

Appendix 1

Statistics on Applications to the Nursing Programme in Ireland

The first major development was the introduction of the 4-year Registration/Degree Programmes in 2002. The Nursing and Midwifery Registration Degree education programme was placed at level 8 on the National Qualification Authority of Ireland (NQAI) framework of qualifications. This saw the ratio of applicants per place rising to a then first time high of 5.3 per applicants per place. Since 2002, the demand for nursing and midwifery education programmes has remained consistently high amongst school leavers and even more so for mature applicants (see below graph and table).

In addition the application process of an interview and written assessment changed and was replaced with the final year results of secondary school exams (the Irish Leaving Certificate). This meant that for the first time applications to nursing was through the Central Applications Office (Applications to all degree courses made through here). This change removed obstacles in the path of young people who were seeking a career in nursing. In 2001, there were 4.3 applications for each place available, compared to 3.3 in 2000 representing an increase of 25%.

The transition of the nursing and midwifery application process to an integrated application system, then moving it to the Central Application Office, followed by the introduction of the 4 year registration/degree programme in higher education institutions, are the main factors that appear to have contributed towards an increased demand for nursing and midwifery in Ireland.

	1. Total Number of applicants	2. Total Number of places available	Ratio
1997	4011	982	1:4.1
1998	4034	967	1:4.2
1999	5591	1275	1:4.6
2000	5013	1500	1:3.3
2001	6578	1547	1:4.3
2002	8780	1640	1:5.3
2003	7507	1640	1:4.6
2004	8299	1640	1:5
2005	8547	1640	1:5.2
2006	8866	1880 ↑	1:4.7
2007	8640	1880	1:4.6
2008	8119	1880	1:4.3
2009	9457	1570 ↓	1:6
2010	9014	1570	1:5.7
2011	8977	1570	1:5.7

↑ = an increase in the number of places available in 2006

↓ = a decrease in the number of places available in 2009

