

## **CERTIFICATE IN NURSING (CLINICAL RESEARCH)**

### **Minor Award: Level 9**

Applications are invited for participation in a Certificate in Clinical Research Nursing Course. The aim of this course is to provide participants with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to manage and co-ordinate clinical trials within the healthcare setting.

#### **Course Summary**

The Certificate in Clinical Research programme will be delivered over 6 months and will include 3 modules of education and practical seminars. Students will attend for 15 days of lectures. Proficiency assessments will occur throughout the programme at the students own research site or at one of the 3 designated clinical research centres to ensure that competency is achieved in the practical aspects of the programme. Modules will be delivered consecutively to facilitate a flexible approach for students unable to enrol for the entire programme. The programme will be developed in the context of a modular framework and is modelled on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) incorporating the allocation of credits. On successful completion of the programme the student will be eligible for the award of The Certificate in Nursing (Clinical Research) (level 9 minor award).

The programme will be provided through the Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery RCSI, in partnership with the Clinical Research Centres at Beaumont Hospital, The Mater Hospital and St Vincent's' Hospital. As part of the programme each participant will be required to achieve practical clinical learning outcomes and attain competency in key areas related to the role of the research nurse. This will be done under the supervision of a mentor - senior research nurse or investigator - in their own research site or at one of the 3 designated clinical research centres if required. The experience will ensure attainment of specific competencies relating to clinical research nursing. If the necessary clinical milieu to attain competency is not available in the parent institution the student will be required to undertake a period of clinical experience in a Clinical Research Centre.

## **Mentors**

Mentors must be identified by the participant when applying for this programme. Mentors can be senior research nurses or investigators who agree to provide support to the participant in the clinical area by identifying learning needs, and carrying out intermediate and final assessments to confirm that the participant has attained the required competencies identified in the course curriculum. Training will be made available for mentors prior to course commencement, and competency assessment tools will be provided.

## **Student Assessment**

The assessment process aims to measure theoretical and practical elements of the programme whilst maximising the integration of theory and practice. Each module has a specific assessment and there is an overall portfolio submission.

<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Marks</b>
Research Design and Methodology	Core	10	Design a simple clinical trial and supporting documents	100
Ethics and Regulations	Core	10	Prepare an ethics application for approval of the clinical trial	100
Clinical Trials Practice and management	Core	10	With reference to applicable regulations, guidelines and local policy, describe the steps to be taken in the set up and ongoing management of a clinical trial at a research site.	100
<b>Total programme Credits</b>		30		300

## **Course fees**

The cost of undertaking this course is €1,700.00, or €600.00 per module. Payment must be made in full on date of registration. Participants are responsible for negotiating sponsorship from employers or other sources themselves. The award of Certificate in Nursing (Clinical Research) will be made on successful completion of all three modules.

## **Entry Requirements**

- Applicants must be Registered Nurses (or eligible to register) on the active register maintained by An Bord Altranais.
- Previous experience in nursing research or other research activities is desirable.
- Candidates must fulfil the National University of Ireland (NUI) entry requirements for matriculation.
- The candidate is required to hold a primary degree or equivalent. Each candidate's application will be considered on an individual basis.
- Applicants will be selected on the basis of their academic and professional qualifications and experience and their potential to successfully complete the programme.
- An academic reference will be requested and the RCSI reserves the right to call applicants for interview to assess suitability.
- Agreed support in writing from a senior research nurse or investigator who will act as a mentor during the programme of studies and will assess and sign off on clinical competencies must be included with initial application.
- Agreed support from employer must be included with application.

**Application forms** are available from the RCSI website [www.rcsi.ie](http://www.rcsi.ie) or from

Administration  
The Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery  
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland  
123 St Stephens Green  
Dublin 2  
**Tel:** (01) 402 2445/2206/2202  
**Fax:** (01) 402 2465  
**E-mail:** [facnurs3@rcsi.ie](mailto:facnurs3@rcsi.ie)  
**Web site** [www.rcsi.ie](http://www.rcsi.ie)

### **Enquiries and further information:**

**Deirdre Hyland (Course coordinator)**  
**Tel:** (01) 8093785 [dhyland@rcsi.ie](mailto:dhyland@rcsi.ie)

**Closing date for receipt of applications: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009**