



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

Admissions and Access Service

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BSc Honours Professional Nursing (Learning Disability) (B761)

3 year full-time Degree

Introduction

Undergraduate Nursing programmes are traditionally very popular and the number of applicants far outstrips the number of places available each year. There are four stages to the selection process, which is governed by standards and requirements set by both the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and the Northern Ireland Practice and Education Council for Nursing and Midwifery (NIPEC).

Funding

Please refer to the [Fees and Funding](#) section on the on-line course-finder.

GB students (England, Scotland, Wales) are not entitled to a commissioned place with associated funding (tuition fees and bursary). Information regarding the [tuition fees](#) is available on the Queen's course-finder on our website. Please also note that due to recent changes in the funding arrangements, the number of places available for GB students is extremely limited for entry in 2021. All applicants shortlisted are required to attend a face-to-face interview in order to be considered.

Please note: If you have previously accepted a tuition fees-paid and bursaried University place for either Nursing or Midwifery Sciences at Queen's or Ulster University, you MUST include this information on your UCAS form.

The Selection Process

Stage 1 – Academic Selection and the UCAS Application

Applications are dealt with by the University's Admissions and Access Service. Once your application has been processed by UCAS and forwarded to Queen's, an acknowledgement is normally sent within two weeks of its receipt at the University. In considering applications, all the information provided by you is important and you should ensure that full details are given about qualifications already completed or those still to be completed. All applications must contain a reference otherwise they may not be considered. All fully-completed applications submitted by the normal closing date of 15 January (18.00 hours) are given equal consideration. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

GCSEs

GCSE performance is important. Applicants are shortlisted on the basis of GCSEs and currently, a minimum of 5 GCSE passes at grade C or better including English, Mathematics and a Science subject is necessary. Acceptable GCSE Science subjects are Biology, Human Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Double Award Science or Single Award Science. Please note that Applied Science is not accepted. Please note that additional academic criteria may be applied at shortlisting depending on the volume of applications.

A-levels

Offers are normally made on the basis of 3 A-levels. Two subjects at A-level plus two at AS level would also be considered. The offer for repeat candidates is set in terms of 3 A-levels and is the same standard as for first time applicants. Grades may be held from the previous year.

A-level General Studies and A-level Critical Thinking would not normally be considered as part of a three A-level offer and, although they may be excluded where an applicant is taking 4 A-level subjects, the grade achieved could be taken into account if necessary in August/September.

Combination of A-level plus BTEC Level 3 Qualifications

Applicants offering two A-levels and one BTEC Subsidiary Diploma/National Extended Certificate (or equivalent qualification), or one A-level and a BTEC Diploma/National Diploma (or equivalent qualification) will also be considered. Offers will be made in terms of performance in individual BTEC units rather than the overall BTEC grade(s) awarded. Please note that a maximum of one BTEC Subsidiary Diploma/National Extended Certificate (or equivalent) will be counted as part of an applicant's portfolio of qualifications. The normal GCSE profile will be expected.

Other qualifications

Applicants offering other qualifications, such as BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma / National Extended Diploma and BTEC Higher National Certificates and Diplomas, the International Baccalaureate, Irish Leaving Certificate, Access course and Foundation degrees, will also be considered. Please note that the same GCSE profile is usually expected of those candidates taking the BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma / National Extended Diploma qualification. For Graduates and those offering a Higher National Diploma, some flexibility may be allowed in terms of GCSE profile but all candidates must have GCSE Mathematics and a GCSE Science subject as above at a minimum of a grade C.

Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma (QCF)

QCF Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma: offers are made on the basis of successful completion (180 credits at Level 3) with 80 credits at Distinction grade and 100 credits at Merit grade.

Edexcel BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma (RQF)

RQF Level 3 BTEC National Extended Diploma: offers are made on the basis of successful completion (1080 guided learning hours – GLH) with at least 420 GLHs at Distinction grade (with a minimum of 240 GLHs in externally assessed units) and 660 GLHs at Merit grade.

