

General

LHP Skillnet is delighted to announce that we have partnered with the School of Public Health at University College Cork (UCC) to deliver a brand-new postgraduate qualification: the PG Cert. in Infection Prevention and Control. This online programme is subsidised by our grant-funding and specifically designed for nurses in the nursing home sector.

The School of Public Health (SPH) at University College Cork is the largest public health academic unit in the Republic of Ireland and is ranked within the top 200 Schools of Public Health globally. The team have been delivering health protection and public health education at postgraduate level since 2008. The SPH has collaborated with Schools of Microbiology and Business at UCC to develop a unique practitioner-focused multidisciplinary Postgraduate Certificate in Infection Prevention and Control.

Timetable

In Semester 1 (September – December), the students will take the first two modules:

- The Principles and Clinical Practices of Infection Prevention and Control. 10 credits.
- The Principles of Microbiology. 5 credits.

In Semester 2 (January – May), the students will take the last two modules:

- Infection Prevention and Control Quality Improvement and Patient Safety. 5 credits.
- Leadership and Management of Infection Prevention and Control. 10 credits.

All teaching will be delivered completely online in Semesters 1 and 2. The successful student will receive a Postgraduate Certificate in Infection Prevention and Control (NFQ 9).

Schedule for Attendance

In view of students' work commitments, there are no synchronous taught sessions on the programme. It is completely online in an asynchronous format. Each 10-credit module will be delivered over 8 weeks and each 5-credit module is delivered over 4 weeks.

Students take one module at a time according to the programme calendar. Each 10-credit module consists of an estimated student workload of 200 hours and a 5-credit module consists of an estimated 100 hours. This workload is comprised of online, self-directed learning, required readings and subject investigation, E-tivities and assignments for preparation, participation and submission.

Students will be invited to participate in an optional campus-based or online workshop at the end of each semester, depending on government guidance. This is not a required element of the programme but will serve as an additional resource for students.

Induction takes place on the 24th and 25th of September. This is not synchronous but involves the students engaging with the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) in UCC which is called Canvas. The induction serves to ensure that all students can access the VLE and familiarises them with the UCC services available to them.

Technical Requirements

This programme will be delivered wholly online. As such, there are specific technical requirements that you need to meet.

1. You will need access to a laptop or desktop (either Mac OS or Windows) running a relatively recent operating system (Windows 7, 8, 8.1, 10 or Mac OSX 10.8, 10.9, 10.10 or later). Access to the Canvas Virtual Learning Environment is supported by UCC through IOS and Android apps, which are available from the respective App stores.
2. You will need access to a reliable broadband connection with at least 2MB download speeds. You can test your broadband or 4G speeds by visiting <http://www.speedtest.net>.
3. You must have a modern web browser installed. The most reliable options for use with UCC online learning are Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome. Download and installation instructions will be provided. Safari is not suitable.
4. You must have Java and Flash Runtimes installed. Download and installation instructions will be provided.
5. You will require an Office suite of software (Microsoft Office 2003 or later or equivalent) and a PDF reader (preferably Adobe Acrobat Reader XI or later). Please note that registered UCC students have access to discounted software from Microsoft and Adobe.

To engage productively and successfully with the content, basic technical computer skills such as familiarity with word processing, web browsing and email is recommended.

Entry Requirements

Applicants must possess an NFQ level 8 degree in a relevant subject area (minimum 2H2). Relevant subject areas are biological sciences, nursing, medical and health sciences, public health and social sciences.

Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL) applies to qualified nurses and midwives without a primary degree who are registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland. These candidates are eligible to participate in this programme.

Note: In some circumstances, applicants without a primary degree or applicants without a relevant primary degree may be recommended for entry to the programme following a review of their individual qualifications and experience under Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL) by

the course committee. Such applicants may be called for interview and their admission will be subject to the approval of the School of Public Health's Executive Committee.

Applicants must also meet the **language requirements** . If your native language is not English and you do not have a recent English Language proficiency test completed, you may be asked to deliver a combination of the following:

- A. A letter from your employer confirming that you have a minimum of 2 years of clinical professional practice.
- B. A piece of written work, of approximately 500 words.
- C. An interview in person or videoconference.
- D. Evidence of having completed an undergraduate or postgraduate programme from an English-speaking institution.

Registration

The qualification costs €1995 for employees of the private healthcare sector. There are a limited number of places available. 50% of the fee is required to secure a place. The other 50% will be paid in January. Please prepare scanned copies of transcripts for UCC registration. Late or partial applications will not be accepted.

Modules Descriptors

1. The Principles and Clinical Practices of Infection Prevention and Control.

Teaching Methods: 72hrs Directed Study (Self-directed learning); 48hrs Online moderated activities; 40hrs Written assignment reflection and development; 40hrs Reading and reflective practice).

Module Objective: To introduce core concepts and application of infection prevention and control.

