ACCREDITATION OF PRIOR EXPERIENTAL LEARNING (APEL)
Graduate/Postgraduate Diploma (Nursing/Public Health Nursing)

The Graduate/Postgraduate Diploma (Nursing/Public Health Nursing) is a Graduate/registration programme. As such candidates are required to meet both the entry requirements of Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) and the Universities/college education providers (UG, UCC and UCD). The academic entry requirements for the Graduate/Postgraduate Diploma (Nursing/Public Health Nursing) include holding a NFQ Level 8 qualification (Honours Degree or Higher Diploma). However, third level institutions are committed to widening access to academic programmes. Students who do not meet the NFQ Level 8 requirements may be considered for entry to the programme through the Accreditation of prior experiential learning (APEL) process. APEL is the framework for accreditation for prior experiential learning.

APEL takes account of experiential learning which is learning achieved through work, the community or related setting. Experiential learning is judged and recognised as being worthy for consideration for entry to a programme of study not for credit within the programme. The APEL process is of particular value to candidates who for a variety of reasons such as geographical location, family commitments or other personal reasons are unable to undertake formal educational programmes such as an Honours Degree or Higher Diploma. The focus of APEL accreditation is on the outcomes of the learning rather than on the experience of learning. For example, it might include a personal reflection following a study day on infection control and how the principles are applied in clinical practice. The focus might be on what changes he/she made, the resources accessed, the people contacted as well as the impact on the individual and family he/she cared for. Included in the process is a critical evaluation of the changes on individual and family care. A search of the literature is included to provide the evidence base for the change.

ASSESSMENT OF PRIOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
Candidates applying for consideration for entry using APEL are required to submit relevant evidence in accordance with appropriate guidelines. The following guidelines are based on the framework developed by the National Council for Professional Development of Nurses and midwives on portfolio development for nurses and midwives (National Council for Professional Development of Nurses and Midwives, 2006)[1]. The following guidelines are specific to the above programmes.

The candidate is required to submit a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate their suitability for admission to the programmes.
The Portfolio assessment requires the candidate to submit the following:

- Personal information
- General education
- Professional education
- Employment history
- Continuing professional development

The portfolio should demonstrate how the candidate's clinical experience to date has prepared them for the role of a Public Health Nurse.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE PORTFOLIO
Cover page with the following details

- Name
- Address
- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland PIN
- Word Count for Section 2
- Signed Declaration

[1]The guidelines of the National Council for Professional Development of Nurses and midwives on portfolio development for nurses and midwives can be found using the following links:
http://www.ncnm.ie/files/Portfolio%20Guidelines%202nd%20Ed.pdf
https://www.lenus.ie/bitstream/handle/10147/44765/6336.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Section 1:
Relevant Professional History.
Within this section you are required to describe in essay style your relevant professional history highlighting and discussing your achievements in the following areas. Please limit this section to one page only, no grids or tables are to be included. (This section is not included in your word count).

- o General education
- o Professional education
- o Employment
- o Continuing professional development

Section 2:
Demonstration of suitability for Public Health Nursing Programme
Within this section you are required to write 200 words on each domain of competence. This section of the portfolio should contain no more than 1500 words. This allows the candidate an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge, understanding, critical thinking, reflection and application of continuous professional development to nursing practice. In summary the five domains of competence are:

- Professional and ethical practice.
- Holistic approaches to care and integration of knowledge
- Interpersonal relationships
- Organisation and management of care
- Personal and professional development

When a candidate is critically discussing a domain that refers to recent relevant achievements3 (within 5 years), the candidate must use a different learning experience for each domain (i.e. a course, conference, study day, or research article may only be referred to once. Evidence of attendance at courses, conferences, or study days must be included. Each 200 word submissions must cite recent relevant literature pertaining to your learning experience. Please provide references for research articles only. Hard copies not to be included.

Section 3:
Referencing and General Layout of Portfolio's this section is not included in the word count.