Irish Leaving Certificate

Offers are normally based on a minimum of 5 Highers, as follows:

- Higher Level: H3H3H3H3H4 (no relevant Science) OR
- Higher Level: H3H3H3H4H4 including Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics)

All applicants: if not offered at Higher Level then Ordinary Level grade 04 in English, Mathematics and a Science subject is necessary.

International Baccalaureate

Offers are normally based on a minimum of 3 Highers, as follows:

- 30 points overall including 5,5,5 at Higher Level (no relevant Science at HL); OR
- 29 points overall including 5,5,5 at Higher Level including relevant Science at HL.

All applicants: if not offered If not offered at HL, English, Mathematics and a Science subject are required at Standard Level minimum grade 4

Access course

Applicants offering Access/Certificate in Foundation Studies courses will be considered individually on their own merits. Access Courses are designed for adults who left formal education without the qualifications needed for entry to higher education, who did not progress beyond Level 3 qualifications, e.g. A-levels, and who are returning to study after a significant break (normally a minimum of two years). Where offers are made, these are based on completion of the full qualification, which is normally available on a one-year, full-time or two-years, part-time basis.

Access course requirements:

65% with two units of Biology or Chemistry or Physics or

70% with one unit of Biology or Chemistry or Physics.

Applicants must have a minimum of a grade C in GCSE Mathematics and a GCSE Science subject; if not, the NICATS Mathematics module and one Level 3 module of Biology or Chemistry or Physics within the Access course will fulfil these requirements.

BTEC HNC and HND

Some flexibility may be allowed in terms of GCSE profile but all candidates must have GCSE Mathematics and a GCSE Science subject as above at a minimum of a grade C.

HNC requirements: successful completion with a Merit grade in each unit within the qualification

HND requirements: successful completion with 12 Merits and 4 Passes

Foundation Degree

Where offers are made, these are based on completion of the full qualification, which is normally two-years full-time. A minimum of 50% overall is necessary. Applicants must also have a minimum of a grade C in both GCSE Mathematics and a GCSE Science subject.

Degree

Honours Degree (minimum 3rd class); Ordinary Degree (Pass). Applicants must also have a minimum of a grade C in both GCSE Mathematics and a GCSE Science subject.

Open University credits

Minimum of 120 OU credits at Level 1. Applicants must also have a minimum of a grade C in both GCSE Mathematics and a GCSE Science subject.

Stage 2 – Review of the UCAS Personal Statement

Applicants who meet the initial academic selection criteria are subject to UCAS Personal Statement review. The Personal Statement is assessed and graded by a member of academic staff within the School of Nursing and Midwifery and will form part of the overall assessment of your eligibility. The Personal Statement is an opportunity for the applicant to clearly identify their personal desire and motivation for a career in Nursing. It would be important as part of this, that the applicant is able to indicate their expectations of the course and their readiness to undertake their chosen career. This would include appropriate evidence of skills and attributes which they feel would make them a suitable candidate.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery will look for applicants to demonstrate the following in their Personal Statements:

- Personal desire for a career in Nursing
- Motivation for Nursing may be field specific
- Expectations of the course and Nursing as a profession
- Readiness for the course
- Interpersonal skills
- Self-awareness
- Decision making affection self and others

Those who meet the academic criteria and pass the assessment of their Personal Statement, will be called for interview to assess their suitability for Nursing training (Stage 3). Invitations for interview are sent directly to the applicant by the School of Nursing and Midwifery, from early February through to March.

Stage 3 – Interview

The interview take the form of Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) and are designed to test values-based skills such as communication, empathy, listening, etc. There are eight stations, including one rest station. A number of the stations will have Simulated Patients and you will be given specific scenarios that you will be required to manage or respond to. The format will be as follows:

- You will arrive and register for interview – you will need photo ID.
- You will sign a confidentiality agreement.
- You will be directed to a waiting room, where you will receive a briefing on the MMIs process.
- You will leave all of your belongings, in a locked waiting room, and you will be directed to one of the interview circuits, which will be labelled by colour.
- There will be eight stations within each circuit, and you will progress between each one, spending five minutes at each.
- There will be one minute to prepare for each station and read the instructions; then you will enter and begin.
- There will be a rest station to allow you to gather your thoughts.
- When you have completed all of the stations you will go back to the waiting area, collect your belongings, and there will be an opportunity to feed back or ask questions. You will be expected to keep details of the interview stations confidential; any breach will be treated extremely seriously and you may be putting your chance of a place on the programme at risk.

