

Bachelor in Science (Nursing) Intellectual Disability Nursing Registered Nurse in Intellectual Disability Nursing (RNID)

School of Nursing & Midwifery



Faculty of Health Sciences, Trinity College Dublin



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

www.nursing-midwifery.tcd.ie





Key Reasons to Study at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin

- The School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin is ranked first in Ireland in the 2019 QS World University subject rankings so studying here would be a tremendous opportunity to earn a professional qualification from a globally recognised School and University.
- We offer an exciting educational experience; one that you can enjoy and from which you can flourish in your future career.
- We are engaged in research projects that are meaningful to people with intellectual disability and currently collaborate with other renowned researchers nationally and internationally to advance our knowledge in the discipline so that the modules we offer in our degree programme are up-to-date and taught by specialists.
- We offer an academic programme where you will learn not only theory but also practical skills, which is crucial for a discipline such as nursing.
- Trinity College Dublin has excellent library facilities and is located in the centre of the city with easy access to other amenities.



Introduction by the Head of Discipline

Thank you for your interest in the School's BSc in Intellectual Disability Nursing. This is an exciting programme which offers students a much sought-after qualification, encompassing a unique mix of skill and knowledge that will prepare them to support people with intellectual disability in a variety of situations, and across the life-span. The academic programme is set in Ireland's oldest and highest-ranked university and with a range of clinical experiences across our partner service providers. We hope that you enjoy reading this brochure and that you consider pursuing your studies in Intellectual Disability Nursing at Trinity College Dublin.

School of Nursing and Midwifery – An Overview

The School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin was founded in 1996 and in its short history has achieved international recognition as a world leader in Nursing and Midwifery education and research. It is currently ranked 1st in Ireland. We are proud of the fact that the school offers a wide range of excellent programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels for all students but especially those who choose to work with people with an intellectual disability at all stages of their lives.

Why study Intellectual Disability Nursing in Trinity College?

If you decide to undertake this programme you will learn about caring, communicating and supporting people with intellectual disability as well as biology, psychology and sociology. People with intellectual disability have varying levels of disability. Those with severe and profound intellectual disability are very dependant and need support with their personal needs to enable them to do ordinary things that we all take for granted. By contrast, those with mild intellectual disability may only need well-judged advice and assistance.

You will also learn about how to support individuals who have physical or mental health challenges, how to teach someone to learn new skills and above all how to communicate effectively with someone who may have communication challenges. In short, you will develop all your abilities to aid and support another person.

Teaching Facilities

Teaching facilities and computing facilities are provided in three main sites; namely, Trinity College at College Green, The School of Nursing and Midwifery located at 24, D'Olier Street, Dublin 2 and at the Trinity Centre for Health Sciences on the St James's Hospital campus.

Teaching Methods

A variety of teaching and learning strategies are utilised within the intellectual disability nursing curriculum. These strategies include lectures, tutorials, seminars, interactive discussions, group work, simulations, computer assisted learning, web-based learning, reflective practice exercises and supervised practice during clinical placement. Students spend half of their time [in the first 3 years] on the degree programme in clinical practice. They do this at one of two sites: Stewarts Care in Palmerstown or Muiríosa in Monasterevin. During the fourth year of the programme, students have a 36-week internship where they are allocated a case-load of service users. Students are paid during this final period of the programme.

Support mechanisms

A number of structures and services exist to support nursing students such as student counselling, disability services and learning support. Information available on the following webpage: <https://www.tcd.ie/students/supports-services/>



Student Experience

To give you an insight into what it is like to be a student in intellectual disability nursing in Trinity College two of our current students offer their views:

Mary's account:

Mary [not her real name] says: After completing my leaving cert I worked in a facility supporting people with an intellectual disability [ID] and really enjoyed it, so I decided to study intellectual disability nursing. As an intellectual disability nurse you can work with people of all ages, from children with complex health needs to adults in the community in a variety of different roles and this diversity really drew me to ID nursing. When deciding where to study, Trinity was always my first choice. Its reputation, both nationally and internationally is second to none. A degree from Trinity is a mark of excellence and sets you apart in your future career. The School of Nursing is in the centre of Dublin city, it's easy to get to and is surrounded by cultural and entertainment venues that add to the student experience- it's not just about study! It is a 5-minute walk to the main campus and there is nothing like the feeling of walking through the main gates knowing that all your hard work has paid off and you're a Trinity student. I have loved every single minute of my time studying ID nursing at TCD, and I cannot recommend studying intellectual disability nursing at Trinity highly enough.



