

# Post Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Clinical Research)

Level 9 NFQ 30 ECTS Credits

## Programme Overview:

This programme covers key areas of clinical research coordination, from project design and management to carrying out study activities and reporting results, with continuing emphasis on adherence to ethical and legislative standards for the conduct of human subject research. A significant aim of this programme is to provide students with the skills necessary to manage and co-ordinate clinical trials within the healthcare setting, developing in students the practical skills backed up by relevant theory to plan, initiate and deliver clinical research projects which are integrated with the patients care within the healthcare service. The programme will develop student's ability to integrate skills and knowledge gained and to apply these to their clinical practice.

## Learning Outcomes/Aims:

On successful completion of this programme the student will be able to:

- Review and present the processes involved in establishing, organising, and execution a clinical trial or academic research project.
- Critically review the processes and procedures for patient recruitment.
- Discuss and present the process involved in ensuring the correct handling, documentation, and administration of an investigational medicinal product at a research site.
- Critically discuss ethical concepts as applied to clinical research and laws that impact on this.
- Critically appraise and apply an understanding of research methodologies and statistical methods relevant to clinical trials by including a statistical plan in the study protocol.
- Critically appraise a published clinical trial.

## Programme Structure:

The Post Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Clinical Research) is delivered over one academic year, through three modules over two semesters. Intake for this programme is in September each year. 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 senior research nurse or investigator in their own research site or at one of the 3 designated clinical research centres if required. The programme modules are:

Module Name	ECTS Credits	Assessment Method
Research Design & Methodology	10	Assignment
Clinical Research Practice and Management	10	Assignment
Ethics and Regulatory Affairs	10	Assignment

## Who is this programme for?

The full postgraduate certificate programme was developed primarily for nurses working in the field of clinical research, or hoping to move to that area of practice, and is also suitable for nurse researchers wishing to develop their knowledge and skills in research practice. However, module content is also applicable to allied health practitioners and non-nursing study coordinators wishing to enhance their knowledge and skills. Non-nursing students, or nurses not currently in a position to complete the associated competency elements of the programme, can complete one or more stand-alone modules for academic credit. The Ethics and Regulatory Affairs (ERA) module has proven useful for lay members of research ethical committees.

## What next?

On successful completion many of our students progress further on their educational path pursuing; Post Graduate Certificates, Diplomas and Master programmes. Recommended: MSc Nursing

## More Information:

If you would like further information on this programme please contact:

**Programme Coordinator:** Ms. Anne Marie Lyons ([amclyons@rcsi.ie](mailto:amclyons@rcsi.ie))  
**Programme Director:** Ms. Deirdre Hyland ([dhyland@rcsi.ie](mailto:dhyland@rcsi.ie))

## How to apply?

Online applications are accepted for this programme via [www.rcsi.ie/nursing](http://www.rcsi.ie/nursing).