



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

Admissions and Access Service
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BSc Honours Professional Nursing (Learning Disabilities): B761

Introduction

Queen's University is the only University in Northern Ireland that offers four fields of Nursing (Adult, Children and Young People's, Learning Disabilities, Mental Health). Careers in each of these fields are very different and applicants are encouraged to research each of the programmes to ensure they make the right choice. Undergraduate Nursing programmes are traditionally very popular and the number of applicants far outstrip the number of places available each year.

There are three stages to the selection process, which is governed by standards and requirements set by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

Funding

Eligible students from NI and RoI citizens may have their fees paid for the duration of the three-year degree by the Department of Health NI and may also receive a bursary. These arrangements are reviewed annually, and if there are any changes to the current arrangements, the information will be posted on our course-finder under the "Fees and Finances" section.

GB students (England, Scotland, Wales) are not entitled to a commissioned place with associated funding (tuition fees and bursary). Information regarding the tuition fees and associated clinical placement charges is available on the Queen's course-finder on our website. Please also note that due to changes in the funding arrangements, the number of places available for GB students is extremely limited, and therefore entry is highly competitive.

Please note: If you have previously accepted a tuition fees-paid University place or Bursary 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

Applications are managed 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 the receipt by the University. In considering applications, all the information provided is important and you should ensure that full details are given about qualifications already completed or those still to be completed. To be considered, all applications must include a reference.

Please note that due to directives from the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) students must be 18 years or over on the first day of the programme. All fully completed applications submitted by the closing date are given equal consideration. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

GCSEs

GCSE performance is important. Applicants are shortlisted based on GCSEs and currently, a minimum of 5 GCSE passes at grade C/4 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. Additional academic criteria may be applied at shortlisting depending on the volume of applications. Level 2 Essential Skills in Application of Number is not acceptable in lieu of GCSE Mathematics grade C/4.

A-levels

Offers are normally made based on 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/OCR Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma (or equivalent qualification), or one A-level and a BTEC Diploma/National Diploma/ OCR Cambridge Technical Diploma (or equivalent qualification) will also be considered. Please note that a maximum of one BTEC Subsidiary Diploma/National Extended Certificate / OCR Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma (or equivalent qualification) will be counted as part of an applicant's portfolio of qualifications. The normal GCSE profile will be expected.

Applicants offering other qualifications, such as BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma / National Extended Diploma and BTEC Higher National Certificates and Diplomas, the OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma, 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 / OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma qualifications. 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 / 4.

Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma (QCF)

Successful completion of the BTEC Extended Diploma (180 credits at Level 3) with overall grades DDM.

Edexcel BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma (RQF)

Successful completion of the BTEC National Extended Diploma (1080 GLH at Level 3) with overall grades DDM.

Irish Leaving Certificate

Shortlisting for interview is based on Junior Certificate performance; applicants must have a minimum of five grade Cs/Merits.

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 at Higher Level, then Standard Level grade 4 in Mathematics and a Science subject is necessary. The English language requirements are as follows:

English A: Language & Literature – Standard Level 6

English A: Literature – Higher Level 6

English B Syllabus – Higher Level 7 (Standard Level not accepted)

Access courses

Applicants offering Access /Diploma in Foundation Studies courses and Access to HE Diplomas, 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, and applications from students who have been away from full-time education for a sustained period (minimum of two consecutive academic years) prior to commencing the Access course may be considered. 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

Access courses validated by QUB and UU: 65% with two units of Biology or Chemistry or Physics or 70% with one or no units of Biology or Chemistry or Physics.

Applicants must have a minimum of a grade C/4 in GCSE Mathematics and a GCSE Science subject; if not, the NICATS Mathematics module(s) and one Level 3 module of Biology or Chemistry or Physics within the Access course will fulfil these requirements.

Access to HE Diploma: successful completion with a minimum of 60 credits, 45 of which should be a Level 3 with a minimum of 15 credits at Distinction grade plus 30 credits at Merit grade. Applicants must have a minimum of a grade C/4 in GCSE Mathematics and a GCSE Science subject.