- Pages should be numbered at the bottom centre, and the whole portfolio including the evidence from section 2 should be stapled together at the top left-hand corner only. Do not bind or put in folders.
- A minimum of 2.5cm margin should be allowed on the left hand side of each page and at the top and bottom of the text. Scripts should use one side only of each A4 sheet.
- Line spacing used should be 1.5 and fonts used Times New Roman 12.
- A full Reference list alphabetically arranged, separately numbered by page and distinct from the main text should be included at the end of the text. Referencing format must follow the Harvard method. i.e. http://www.ucd.ie/library/students/information skills/harvard.html. No Appendices to be included.
- One copy of the assignment must be submitted with your application
- Stay strictly within the word limit as outlined above.

Declaration
Please include this declaration statement in the portfolio cover page and ensure that you sign and date it: *I Hereby declare that this work is entirely my own and that I have acknowledged the writings, ideas, and work of others. Furthermore I have not knowingly allowed another to copy my*

work.

[2]The Requirements and Standards for Public Health Nurse Registration Education Programmes can be found using the following link http://www.nursingboard.ie/en/publications_current.aspx?page=3

[3]When a candidate is critically discussing a domain that refers to recent relevant achievements (within 5 years). The candidate must use a different learning experience for each domain: a course, conference, study day, or research article may only be referred to once.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The portfolio will be assessed on a pass/fail judgement on the following criteria: (see next page Appendix 1)

- Presentation and adherence to guidelines
- Exposition of knowledge and comprehension. Analysis and critical thinking
- Interpretation, integration and application to practice
- Use of supporting literature
- Reflection

RPAL Assessment Criteria

Candidate must pass each criteria; Pass = ≥50%; Fail = **≤ 49%**

Criteria	**Presentation & Adherence to Guidelines**	**Exposition of knowledge and comprehension. Analysis and critical thinking.**	**Interpretation, integration and application to practice.**	**Use of supporting literature**	**Reflection**
Grade /Fail ≤ 49%	Work is illegible. Poor use of English. Presentation does not meet criteria required	Contents lack relevance. Professional focus is not understood or explained. Theoretical concepts And frameworks Inappropriately selected. Theories and facts do not support propositions. Work is descriptive in nature	Wrong interpretation of brief/questions. Restricted ability to draw on professional experience and link theory to practice.	Limited evidence of supporting reading without using argument and discussion. Significant inaccuracies in citation of research/literature.	Limited evidence of reflection on experience. Limited evidence of evaluation of practice.
Grade/pass ≥50%	Work is clearly presented with good use of English demonstrated Presentation meets the criteria Appropriate		Interprets brief correctly. Irrelevant material is discriminated. Adequate evidence of being able to	Adequate evidence of supportive reading with use of argument and discussion. Evidence of wider reading. Accurate citation	Work shows evidence of reflective analysis of experience. Evidence of evaluation of own practice.