Jean's account:

Jean [not her real name] also told us about her experience in Trinity: During the last 4 years I've had the most amazing experiences whilst completing the Intellectual Disability Nursing Degree programme. I came straight from secondary school with no idea what to expect from the degree programme and college itself. I entered Trinity through the Trinity Access Programme [TAP], which provides student support and an entry route to college. I was the first in my family to go to college and could have never imagined the things I have achieved and got involved in. Such opportunities may never have happened if I did not choose to study in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin.

The degree programme can be difficult at times; trying to balance clinical placements and preparing assignments but now that the degree programme is coming to the end of the four years, the examinations and assignments seem the easiest part. For me, the best part of the programme is the amount of placements allocated from the first year to the fourth year. You get hands on experience in many different areas from pre-school children to supporting the elderly in dementia care settings. Intellectual disability nurses provide cradle-to-grave care and you gain useful experience in all these areas. As the class is quite small we got to know the six lecturers in intellectual disability really well; they are extremely dedicated and help students as much as they can.

In concluding, over the four years I have not only made great friends but have had a lot of unimaginable opportunities. I would recommend this degree programme to anyone.

Career Prospects and Post Graduate Opportunities available at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, TCD

This is an exciting time to ponder a career in intellectual disability nursing as new opportunities are set to arise from a recently published report entitled, Shaping the Future of Intellectual Disability Nursing in Ireland. This report identified innovative career pathways which will allow nurses to use their unique skills to support people with an intellectual disability to live the lives of their choosing.

Following completion of the BSc programme there are four main pathways open to intellectual disability nurses: practice; education; management; and research. It is important to note however, that leadership is necessary within all four career pathways.





Application to Trinity College Dublin (TCD)

You can apply to study for a BSc and qualify as a Registered Nurse in Intellectual Disability Nursing (RNID) in Trinity College Dublin (TCD) via the Central Application Office (CAO) on the basis of your Leaving Cert examination results (standard applicant) or as a mature student.

Entry requirements for the Registered Nurse in Intellectual Disability Nursing (RNID) programme

1]. Minimum requirement for Trinity College Dublin H5 in three higher level papers and O6/H7 in three ordinary or higher level papers in the Republic of Ireland Leaving Certificate. Examination in the following subjects:

- English
- A language other than English (excluding Foundation Level Irish)
- Mathematics (not Foundation Level)
- A Laboratory Science subject (Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics & Chemistry, or Agricultural Science)
- Two other subjects. Or Equivalent Qualifications.

If you have a General Certificate of Education/General Certificate of Secondary Education, or equivalent second level examination, or if you wish to make application through an alternative pathway, such as the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR), you are advised to check <https://www.tcd.ie/study/> or contact the CAO for further information for further information.

- Community and Health Services (5M4468).
- Health Service Skills (5M3782).

In all cases, applicants must have achieved distinctions in a minimum of five components including:

- Anatomy and Physiology (5N0749 / D20001).
- Nursing Theory and Practice (5N4325).
- Human Growth and Development (5N1279) or Biology (5N2746).

3]. Applying as a Mature Applicant

Mature students can apply to the CAO if they are aged 23 or over i.e. 23 years old on or before 1st January of the year of your application. In order to do this, they must be successful at an assessment test which they apply for via the Public Appointments Office (PAS). To help mature applicants understand the assessment test, the PAS will send the applicant a brochure which contains information on the tests.

Qualification and Award

Registered Nurses Intellectual Disability (RNID) graduate with a unique qualification. This qualification will enable you to support individuals with intellectual disability optimise their lives and health. The BSc degree programme provides education and develops your skills in providing professional

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2]. Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)

A small number of places are available on a competitive basis via CAO to standard applicants who have Level 5 and some Level 6 further education and training certificates awarded by QQI.

These are:

- Nursing Studies (5M4349).
- Healthcare Support (5M4339).

care, advocacy, education and mentorship for individuals with intellectual disability. Your qualification will enable you to help individuals with intellectual disability reach their full potential. As an RNID, you will be in an ideal position to support individuals to integrate fully into their community. The RNID is qualified to support individuals across the lifespan: from children with complex needs, young adults in transition, older adults and those at the end of life requiring healthcare support.

The RNID degree is very much in demand here in Ireland. It is also recognised in the United Kingdom and in some other countries both within and outside the EU. You will be able to work in a variety of areas such as community, primary care, residential services, schools, and as a liaison nurse in a general hospital. As previously noted, your degree will position you to develop your career pathway in clinical practice, management, education and research and eventually become a leader in intellectual disability nursing.



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Further Information

If you are considering applying for a BSc in Intellectual Disability Nursing in Trinity we would love to hear from you.

Please contact the Head of Discipline, Fintan Sheerin, at 018964072 or sheerinf@tcd.ie or contact the School of Nursing Midwifery at 018962692 and ask to speak to a lecturer on the Intellectual Disability Programme.

We would be delighted to meet with you and show you around the School of Nursing and Midwifery and tell you more about the programme.



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