

Nursing and Midwifery Fitness to Practise Statement

Fitness to practise means having the necessary skills, knowledge, health and character to undertake and complete, safely and effectively, a programme that includes elements of professional practice, experiential learning or clinical work. Applicants or students on the following programmes of study are advised to read this statement in conjunction with the University of Limerick's [Fitness to Practise policy](#).

1. Programme Names

- a. BSc Nursing (General)
- b. BSc Nursing (Mental Health)
- c. BSc Nursing (Intellectual Disability)
- d. BSc Midwifery
- e. Higher Diploma in Midwifery

2. Course Directors

- a. [Course Director BSc Nursing \(General\)](#)
- b. [Course Director BSc Nursing \(Mental Health\)](#)
- c. [Course Director BSc Nursing \(Intellectual Disability\)](#)
- d. [Course Director BSc Midwifery](#)
- e. [Course Director Higher Diploma in Midwifery](#)

3. Professional Fitness to Practise Requirements

Fitness to practise statements are required to protect the public, students, placement providers and universities and serve to provide guidance in supporting students.

Nursing encompasses autonomous and collaborative care with and for individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or healthy in a variety of settings. As well as caring for those who are ill and/or people with disabilities and those requiring end-of-life care, nursing includes health promotion and illness prevention.

Midwifery as a profession provides high-quality and safe care to women, babies and their families, which, in turn, protects and enhances the health and wellbeing of society. Midwives recognise pregnancy, labour, birth and the post-natal period as healthy and profound experiences in the lives of women.

[Compassion, Care and Commitment](#) are recognised as the three core values that inform decision making by guiding each nurse and midwife to deliver safe and effective care. Setting the standards for the education, registration and professional conduct of nurses and midwives, the [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland \(NMBI\)](#) is an independent statutory organisation that governs the regulation of nurses and midwives in Ireland. The legal obligation of NMBI is protection of the public in its dealings with nurses and midwives and the integrity of the practice of nursing and midwifery. This is achieved through the promotion of high standards of professional education, training and practice and professional conduct among nurses and midwives.

At the beginning of their pre-registration programmes students are required to register with NMBI and provided with access to key NMBI documents core to their nursing and midwifery professions. Fitness to practise is underpinned by safety and wellness of the person in the practice setting. This takes cognisance of and supersedes all other considerations with regard to student wellbeing and performance in practice. Throughout nursing and midwifery programmes, students are required to successfully complete competencies commensurate with the academic and clinical practice level of achievement.

4. Professional Competencies

Professional competency requirements for nursing and midwifery students are outlined by NMBI. In achieving practice-based competence nursing and midwifery students must be familiar with and, at all times, act within the frameworks as advised within the

- Nurse Registration Programmes Standards and Requirements [[Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland 2016](#)] *or* Requirements and Standards for Nurse Registration Education Programmes [[An Bord Altranais 2005](#)]
- And the Midwife Registration Programme Standards and Requirements [[Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland 2016](#)] *or* the Requirements and Standards for the Midwife Registration Education Programme [[An Bord Altranais 2005](#)]

[The Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives](#) has five principles:

Principle 1: Respect for the dignity of the person

Principle 2: Professional responsibility and accountability

Principle 3: Quality of practice

Principle 4: Trust and confidentiality

Principle 5: Collaboration with others

In line with this code nursing and midwifery students are expected to demonstrate professional behaviours appropriate to their level of learning. Students are required to adhere to the UL Student Code of Conduct (section 6 of the [Handbook of Academic Regulations and Procedures](#)) and placement provider requirements.

5. Health Requirements

Nursing and midwifery are demanding professions, both physically and emotionally. As indicated in relevant [NMBI documentation](#) nursing and midwifery programmes require students to maintain a good level of physical and mental health throughout their programme of study and to have the ability to achieve the required competencies of a nurse/midwife.

At any point during the programme of study, UL may require, either independently or in cooperation with placement partners, students to undergo health screening, vaccination or other forms of health assessment.

Students with a disability on nursing or midwifery programmes are considered under the policy on supporting UL students with disabilities in professional practice (Appendix 1 of the [UL Student Fitness to Practise Policy](#)).