Module Content: Infection prevention and control theory, policy and challenges; infection prevention strategies; management of infection risks in the environment; surveillance and control of infection; outbreak identification and management; antimicrobial resistance and multidrug resistant organisms.

Learning Outcomes:

- Describe management of infection prevention and control in healthcare in the nursing home environment
- Describe and critically evaluate practices implemented to reduce the risk of infections in hospitals and communities
- Discuss the impact and management of antimicrobial resistance and multidrug resistant organisms
- Critically appraise quality improvement initiatives in relation to infection prevention and control and their application in the nursing home setting
- Critically evaluate methods and strategies for management of hospital, nursing home and community outbreaks of infection
- Demonstrate effective research and discussion skills.

Assessment: Total Marks 200. Continuous Assessment 200 marks (online activities 40 marks; written assessment 160 marks).

2. The Principles of Microbiology

Teaching Methods: 36hrs Online self-directed learning; 24hrs Online moderated activities; 20hrs Written assignment reflection and development (submitted online); 20hrs Reading and reflective practice.

Module Objective: To create a strong scientific understanding of the nature of microorganisms including bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa and helminths. To introduce microbial growth, entry and pathogenesis. To understand transmission epidemiology and control of infectious diseases.

Module Content: Introduction to the nature of microorganisms; microbial growth in different environments growth rate etc. Introduction to microbial pathogenesis. Control of microbial populations. Antimicrobial chemotherapeutic agents. Drug resistance, mechanisms and consequences, drug use. Epidemiology of infectious diseases. Infectious diseases in the hospital environment. Strategies to reduce/prevent nosocomial infections. Microbiological issues in the hospital environment. Investigating suspected nosocomial infections - what can the modern laboratory offer?

Learning Outcomes:

- Outline the nature of microorganism's growth and pathogenesis
- Describe the control of microbial populations through physical, chemical and chemotherapeutic methods
- Discuss major issues of microbial drug resistance
- Outline the epidemiology of infectious diseases particularly in the case of nosocomial infections
- List and describe strategies to reduce/prevent nosocomial infections
- Discuss Microbiology safety for patients and staff.

Assessment: Total Marks 100. Continuous Assessment 100 marks (Participation in online discussion forum 20 marks; Assessed by a series of timed quizzes with the MCQ questions randomly drawn from a question pool and randomised multiple choice answers, 80 marks).

3. Infection Prevention and Control Quality Improvement and Patient Safety

Teaching Methods: 36hrs Directed Study (online self-directed learning); 24hrs Online moderated activities; 20hrs Written assignment reflection and development (submitted online); 20hrs Reading and reflective practice.

Module Objective: To establish what quality improvement is and what it entails in the healthcare setting. To understand the principles of quality improvement. To identify areas for quality improvement in infection prevention and control. To apply quality improvement techniques to improve patient outcomes.

Module Content: Introduction to quality improvement; methods of quality improvement including surveillance and audit; models for improving quality in healthcare; root cause analysis of adverse events in healthcare.

Learning Outcomes:

- Outline quality improvement theory and application in the nursing home setting
- Describe quality improvement methods
- Discuss the role of audit and surveillance in quality improvement in the nursing home setting
- Discuss root cause analysis in the management of adverse events
- Explain how quality improvement leads to better patient outcomes
- Identify areas for improvement within a place of work
- Implement a quality improvement audit and feedback within a place of work.

Assessment: Total Marks 100. Continuous Assessment 100 marks (Participation in online discussion forum 20 marks; Practice focussed audit report 80 marks).

4. Leadership and Management of Infection Prevention and Control

Teaching Methods: 72hrs Directed Study (Self-directed learning); 48hrs Online moderated activities; 40hrs Written assignment reflection and development; 40hrs Reading and reflective practice.

Module Objective: This module will expose healthcare professionals to the concepts and knowledge involved in leading and managing infection prevention and control (IPC) programmes. It will assess the relationship between leadership skills and abilities, and the challenges health service managers, leaders and organisations face as they deal with internal and external pressures when implementing IPC strategies.

Module Content: The impact of strategy, culture, structure, politics, leadership, and decision-making processes on private healthcare organisations. Using a practical case-based approach, students will develop an awareness of the impacts of such processes on individual, group, and organizational behaviour. To develop strategies for making data-centric decisions and managing change as an inherent aspect of IPC programmes.

Learning Outcomes:

- Outline and discuss the role of management and leadership in healthcare settings.
- Exhibit the skills necessary as a manager and leader in the healthcare profession to assess, plan, implement and manage change under conditions of uncertainty, complexity, and increasing demands for accountability and transparency.
- Understand the tools and techniques for economic decision making to support the implementation of IPC programmes.
- Analyse, plan, and design data management strategies for IPC in healthcare settings.
- Assess the relationship between healthcare operations, processes, and measuring improvements.

Assessment: Total Marks 200. Continuous Assessment 200 marks (Online Activities, 40 marks; 1 x Practical Group Case Study (and Presentation), 160 marks).



School of
Public Health

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