Course Overview

This M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip./P.Grad.Cert. course prepares suitably qualified, experienced nurses, who wish to pursue a career as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner, to develop their knowledge, skills and attitudes. The course provides the student with a broad-based education experience incorporating the key concepts of person centred care, autonomy and empowerment, professional ethics, consultation and collaboration and professional leadership thus enabling them to practice at the highest professional standards across the spectrum of care.

Upon successful completion of this course, the graduate who meets the required academic and professional criteria will be eligible to apply to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) for registration as a Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner (RANP).

Applicants who already hold a MSc in Nursing may be eligible to complete a one year Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing – Advanced Practice (ANP) in line with year one of the Masters.

Applicants who already have a Masters in Nursing and who are active as a Registered Nurse Prescriber (RNP) may be eligible to complete a one year Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Practice. (ANP); and will undertake the following two modules:
Advanced Practice in the Clinical Practicum with defined pathways (20 ECTS)
Decisions Making, Nursing and Advanced Practice Professional Roles (10 ECTS)

The various entrance and exit strategies depend on prior academic achievements and professional registrations and are arranged on an individual basis.
Structure and delivery
Masters: 8 modules, 110 ECTS credits, part-time over two years
P. Grad. Dip.: 5 modules, 60 ECTS credits, part-time over one year
P. Grad. Cert.: 2 modules, 30 ECTS credits, part-time over one year

A blended learning approach is used for theoretical content which includes lectures, group discussions and self-directed learning. Students undertaking the M.Sc./P. Grad. Dip./P. Grad. Cert. in Nursing – Advanced Practice are required to work in their area of practice for a minimum of 500 hours during Year One. This clinical placement takes place under the supervision of an experienced senior clinician.

Course Content:
• NU7517 Decision Making, Nursing and Advanced Practice Professional roles (10 ECTS) PG Cert/Diploma/Masters
• NU7513 Advanced Practice in the Clinical Practicum with defined pathways (20 ECTS) PG Cert/PG Diploma/Masters
• NU7518 Professional, Ethical, Legal and Communication Issues informing Nurse and Midwife Prescribing and Clinical Practicum (10 ECTS) PG Diploma/Masters
• NU7515 Advanced Health Assessment (10 ECTS) PG Diploma/Masters
• NU7511 Prescribing Medicinal Products & Ionising Radiation (10 ECTS) PG Diploma/Masters
• NU7020 Leadership, Quality Improvement and Governance (10 ECTS) Masters Year Two
• NU7015 Advanced Research Methods for Healthcare Professionals (10 ECTS) Masters Year Two
• NU8009 Dissertation in Nursing (30 ECTS) Masters Year Two

Entry Requirements
Academic Criteria
1. Hold an honors degree in Nursing Studies or equivalent; and
2. Or otherwise satisfy the course committee that they have the ability to complete and benefit from the course, subject to the discretion/permission of the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Professional Criteria
3. Current registration on the relevant Nursing Division maintained by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland; and
4. Have a minimum of three years post-registration clinical experience during the last five years with at least one year full-time experience in the specific area of practice.
5. Have received a written commitment from host organisation to support the student for the clinical practicum (to include prescribing of medicinal products and ionising radiation)
6. The host hospital must obtain a satisfactory clinical audit as a suitable learning environment for the relevant speciality

Students who already hold a MSc in Nursing or MSc in Midwifery or relevant subject and who meet the professional requirements as set out above, may be eligible to complete a one year postgraduate diploma in Advanced Practice.

Documentation required to complete application
• A copy of current Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland registration.
• 1 Academic and
• 1 Professional reference
• Copies of academic transcripts from completed educational courses.
• Copies of official awards (parchments) from completed educational courses.
• A downloadable Site Declaration Form Prescribing of Ionising Radiation signed by the Director of Nursing, Medical Practitioner/Clinical Supervisor and Head of Radiology (Consultant Radiologist)
• A downloadable Site Declaration Form Prescribing of Medicinal Products signed by the Director of Nursing and the Medical Practitioner/Mentor.
• A downloadable Clinical Audit Tool to cover Medicine and Medicinal Products signed by the Director of Nursing and the Medical Practitioner/Mentor.
• A downloadable Clinical Audit Tool to cover Ionising Radiation signed by the Director of Nursing and the Medical Practitioner/Mentor.
• A downloadable Nursing – Advanced Practice Clinical Learning Environment Audit Tool form signed by the Director of Nursing and the Chair of the Local Implementation group.
• A downloadable Site Declaration Form ANP to be completed on behalf of the Health Service Provider by the Director of Nursing/Midwifery and signed by the Director of Nursing and by the Medical Practitioner/Mentor.

Further details are available from
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