Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh

Atlantic Technological University

Induction 2026 Arrival Guide

Department of Nursing & Health Care

Programmes:

- BSc Hons in General Nursing
- BSc Hons in Mental Health Nursing
- BSc Hons in Intellectual Disability Nursing

Department of Nursing & Health Care:

- Head of Department: Dr Louise McBride
  Email: Louise.mcbride@atu.ie Tel: 0749186303 Room: 2460
- Administration Email: Nursing.donegal@atu.ie Tel: 0749186306 Room: 2469
- Nursing Allocations Officers: Ms Sandra McMonagle /Ms Bernadette Lafferty
  Email: Nursingallocations@atu.ie Tel: 0749186307 Room: 2467

Department of
Nursing and
Health Care

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Welcome!

Welcome to ATU Donegal! We are delighted you have chosen to study in the Department of Nursing & Health Care. Induction allows you to get to know your classmates, find your way around, meet the lecturers and support staff and learn about the facilities and services you can avail of during your time here.

It is essential you attend all the induction activities to ensure you don't miss out on any important information that will make life and learning easier at ATU Donegal.

Introduction to the Department of Nursing & Health Care

The staff and students of Nursing and Health Care and our HSE Practice Partners are really looking forward to meeting and sharing with you the exciting times and challenges that your new Nursing course will bring.

We live in a constantly changing world, but that's nothing to worry about, change spurs new ideas and stretches possibilities. How do you prepare for that? You learn. Knowledge is an exceptionally important gift, but real understanding will only come from experience. The type of experience that enables you to adapt what you've learned to whatever opportunities come your way. That's why our Nursing courses include early contact with the real world of Nursing and Healthcare. That's what gives meaning and authenticity to your Nursing course. This experience will provide you with multiple opportunities to develop, integrate and consolidate the knowledge and skills learned throughout the programme.

You can begin the registration process with Online Registration before you visit the campus.

We'll start with **Garda Vetting on Wednesday 9th September** and then **meet the Nursing staff and our practice partners on Thursday 10th September**. We envisage this will be the beginning of you developing a sense of what to expect from your programme. There will be time for networking and most importantly you'll meet your fellow students, who like you have chosen to study Nursing at ATU Donegal. These aren't just students; among this group of strangers will be your future best friends. You haven't met them yet, but you will!

Once again congratulations on securing your place in the Department of Nursing & Health Care.
We wish you every success with your studies, and I look forward to meeting at Induction.

Yours sincerely,

Louise McBride

Dr. Louise McBride
Head of Department of Nursing and Health Care

Garda Vetting Wednesday 9th September and Induction Thursday 10th September 2026

All 1st year General, Intellectual Disability and Mental Health Nursing students are required to attend on campus for **Garda Vetting on Wednesday 9th September** and again for **Induction on Thursday 10th September 2026.**

It is very important that you attend for Garda Vetting and Induction. Please see information on page 6 for details of your induction.

Garda Vetting Wednesday 9th September 2026

You will be required to complete Garda Vetting as part of your programme on **Wednesday 9th September.** It is very important that you engage with the Garda Vetting Liaison Officer regarding these additional requirements as your **registration may not be complete until you have submitted all relevant documentation.**

Information on Garda Vetting and Health Screening and forms will be sent via email from the Admissions team. These must be completed before you start attending lectures.

Information on the Garda Vetting application process can be found by clicking on the links below, please ensure you read the information below and bring all relevant documents with you to induction:

- ATU Student Hub, Student Vetting Information: https://atlantictu.sharepoint.com/sites/StudentHub/SitePages/Garda-Vetting.aspx
- Garda Vetting Process information and Forms: Garda Vetting Info Forms 26-27 incl Schedule.pdf

Induction Thursday 10th September 2026

Induction is your opportunity to meet your lecturers and support staff. Our academic staff will provide all information you need about course requirements, placement information and your timetable to help you prepare for the first day of class. You will hear talks from the HSE including Nurse Placement Development Coordinators, Student Allocation Liaison Officers, Clinical Placement Coordinators and Occupational Health. You will receive information about The Curve, Learning Support Centre, Computer Services and department administration Services.

Please refer to page 6 of this document for details of the induction time for your programme. You can begin the registration process with online registration before you visit the campus.

Online Pre-Induction
Information regarding your on-campus induction can be found here:
Donegal Induction - Atlantic Technological University

You are advised to take our online Pre-Induction now via the following link:
https://www.atu.ie/student-life/induction/online-and-flexible-induction/atu-donegal-flexible-induction/atu-donegal-flexible-pre-induction

You will find information on programme registration, fees and payments, student supports and learn more about the technologies used in online learning and the virtual learning environment (VLE). You will also learn about the supports and resources available to online learners at ATU and how to prepare for taking up or returning to study.

How to Register for your Programme
Information on how to register for your programme can be found here:
Registration - Atlantic Technological University

Once you have registered for your programme of study you will be able to access the ATU Student Hub, where you will find information that you need for student supports and services available at ATU: ATU Student Hub

Virtual Learning Environment/ Blackboard
Student Guidance and support for using Blackboard, our VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) is available on the Student Guidance and Support module, in Blackboard. Once you have completed your student registration you will be able to access this module here:
https://lyitbb.blackboard.com/ultra/courses/_46489_1/cl/outline

You will find a Blackboard video guide here: Accessing Blackboard

First 5 Weeks
The first 5 Weeks welcome programme is designed to make your start to university life easier – helping you adjust to third-level education, meet new people, and find your way around. It runs from 15 September until 16 October 2026.
For returning students, it's a great chance to reconnect with campus life and refresh your knowledge of the supports and services available to you.
Each week has a different theme – like making friends, finding academic support, or getting involved in clubs and societies. You'll get helpful tips, info, and events to guide you through your first few weeks.
You can find further information here: First 5 Weeks - Atlantic Technological University

Department Administration Support

Room 2469. Monday-Friday 10.30am-12.00pm and 2pm-3.30pm.

