# 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 HSE Maternity Units: Cork, Drogheda, Galway and Limerick.

#### A Career in Midwifery in Ireland

Midwifery is a rewarding career providing the support to women and their family, 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 and use their professional knowledge, skills and attitudes, to competently support the woman and her family, working autonomosly and within a team.



Midwives work in a variety of settings including antenatal wards/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 the 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) ten-year plan maps out improved and safe choices of care pathways for women and their families, and midwives play 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 <u>and</u> 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 and Recruitment Programme.** 

#### What is the Higher Diploma in Midwifery Programme?

It is a full time programme providing you with the opportunity to meet specific clinical and education requirements to enable you to be eligible for registration as a Registered Midwife (RM) with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI). The programme is awarded at Level 8 Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), Irish National Framework of Qualifications, NFQ). The Higher Diploma in Midwifery Programme builds on prior professional learning and experience of nursing. The programme duration is minimum 18 months and consists of 26 weeks theory and minimum 52 weeks clinical practice.

The Student Midwife is expected to successfully meet the Midwife Registration Programme Standards & Requirements (NMBI, 2022) & Midwife Registration Education Post-RGN Standards & Requirements (NMBI,2022) which includes specified competencies to be achieved throughout the programme.

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

#### When can I apply for the programme?

The Programme is open for applications every eighteen months.

See https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/jobs/job-search/nursing/midwifery/ for application details.

#### Where can I apply to undertake the programme?

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

- Cork University Maternity Hospital (Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate) in partnership with University College Cork.
- Galway University Hospital Group (Saolta Hospital Group) in partnership with University of Galway.
- Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda (RSCI Hospitals Group) in partnership with Dundalk Institute of Technology.
- University Maternity Hospital Limerick (UL Hospital Group) in partnership with University of Limerick.

\*Higher Diploma in Midwifery HSE Sponsorship programme is also provided in Dublin in the Coombe Women's Maternity Hospital and the Rotunda Hospital in partnership with Trinity College Dublin (TCD); 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.

#### Will I have a permanent post at the end of my training?

Yes, candidates who successfully complete the programme will be guaranteed permanent contracts from their sponsoring area. 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 interview. The interview will be competency based with the competencies drawn from the job description and your experiences as a Student Nurse/Registered General Nurse.

#### 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 from day to day.

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

Although the work and study can be challenging at times, you will be **well supported** in an environment that supports 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 give professional support and advice.

In addition there are many benefits:

Salary paid during the Programme	√
Retain incremental credit date and privileges	√
College <b>fees</b> paid	1
Student access to all college facilities	1
37.5 hour rostered week	1
Retain annual leave entitlements	1
Permanent Position at end of training	1
Continuous Professional Development	1
Mentorship for new graduates	1
HSE Employee Assistance Programme EAP	1
HSE Employee Assistance Programme EAP	1

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



