University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

Course code: X546 Full Time / X474 Part Time
Revised 10.02.26

Graduate Diploma in Cancer Nursing

(1 Year Full Time / 2 Years Part Time)

Introduction

The Graduate Diploma in Cancer Nursing is an academic and clinically based programme designed for students who wish to deepen and broaden their knowledge and expertise in cancer care in order to provide safe, effective and holistic care to people with cancer. There are three strands in this programme (Adult Cancer Nursing, Breast Care Nursing and Children's Cancer Nursing). Students undertaking the programme will choose one of these strands. The cancer nursing programme is run in collaboration with our partner hospitals St Vincent's University Hospital, the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and at Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin. The programme is also supported by other cancer centres nationally who provide invaluable teaching, assessment and placement opportunities.

Course Highlight

Established in 1988 at diploma level, the UCD Cancer Nursing programme was the first specialist course in oncology nursing in Ireland. Over the years, hundreds of oncology nurses throughout the country have successfully completed what is now a Graduate Diploma in Cancer Nursing.

Course Content and Structure

Core modules include:

- Fundamentals of Cancer Care
- Research Methods Applied to Healthcare
- The Psychological Impact of Chronic Illness
- Developing Leadership Competency

This programme is delivered via blended learning. Classes are delivered all online except for four on-campus days during the academic year

Three strands available:

Strand 1: Adult Cancer Nursing

- Adult Cancer Nursing
- Clinical Practicum (Adult Cancer Nursing)

Strand 2: Breast Care Nursing*

- Breast Care Nursing
- Clinical Practicum (Breast Care Nursing)

Strand 3: Children's Cancer Nursing

- Children's Cancer Nursing
- Clinical Practicum (Children's Cancer Nursing)

*The Breast Care Nursnig strand is not offered every year. Please refer to the course webpage for the next available intake.

Why study at UCD?

Graduate Education

12,000 graduate students; 17% graduate research students; structured PhDs

Global Careers

Dedicated careers support; 2 year stayback visa to work in Ireland

Graduate Courses

Largest range of Taught Graduate Nursing and Midwifery courses in Ireland.

Global Community

8,500 international students and 300,000 alumni network across 165 countries

Career Opportunities

Possessing a broad and deep understanding of the theory and skills required for caring for patients with cancer, you will be well positioned to work in a variety of settings specialising in your chosen area both nationally and internationally.

As the programme is particularly aimed at preparing nurses to assume the role of clinical nurse specialist, many nurses eventually take up CNS positions and some may undertake further study required for the role of ANP caring for adults or children with cancer. Many nurses also proceed to assume CNM/ Educational/Clinical Facilitator roles.

About the School

UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems has a strong tradition of delivering exceptional education and impactful research. We are a dynamic and interdisciplinary, global centre of excellence, passionate about meeting the current and future health needs of every person throughout their life span.

We integrate education, research, scholarship, and practice within a culture of care, inclusion, curiosity and empowerment. The School's programmes are delivered by expert faculty, who champion each student to reach their individual potential.

Our programmes have prepared our students to be expert and compassionate clinicians, inspiring and supportive educators, cutting-edge researchers and dynamic, networked leaders. We are honoured to see how our people are advancing patient care in every corner of the globe.

We are UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems.

We are forging the future of healthcare.

Applicant Profile

- All applicants must be entered onto the appropriate division of the Nurses Register maintained by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) (be registered as an RGN or RCN).
- Applicants will be required to be working in the appropriate setting for the duration of the programme. It is recommended that applicants review the full entry requirements on the course page www.ucd.ie/nmhs/courses/taughtgraduate/cancernursing
- All applicants must have identified a clinical assessor who is willing to undertake their clinical assessments over the duration of the programme. The clinical assessor must have the experience and qualifications relevant to the speciality.

Fees Information

Tuition fee information is available on www.ucd.ie/fees. Please note if the fees for your programme are being paid by a third party (full or partial), please ensure your funding organisation/sponsor/hospital contacts student.payments@ucd.ie. Please note this is not a student facing email address.

Related Programmes of Interest

- MSc Nursing (Clinical Practice)
- Professional Certificate in Psychological Impact of Chronic Illness
- Professional Diploma in Breast Care Nursing

CONTACT US

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www.ucd.ie/nmhs

APPLY NOW

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at www.ucd.ie/apply