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/4.

HNC Level 4 requirements: successful completion with a Merit grade in each unit within the qualification.

HND Level 5 requirements: successful completion with 12 Merits and 4 Passes

Foundation Degree

Successful completion of full qualification with passes in all modules and overall average of 50%. Applicants must also have a minimum of a grade C/4 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/4 in both GCSE Mathematics and a GCSE Science subject.

Open University Certificate of Higher Education

Successful completion with passes in all modules and overall average of 65%. Applicants must also have a minimum of a grade C/4 in both GCSE Mathematics and a GCSE Science subject.

UCAS Personal Statement and Reference

The information provided in the Personal Statement should demonstrate a commitment to Nursing but will not be used to shortlist for interview.

The reference together with predicted grades are noted but, in the case of the Nursing degree, are not the final deciding factors in whether an offer can be made. However, they may be reconsidered in a tiebreak situation in August.

All applications must contain a recent suitable reference otherwise they may not be considered. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that a reference is included with their UCAS application at the point of submission. It is preferable if the referee is aware of the applicant's academic background in order to provide an informed assessment of their suitability for further study and Nurse training. For those applicants who left education some years ago and may currently be in employment, we acknowledge that it may be difficult to obtain a recent academic reference and therefore we would accept a recent reference from a professional person (not a family member) or employer who can comment on the applicant's suitability for university study and Nurse training.

Stage 2 — Interviews

The School of Nursing and Midwifery at Queen's University will interview eligible applicants in person on campus for entry in 2026-27. The interview process will commence on 15 December 2025 and conclude in late February 2026. This is to ensure that all eligible applicants who apply by the UCAS deadline on Wednesday 14 January 2026 (6:00pm) will be invited to attend a face-to-face interview on campus at Queen's University. Interviews will be scheduled on a rolling basis, therefore it is anticipated that applicants who apply early in the admissions cycle are likely to receive earlier interview dates. More information can be found on the [School's website](#).

Stage 3 – Offers

Due to the lengthy selection procedure, it is likely offers will not be made until the late April or early May. We would ask applicants to note, 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 your UCAS choices.

Offers are made based on rank interview score, meeting the academic requirements and are subject to satisfactory Occupational Health Assessment and Criminal Records check (Access

NI Enhanced Disclosure Check), declaration and clearance of current or previous safeguarding proceedings and verification of qualifications.

Decisions

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

Deferred Entry

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

For all applicants

All applicants must meet the academic Entrance Requirements by 31 August. Additional academic criteria may be applied at shortlisting depending on the volume of applications.

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

Information regarding Nursing courses with a split intake between September and February

Both the Adult and Children & Young People's nursing degrees have a split intake where successful applicants may be offered a place in either the September or February intakes. Due to the popularity of the September intakes, it is not possible to offer all successful applicants their first choice of September, and the places are assigned based on the rank interview score, and so even though you may apply for the September intake and indicate a preference for the September intake, not everyone will receive an offer for their preferred start date. It is not necessary to apply for both intakes, if you apply for the September intake only, you will also be considered for the February intake. It is important to note that you will only be considered for the September intake if you choose that intake as your first preference when asked to complete your preference form at the time of interview.

Nursing application timeline for entry in both September and February
Stage 1 – Academic Assessment – Commences in October Following receipt of a 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 academic year of entry, your application will progress to Stage 2.
Stage 2 – Interviews Interviews will take place between December 2025 and February 2026 and shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend a face-to-face interview on campus at Queen’s University. Applicants who apply well in advance of the UCAS deadline (14 January 2026 at 6.00 pm) who are eligible are likely to be invited to interview earlier in the process. More detail can be found on the School’s website.
Stage 3 – Offers via UCAS – late April to early May Following completion of the interview process applicants who pass are ranked by interview score. Decisions are processed via UCAS by the May deadline; 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. Vacancies in August 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. Taking up a place Places will only be confirmed to candidates who meet all of the academic requirements and have satisfactory Access NI and Occupational Health checks declaration and clearance of current or previous safeguarding proceedings Final decisions will be communicated via UCAS.