

## Mental Health Learning Opportunities

### BSc Midwifery Programme

**The aim of the mental health placement is to provide the student midwife with insight into the care of persons with mental health disorders under the supervision of a registered nurse.**

Over the course of the placement, the student midwife will have the opportunity to:

Expand knowledge of mental health conditions including signs, symptoms and treatment (Behavioural disorders, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, depression and other disorders of mood).

Explore how these conditions may impact on pregnancy, birth and the puerperium.

Consider some of the commonly used drugs for mental health conditions including drug dosage, route of administration, side effects and suitability for pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Observe the factors that may influence the development of the therapeutic relationship (between the client and the nurse).

Identify and apply the principles of effective communication.

Consider the mental health nurse's role in multidisciplinary team working within the health care setting.

Demonstrate knowledge of the mental health services available in the Health Services Executive West.

Explore the referral procedure to the Mental Health Services including out of hours services, for example, Crisis Liaison Services at the Emergency Department and the procedure for involuntary admission to the Acute Psychiatric Unit.