

CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

Clinical placements are an integral component of the Bachelor of Nursing/Midwifery Science programmes. Your performance/progress will be assessed on an on-going basis throughout the practice placements. To be deemed competent, and thus eligible to apply for entry to the General/ Midwifery/Psychiatry Division of the Register, you must complete all the required clinical placement hours across all the required placements. In addition you must reach the level specified in each of the five Domains of Competence identified by Bord Altranais agus Cnáimhseachais na hÉireann (2005).

The five Domains of Competence are:

- Professional/Ethical Practice
- Holistic approaches to care and the integration of knowledge
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Organisation and Co-ordination of Care
- Personal and Professional Development

Student Midwives have several additional clinical requirement in relation to completing their practice these can be found in the ***Requirements and Standards for the Midwife Registration Education Programme*** (ABA 2005)

Students will have to undertake a combination of clinical placements in ***Core Areas*** of their specialist practice in addition to ***Specialist Areas***.

The tables below provide an overview of the core and specialist placement for the three programmes. Specialist placements occur in 2nd and 3rd and first semester of the 4th years

Core Placements		
General	Mental Health	Midwifery
General & Specialist Medicine	Inpatient Care	Antenatal
General & Specialist Surgical	Community Care	Intra- natal
	Continuing Care	Postnatal

Specialist Placement		
General	Mental Health	Midwifery
Emergency Care	Care of Older People	Neonatal
Child Care and Paediatrics	Adult General Nursing	Community midwifery
Mental Health		Gynaecology
Care of Older Person	Addictions**	Mental Health
Home Nursing/Community	Activation**	Medical
Operating Theatre	Child & Adolescence **	Surgical
Maternity Care		Theatre
Learning disability	**(Discretionary placements provided where possible)	

Placement Rotation

In order to facilitate all the required clinical placements, students ***will be*** required on occasions to work weekend. In addition students may be assigned differing hours, including

12 hour days, morning and afternoon shifts. Decisions on rotas will be made locally by management within the clinical practice area to ensure that each student achieves maximum learning opportunities during each placement.

General Students

Students on the **general programme** are assigned to a parent hospital (Either GUH or Portiuncula) at the commencement of the programme. Clinical placements will generally take place in the assigned hospital or associate hospital. This has changed for the first year General student commencing September 2013 who **will not be** assigned to a parent hospital. All students in the 2013 intake will be rotated across all the parent hospital sites over the duration of the programme (Galway, Portiuncula, Roscommon, Galway Clinic, Bons Secours)

Several of the required specialist placements are not available within the hospital setting consequently students will have to travel to external sites to undertake these placements. These placements will be in Community and In-patient Care facilities across the HSE West (County Galway Mayo and Roscommon). All students will have several external placements at some time during their programme. Every effort will be made to ensure equity in relation to the distribution of external placements.

Midwifery Students

Students on the **Midwifery programme** are not assigned to a parent hospital and will be expected to rotate to all three maternity units in Galway University Hospital, Portiuncula and Mayo General Hospital. Several of the required specialist placements are not available within the hospital setting consequently students will have to travel to external sites to undertake these placements. These placements will be in Community and In-patient Care facilities across the HSE West (County Galway Mayo and Roscommon). All students will have several external placements at some time during their programme. Every effort will be made to ensure equity in relation to the distribution of external placements.

Mental Health Students

Students on the **Mental Health programme** are not assigned to a parent hospital and will be expected to rotate to all three of the geographical areas (Galway East, Galway West and Roscommon) Several of the required placements are not available within the hospital setting consequently students will have to travel to external sites to undertake these placements. These placements will be in Community and In-patient Care facilities across the HSE West (Galway East, Galway West and Roscommon). All students will have several external placements at some time during their programme. Every effort will be made to ensure equity in relation to the distribution of external placements.

Completion of Clinical Practice Hours and Clinical Assessment

- **Note: Students must complete 100% of their clinical placement time before completion of the programme and before the student can apply for registration on the General Nurse's Division of the Register kept by Bord Altranais agus Cnáimhseachais na hÉireann**

- All clinical placement time and associated clinical assessments for the student's current year of the programme must be completed before they can proceed to the next year of the programme.
- Sick leave or absence from clinical practice for any reason has to be made up by the student in the summer of the year in which the absence occurs. All Clinical placements and clinical assessments have to be completed

Clinical practice is assessed by Competency Assessment. In order to be eligible to have your Competency assessed, you must complete a minimum of 80% of your placement hours.

You should note, however, that completion of 80% of your total clinical hours or 80% of your specialist clinical hours **will be insufficient** to meet Bord Altranais agus Cnáimhseachais na hÉireann registration requirements.

It is **your responsibility** to ensure you complete your placement requirements and also that you return your completed Competency Assessment Booklet (CAB) to the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

The Assessment booklet needs to be returned **within a week** of completion of your placement. If for any reason you are unable to complete your CAB you must notify the allocations officer Mr. Bernard McCarthy (bernard.mccarthy@nuigalway.ie) and identify a timeframe in which you will submit the CAB.

Failure to submit will be recorded as a fail.

In order to facilitate clinical placements, students **will be** required on occasions to work weekend. In addition students may be assigned differing hours, including 12 hour days. Decisions on rotas will be made locally by management within clinical practice to ensure that each student achieves maximum learning opportunities during each placement.

Support for Students within the Clinical Setting

Several systems are put in place to support students during their clinical placement these include:

- Preceptors
- Clinical placement Co-ordinators
- Link Lecturers

The role of each of the above is presented below:

Preceptors

Students are allocated a preceptor and on occasions an associate preceptor in each of the clinical areas on which they are placed. The preceptor acts as a role model

and a resource for a student who is attached to him or her for a specific time span or experience. The preceptor supports student learning while in the practice setting. The role of preceptor incorporates three key elements. These are:

- Facilitation of student learning while in the clinical setting.
- Supervision of students while in practice.
- Assessment of student learning.

Preceptors develop a one-to-one educational relationship between the experienced nurse and a nursing student (the preceptee). The preceptorship relationship is a purposeful, short term facilitating partnership that provides opportunities for socialization into nursing practice and helps to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

Clinical Placement Co-ordinators

The Clinical Placement Co-ordinator (CPC) plays a key role in facilitating, encouraging and supporting students to achieve maximum learning from each clinical placement. The CPC provides a vital link between the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the placement settings, ensuring that the requirements of the educational programme are met with regard to planned learning experiences and outcomes. CPCs work closely with clinical nurse managers and staff nurses/preceptors to develop a positive learning environment for students and to ensure each student is assigned a preceptor for the duration of their placement. CPCs play a role in ensuring that assessment of students' competence is fairly and accurately performed.

Link Lecturer

Each clinical area has a designated Link Lecturer. The aim of the Link Lecturer is to provide ward staff and CPC's with an identified link person who can provide advice and support in relation to issues arising from student assessments. The Link Lecturer is also available to provide support to students on placement when issues arise.