Aim of Presentation

- To provide an overview of the current undergraduate nursing degree programme and describe the learning outcomes and competencies required for entry to the Register maintained by the Nursing Board in the Republic of Ireland.
Background:

- *An Bord Altranais* (the Nursing Board) is the regulatory body for the nursing and midwifery professions in Ireland.
- Their core functions are concerned with standards of professional education and training and professional conduct
  - The maintenance of the Register of Nurses
  - The control of education and training of student nurses/midwives and the post-registration education and training of nurses/midwives
  - The operation of fitness to practice procedures
  - The ensuring of compliance with European Union Directives on nursing and midwifery
### Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Total on Register</th>
<th>Active Register</th>
<th>Inactive Register</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>66,153</td>
<td>52,598</td>
<td>13,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric</td>
<td>11,793</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>2,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s</td>
<td>4,744</td>
<td>3,859</td>
<td>885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual Disability</td>
<td>4,473</td>
<td>3,890</td>
<td>583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwives</td>
<td>17,061</td>
<td>13,179</td>
<td>882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>2,675</td>
<td>2,173</td>
<td>502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutors</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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NURSING EDUCATION IN IRELAND

Background

- Apprenticeship model
- Registration/Diploma programme started as a pilot project in Galway in 1994
- Nurse education in Ireland changed significantly in the last 20 years as a consequence of several major national reports (e.g. Report on the Commission on Nursing: Blue Print for the Future 1998)
- Present – primary honours degree (four years) at approved third level institutions (partnership with these institutions formalised during diploma to degree transition)
- Partnership arrangement organised and signed by stakeholders at local level

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Current Position

- Autumn 2002 – A new four year degree programme in undergraduate nursing was implemented at a national level in 13 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
## Pre-Registration Honours Degree Programmes

Programmes leading to registration include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Leading to Registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children’s and General Nursing (integrated)</td>
<td>4-5 years</td>
<td>Registered Children’s Nurse (RCN) and Registered General Nurse (RGN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Nursing</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>Registered General Nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual Disability Nursing</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>Registered Nurse Intellectual Disability *(RNID)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwifery</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>Registered Midwife (RM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric Nursing</td>
<td>4 Years</td>
<td>Registered Psychiatric Nurse (RPN)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pre-Registration Honours Degree Programmes

Number of Programmes and places: 44 programmes with 1,570 places

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Number of Programmes</th>
<th>Total Places</th>
<th>HEIs</th>
<th>Healthcare Agencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children’s and General Nursing (integrated)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Nursing</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>860</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual Disability Nursing</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwifery</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric Nursing</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Pre-Registration Honours Degree Programmes:

- **Number of student places in TCD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TCD Courses</th>
<th>No. of Hospitals</th>
<th>Student Places</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children’s &amp; General Integrated Nursing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Nursing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual Disability Nursing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwifery</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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NURSING EDUCATION IN IRELAND

Entry Requirements (general)

- Health Requirements
- Garda Vetting
- English Competence

- Non-EU Persons – applicants contact HEI to obtain relevant literature about application procedure, entry requirements, fees and so on
- Applicants who were unsuccessful in an earlier application may re-apply for entry to another programme on a case-by-case basis

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- An Bord Altranais Education Entry Requirements
  - Obtained in Leaving Certificate Examination a minimum grade of C3 in two higher level papers and a minimum grade of D3 in four ordinary or higher level papers in the following:
    - Irish or English
    - Mathematics
    - A laboratory science subject (biology, physics, chemistry, physics & chemistry or agricultural science
    - Three other subjects
  - Or meet entry requirements of the relevant third level institution
Theoretical and Clinical Instruction (General Nursing)

- Theoretical and clinical instruction no less than 4,600 hours
  - Theoretical instruction – no less that one-third of 4,600 hours = 1,533 hours
  - Clinical instruction – no less than one-half of 4,600 hours = 2,300 hours

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Theoretical and Clinical Instruction (General Nursing)

- *An Bord Altranais* total requirements for the programme are 144 weeks
  - Theoretical instruction (to include self-directed study and exams) no less than 58 weeks
  - Clinical instruction (supernumerary clinical placement) no less than 40 weeks
  - Internship (39 hours per week) No less than 36 weeks
- Two-thirds of the programme = Nursing Studies, one-sixth = Biological Sciences, and one-sixth = Social Sciences
Clinical Component of the Undergraduate Honours Degree Programme

- These vary from course to course. I have used General Nursing as an example.
- General and specialist medicine \(18\) (minimum weeks)
- General and specialist surgery \(18\)
- Specialist placements (min 2/52) \(18\)

- Accident & Emergency, Child care and paediatrics, mental health, care of the older person, home nursing/community, operating theatre, maternity care
### Clinical Component of the Undergraduate Honours Degree Programme

- Remaining regulated placements (these can be in core/specialists clinical areas) **20 weeks**
- Discretionary **5 weeks**
NURSING EDUCATION IN IRELAND

Indicative Content (General Nursing)

- Nursing (e.g. theoretical foundations, sources of knowledge)
- Communication and interpersonal skills (e.g. self awareness), communicating with different ethnic groups)
- The individual in health and illness (biology, psychology, sociology, normal structure and function of the individual)
- Health promotion
- Professional and personal development (scope of practice for nurses, development of nursing, legal issues, ethics)
- Health care systems (health care structure, health economics, current issues and policies)
NURSING EDUCATION IN IRELAND

- Requirements for Nurse Registration Education Programmes
- Learning Outcomes
  - Assist individuals and families achieve optimum health
  - Provide and manage direct practical nursing
  - Demonstrate a knowledge base and clinical competence for safe practice
  - Identify and meet the nursing care needs of individuals
  - Demonstrate skills of analysis, critical thinking, problem-solving and reflective practice
  - Act as an effective member of health care team
Requirements for Nurse Registration Education Programmes

Competencies for Entry to the Register

“Competence is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon and is defined as the ability of the Registered Nurse to practice safely and effectively, fulfilling his/her professional responsibility within his/her scope of practice.” (An Bord Altranais 2005:12).

- Professional/ethical practice (Scope of Practice)
- Holistic approaches to care and the integration of knowledge
- Interpersonal relationships
- Organisational and management of care
- Personal and professional development (each of these have sub-sections with indicators)
Conclusion

After nearly twelve years since the introduction of the four year honours degree the Minister for Health has ordered a review of the programme. This process has started and the report is expected later this year.
NURSING EDUCATION IN IRELAND

- Dublin Castle

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