

Postgraduate Education in Cancer Care

University College Dublin – Collated Overview

1. School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems (SNMHS)

The following postgraduate programmes in cancer nursing are offered through UCD's School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems. These programmes are accredited and available in full-time and part-time modes.

1.1 Graduate Diploma and Certificate Programmes

Programme	Code	Mode	Link
Graduate Diploma Cancer Nursing (Adult, Breast, Children)	X546 (FT) / X747 (PT)	Full-time / Part-time	hub.ucd.ie – X546 / X747
Graduate Certificate Breast Care Nursing	X684 (PT)	Part-time	hub.ucd.ie – X684
Graduate Certificate Cancer Nursing (Adult)	X682 (PT)	Part-time	hub.ucd.ie – X682
Graduate Certificate Cancer Nursing (Children)	X683 (PT)	Part-time	hub.ucd.ie – X683

All programmes are listed on the UCD hub (hub.ucd.ie) under their respective programme codes. For further information, contact the SNMHS Office at snmhs.head@ucd.ie.

The following postgraduate modules are available within these nursing programmes:

- Adult Cancer Nursing (NMHS42850) – clinical presentation, diagnosis, treatment and care strategies for adult cancers
- Related modules on family-centred care and complications in cancer may also be available depending on programme

2. Health and Social Care Professions (HSCP) – Professional Education in Cancer Care

UCD's Health and Social Care Professions programmes integrate cancer-related academic content and practice placements across multiple disciplines. The following table summarises the oncology-related content within each pre-registration programme.

Profession	Academic Hours / Content	Practice Placement Hours
Medical Social Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Grief, Loss and Adult Services module (Year 1) – 2 hours specifically related to oncology and palliative care – 2 hours input from the Laura Lynn Foundation – Use case examples specifically related to oncology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2–3 oncology/palliative care placements per year (varies by availability)
Nutrition & Dietetics M.Sc. (pre-registration with CORU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Diseases of the large bowel/colorectal surgery: 1 hour – Diseases of the mouth, head, neck, oesophagus: 2 hours (focus on H&N, oesophageal Ca) – Diseases of the stomach and duodenum: 1 hour (includes stomach cancer) – Diet and Cancer I: 2 hours – Diet and Cancer II: 2 hours – Liver Disease: 3 hours (some reference to liver cancer markers) – Pancreatic disease: 2 hours (includes pancreatic cancer) – Nutrition and chronic disease (includes cancer epidemiology) – Total: ~9 hours on cancer ≈ 2 ECTS / ~50 hours overall learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 14 weeks × 2 placements between acute and non-acute centres – At SVUH students assess and provide nutritional care to patients undergoing cancer treatment – CORU proficiencies must be met rather than specific clinical areas
Physiotherapy – B.Sc. & M.Sc. (pre-registration with CORU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pathology: 2 hours – Acute care and rehabilitation post-surgery (oncology): 2 hours – Paediatric oncology and haematology – role of physiotherapist: 2 hours – Exercise Oncology (treatments, pre-rehabilitation, rehabilitation, exercise prescription): 2 hours – Palliative Care: 2 hours – Lymphoedema Management: 2 hours – Complex case studies including cancer as comorbidity: ~2 hours – Total: ~15 hours of oncology-related content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Placements in public and private clinical settings nationwide (acute hospitals, primary care, rehabilitation & disability) – Cancer exposure in oncology/haematology wards, palliative care units, and general medical/surgical wards – Clinical partner sites include SVPH & SVH – Cancer types encountered include: prostate, lung, colorectal, melanoma, lymphomas, osteosarcomas, lymphoedema (OPD)

3. Cancer-Focused Academic Modules at UCD

The following modules from the UCD module catalogue explicitly include cancer-related teaching content. These span undergraduate and postgraduate levels and are drawn from Schools of Biomolecular Science, Cell Biology, Pharmacology, Pathology, and Nursing.

Module Code	Module Title	Level	Cancer-Related Content	Credits
BMOL40050	Advanced Cancer Biology and Pharmacology	Masters (Level 4)	Cancer biology, aetiology, epidemiology, prevention, tumour microenvironment, targeted therapies and pharmacology	5
CELB40190	Advanced Cancer Cell Biology and Genetics	Masters (Level 4)	Cancer hallmarks, oncogenes/tumour suppressors, epigenetics, invasion/metastasis, genomics and emerging targeted therapies	5
PATH40060	Precision Oncology	Masters (Level 4)	Precision oncology tools, molecular tests, genomics in cancer diagnosis and treatment; multidisciplinary patient care perspectives	5
PHAR30010	Chemotherapeutic Agents	Undergraduate (Stage 3)	Principles of cancer chemotherapy, drug mechanisms and treatment applications	5
PATH30190	Pathology: Tumour Biology & Carcinogenesis	Undergraduate	Basic cancer pathology including tumour classification, invasion/metastasis and molecular carcinogenesis	5
MDCS42250	Precision Oncology (Seminars)	Advanced/Masters	Molecular basis of tumourigenesis, cancer genomics and network biology	–
NMHS42850	Adult Cancer Nursing	Postgraduate	Clinical presentation, diagnosis, treatment and care strategies for adult cancers	–

4. Precision Medicine Programmes with Cancer Components

The following UCD postgraduate programmes incorporate significant cancer-relevant content through a precision medicine and genomics lens, making them relevant for clinical and research professionals working in cancer care.

Programme	Level	Key Focus
MSc Precision Medicine	Level 9 MSc	Genomics, diagnostics, translational research
Graduate Diploma Precision Medicine	Level 9 Diploma	Core precision medicine modules
Graduate Certificate Precision Medicine	Level 9 Certificate	Introductory precision medicine knowledge

Programme	Level	Key Focus
MSc AI for Medicine & Medical Research	Level 9 MSc	AI/ML + precision medicine data science
MSc Healthcare Informatics	Level 9 MSc	Health data systems supporting precision healthcare

5. Research Programmes

5.1 PhD: Mechanisms of Disease – Cancer

A research doctorate with emphasis on the cellular and molecular basis of cancer and biomarker discovery. Suitable for advanced students and clinicians aspiring to cancer research careers.

- Teaching and research focused on cellular and molecular mechanisms of cancer
- Emphasis on biomarker discovery and translational research
- Ideal pathway for clinicians and scientists seeking to progress into cancer research