
- Sligo University Hospital with University of Galway
- Cork University Maternity Group with University College Cork
- University Maternity Hospital Limerick with University of Limerick
- Our Lady Of Lourdes Drogheda and
- Cavan General Hospital with Dundalk Institute of Technology.

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



How many maternity hospitals/ Higher Education Bodies can I apply for?

Only one application is required. On the application form you will have the opportunity to identify your preference.

What happens at the end of my training?

Successful applicants for sponsorship will be required to give a written undertaking, that they will, following successful completion of the programme, work for the sponsoring agency for a minimum of 18 months.

Will I need to do an interview?

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

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

Selected applicants will be offered a minimum 18 month contract of paid employment for the duration of the programme. The college fees for the programme are also paid by the HSE.

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 (37.5 hour week). College hours are as assigned with full attendance required.

Why should I undertake the Higher Diploma in Midwifery Programme?

There are many reasons why you should consider a career as a midwife. It offers you the chance to make a difference every day.

You will be a **highly educated professional** in a career with **excellent employment opportunities** and with many **career choices and pathways**.

Although the work and study can be challenging at times, you will be **well supported** in an environment that supports **clinical and academic learning**.

From the start of your training, you will **actively participate** in giving care appropriate to your level of knowledge and practical experience, with the **supervision and direction** of a registered midwife. In partnership with women, you will learn how to provide safe, competent, kind, compassionate and respectful care.

In addition there are many benefits:

Salary paid during the Programme	✓
Retain incremental credit date and privileges	✓
College fees paid	✓
Student access to all college facilities	✓
37.5 hour rostered week	✓
Retain annual leave entitlements	✓
Continuous Professional Development	✓
Mentorship for new graduates	✓
HSE Employee Assistance Programme EAP	✓

Where can I get further information on being a student midwife, the sponsorship agreement, service commitment post training and additional information about individual Education Bodies?

For more information please Scan



References

For more information please Scan