The questions are not technical – they are designed to find out if you would make a good nurse and to find out why you have chosen this career. At each station an examiner will use a grid to record scores on each aspect of your performance. The simulated patients will provide examiners with feedback but they do not contribute to the overall score.

Before you leave, and if you have applied for more than one field of Nursing, you will be asked to state your preference for each of the areas you have applied to. Please choose carefully, as we use your preferences to help us decide which course(s) you will be offered.

Stage 4 – Offers

Due to the lengthy selection procedure, offers will not be made until the UCAS deadline of 6 May 2021. If you have already received offers from other institutions you do not need reply to any of these offers until after you have received the final decision from all of your UCAS choices. Do take the time to consider each one carefully.

Offers are made on the basis of rank interview score, and are subject to satisfactory Occupational Health Assessment and Criminal Records check (Access NI Enhanced Disclosure Check) and verification of qualifications.

Decisions

Decisions for applicants who have been unsuccessful academically, or in the Personal Statement or at Interview will be made on an on-going basis and notified to the applicant via UCAS. We will inform you as soon as possible if you have been unsuccessful at any stage, although please note that those who are unsuccessful following Interview will not normally know until the UCAS deadline of 6 May 2021.

Deferred Entry

Due to the demand for places and the lengthy selection process, applications for deferred entry are not considered.

Transfers

The School of Nursing and Midwifery does not normally consider transfers with advanced entry from other Nursing degree programmes.

For all applicants

All applicants must meet the academic Entrance Requirements by 31 August 2021.

Additional academic criteria may be applied at shortlisting depending on the volume of applications.

If you cannot find the information you need here, please contact the Admissions and Access Service here, giving full details of your qualifications and educational background: admissions.nam@qub.ac.uk.

NURSING APPLICATION TIMELINE	
Stage 1: Academic Assessment – October to March	<p>Following receipt of UCAS application the Admissions and Access Service team will assess your academic qualifications. If you have already met or have the potential to meet the academic entry requirements for Nursing and by 31 August of the year of entry, your application will progress to Stage 2.</p>
Stage 2: Review of UCAS Personal Statements – January/February	<p>The Personal Statement is reviewed, assessed and scored by a member of academic staff within the School of Nursing and Midwifery and will form part of the overall assessment of eligibility. The Personal Statement is scored on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal desire for a career in Nursing • Motivation for Nursing • Expectations of the course and Nursing as a profession • Decision making affecting self and others <p>Applicants who are successful at Stage 1 and 2 are shortlisted for interview.</p>
Stage 3: Interviews – March/April	<p>Interviews are held throughout March and into early April.</p> <p>The interview format is Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs). The interview will last approximately 45 minutes and is conducted by members of academic staff and professional nurses and midwives. There are seven stations within each circuit, and five minutes is spent at each station. They test values such as communication, empathy, accountability, integrity and trust. A number of the stations will have Simulated Patients (role players) and interviewees are given specific everyday scenarios that must be responded to.</p>
Stage 4: Offers via UCAS – May	<p>Following completion of the interview process applicants who pass are ranked by interview score. Decisions are processed via UCAS in early May however, not all applicants who are deemed suitable for Nursing training will receive an offer at this stage due to the quota of places commissioned by the Department of Health.</p> <p><i>Vacancies in August</i> Those who have not been made an offer may still be considered in August / September provided they have passed the interview and meet the minimum entrance requirements. Eligible applicants will be approached in strict interview rank order, by the Admissions and Access Service, should vacancies arise.</p> <p><i>Taking up a place</i> Places will only be confirmed to candidates who meet all of the academic requirements, and have satisfactory AccessNI and Occupational Health checks. Final decisions will be communicated via UCAS.</p>