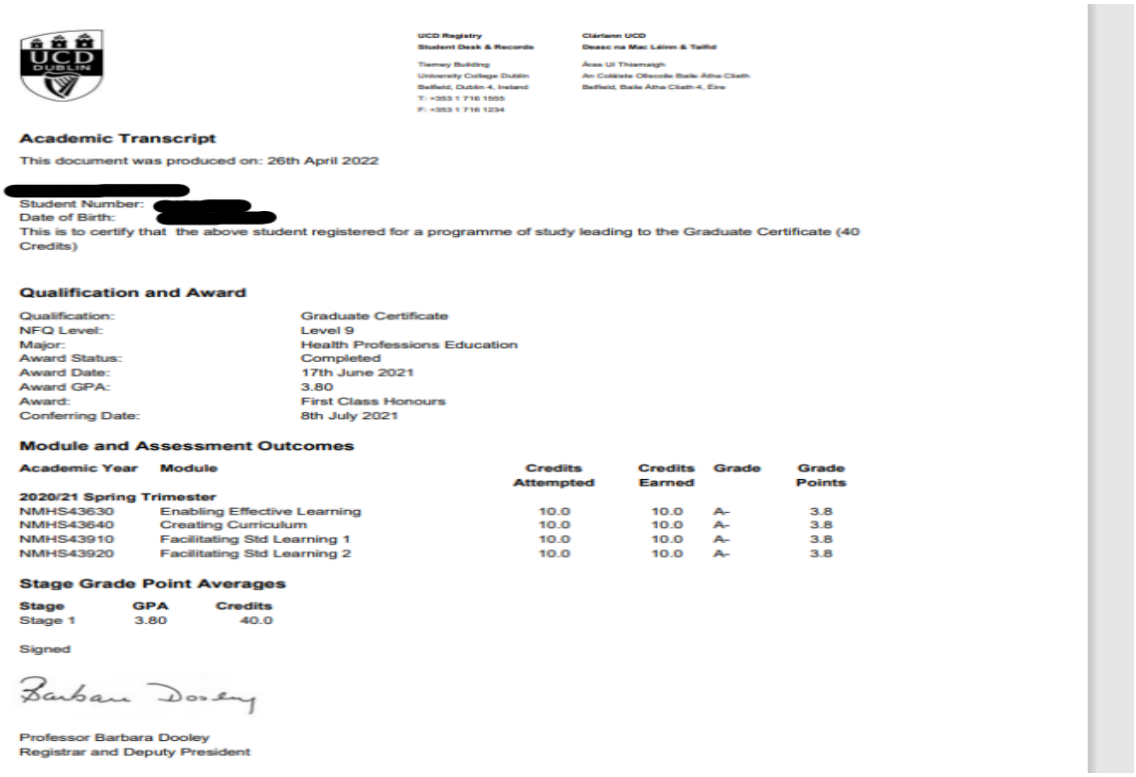
	presentation of illustrated material.		evaluate a situation in a logical way identifying aspects of problem solving relevant to nursing. Able to set own experiences within a wider context and take an objective stance	of Relevant research/literature	Able to defend and justify own stance

© Adapted with the kind permission of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Health and Social Science,
University of Brighton.

REFERENCES

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2023 Version 3) *Requirements and Standards for Public Health Nurse Registration Education Programmes*. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland. Dublin.

Transcript example (what we can accept):



UCD Registry
Student Desk & Records

Tierney Building
University College Dublin
Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland
T: +353 1 716 1555
F: +353 1 716 1234

Clárlann UCD
Deasc na Mac Léinn & Taifid

Áras Uí Thiarnaigh
An Coláiste Ollscoile Baile Átha Cliath
Belfield, Baile Átha Cliath 4, Éire

Academic Transcript

This document was produced on: 26th April 2022

[redacted]
Student Number: [redacted]
Date of Birth:
This is to certify that the above student registered for a programme of study leading to the Graduate Certificate (40 Credits)

Qualification and Award

Qualification:	Graduate Certificate
NFQ Level:	Level 9
Major:	Health Professions Education
Award Status:	Completed
Award Date:	17th June 2021
Award GPA:	3.80
Award:	First Class Honours
Conferring Date:	8th July 2021

Module and Assessment Outcomes

Academic Year	Module	Credits Attempted	Credits Earned	Grade	Grade Points
2020/21 Spring Trimester					
NMHS43630	Enabling Effective Learning	10.0	10.0	A-	3.8
NMHS43640	Creating Curriculum	10.0	10.0	A-	3.8
NMHS43910	Facilitating Std Learning 1	10.0	10.0	A-	3.8
NMHS43920	Facilitating Std Learning 2	10.0	10.0	A-	3.8

Stage Grade Point Averages

Stage	GPA	Credits
Stage 1	3.80	40.0

Signed

Barbara Dooley

Professor Barbara Dooley
Registrar and Deputy President

Parchment certificate (what we cannot accept):

