



**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 three 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**

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 severely competitive.

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**

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 include a reference otherwise they will not be considered. All fully-completed applications submitted by the normal closing date 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 / 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. **Essential Skills, Level 2 in Application of Number is not acceptable in lieu of GCSE Mathematics grade C / 4.**

### **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/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 If not offered at HL, Mathematics and a Science subject are required at Standard Level minimum grade 4, and English grade 5 at Standard Level.

### **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 of time (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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 for shortlisting to interview purposes.

The reference together with predicted grades are noted but, in the case of the Nursing degree, are not the final deciding factors in whether or not 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 — Online Interviews**

Eligible applicants will be invited for interview. These interviews are conducted via an online platform and candidates will record themselves responding to several scenarios. Each scenario evaluates the candidate's values and attributes and ensures that we select the best candidates for the Nursing and Midwifery professions. This process assesses each candidate's non-cognitive abilities, such as empathy, integrity, teamworking and communication skills. These were identified by [NIPEC](#) as the key skills and attributes needed to be an exceptional nurse or midwife in the Gateway to Nursing project in 2014.

Candidates will be invited to interview via email and will be supplied with full and detailed instructions.

Since 2021 we have been working in partnership with Ulster University to pilot a regional selection process. This means that candidates who have applied to both Universities only need to do one interview, and we share the results. This has proven beneficial for candidates, for the interviewers from the Trusts and for the two Universities.

### **Stage 3 – Offers**

Due to the lengthy selection procedure, it is likely offers will not be made until near the UCAS deadline in May. 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. You should note that if you have applied to both Queen's and Ulster University, it is possible to receive an offer from one institution and not the other.

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 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 near the UCAS deadline in 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 here, please contact the Admissions and Access Service here, giving full details of your qualifications and educational background:

[admissions.nam@qub.ac.uk](mailto:admissions.nam@qub.ac.uk).

## Nursing application timeline

### Stage 1 – Academic Assessment – October to March

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.

### Stage 2 – Joint Interviews – Queen’s and Ulster– February to April

A joint interview process has been developed by Queen’s University Belfast and Ulster University which will allow us to interview each candidate only once for courses offered by both Universities, and thereby reduce the use of practice staff in the Trusts, whose resources have been severely stretched as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Interviews](#) will be held online. In this case we will be using similar scenarios to those previously used for face-to-face interview, and the main difference is that they will be conducted via an online interviewing platform. Applicants will be invited to interview via email and will be supplied with full and detailed instructions.

#### **Interview scoring**

The questions asked do not require any technical knowledge – they are designed to discover if you would make a good nurse and to find out why you have chosen this career.

The recorded interview will be reviewed by members of School staff and practising nurses, and members of each University’s Service Users & Carers Group. For each question the reviewer will use a grid to record scores on each aspect of your performance, and a final ranking order will be determined based on interview score.

### 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 in 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.

#### ***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. Final decisions will be communicated via UCAS.