The Department of Nursing & Health Care office is located at room 2469, on the first floor. To access the office from the main reception desk; proceed up the main staircase and turn right, follow the corridor passing the stairs and take the next right, room 2469 is on the right-hand side.
Support services available to students include:

- Communicating to students regularly via ATU Student email regarding timetables, class groups, class activities, attendance requirements etc.
- Scheduling appointments for students to meet with the Head of Department if required.
- Provision of guidance with regards to timetables/student groups etc.
- Providing the College stamp/logo on required documents such as medical card applications, social welfare applications etc.

You must present your ATU student ID card if you require any of our services. Please note that there is a 5-day timeframe for documents to be issued and this may increase at peak times. You are advised to request any necessary documentation in a timely manner to allow us to support your request.

Administrative support can only be provided directly to registered students and cannot be provided to third parties (parents/guardians). Should you require support or guidance with any issue or query, you are welcome to contact the office in person at Room 2469 or by email to Nursing.Donegal@atu.ie and we will direct you to the relevant supports.

Your Student Email

You will have your own ATU email address when you register as a student with ATU. It is important for students to regularly check their student email account as lecturers and almost all ATU Donegal correspondence is communicated with students via their student email account. Before your course begins with ATU Donegal, you will receive instructions on how to access your student email account. If you need to report any login problems, please use our IT Services Helpdesk.

All communication with students from the Department will be via your **ATU Student Email only**, please set up your student email account as soon as possible.

Year 1 Nursing Tutors:

- General Nursing: Sonia Connaghan and Mary McMenamin; Sonia.Connaghan@atu.ie and Mary.McMenamin@atu.ie
- Mental Health Nursing: Maurice Murray; Maurice.Murray@atu.ie
- Intellectual Disability Nursing: Stephani Bonar; Stephani.Bonar@atu.ie

Nursing Allocation Officers

- Ms Sandra McMonagle; Sandra.mcmonagle@atu.ie
- Ms Bernadette Lafferty; Bernadette.lafferty@atu.ie

Technical Officer

- Ms Bernadette McKenna; Bernadette.mckenna@atu.ie

Additional Course Costs

Purpose	Cost	
Course Costs	€200– student contribution towards Mandatory Training, t-shirts, Jacket.	• Paid through ATU Student Account

Please note additional costs are not covered by the SUSI grant and students are required to arrange payment through their ATU Student Account.

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INDUCTION & GARDA VETTING SCHEDULE

Wednesday 9th September 2026-Day 1
Garda Vetting

Programme	Date	Time	Location
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in General Nursing	9th September 2026	9.30am	Room 1402
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Mental Health Nursing	9th September 2026	11.00am	Room 1402
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Intellectual Disability Nursing	9th September 2026	12.00pm	Room 1402

INDUCTION SCHEDULE

Thursday 10th September 2026-Day 2
PROGRAMME INDUCTION SESSIONS

Programme	Room	Time	Facilitator
All Nursing Groups: Talk by Head of Department	1101	9.30-10.45	Talk by Head of Department Dr Louise McBride
Break		**10.45-11.00**	
All Nursing Groups: Clinical Placement Process	1101	11.00-13.00	Sandra McMonagle & Bernadette Lafferty, Nursing Allocations Officers
Lunch		**13.00-14.00**	
BSc (Hons) General Nursing	1101	14.00-16.00	HSE Induction NPDC, SALO, CPC, OH
BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing	1404	14.00-16.00	HSE Induction NPDC, SALO, CPC, OH
BSc (Hons) Intellectual DisabilityNursing	1407	14.00-16.00	HSE Induction NPDC, SALO, CPC, OH
Break		**16.00-16.15**	
BSc (Hons) General Nursing: Academic Expectations, Policies & Procedures.	1101	16.15-17.00	Sonia Connaghan & Mary McMenamin year Tutors
BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing: Academic Expectations, Policies & Procedures.	1404	16.15-17.00	Maurice Murray year Tutor
BSc (Hons) Intellectual Disability Nursing: Academic Expectations, Policies & Procedures	1407	16.15-17.00	Stephani Bonar year Tutor

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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Occupational Health Service,
County Clinic, St. Conals Hospital,
Letterkenny,
Co. Donegal.
Phone: 074 9123784
Email: occupationalhealth.lk@hse.ie

Date: August 2026

Re: Student Nurse intake to HSE - Immunisation Screening for Clinical Placement

Dear Student,

Clinical placement in HSE premises is an important and necessary part of your nurse training.

The Department of Health Guidelines on Hepatitis B requires all staff considered to be at risk of contracting Hepatitis B to be vaccinated. As a healthcare worker, you may be at risk of contracting Hepatitis B. It is important that you have adequate protection against Hepatitis B. These vaccines will be provided by Occupational Health if required.

To ensure you are protected against infectious diseases, we require documented evidence of the following vaccinations:

- **BCG Vaccination**
- **MMR Vaccine x 2**
- **Mengivac C**
- **Tdap**
- **Hepatitis B** ***(included in childhood immunisation programme for children born after 1st July 2008)***

(These records can be obtained from your local Community Care / Immunisations Office and / or your G.P.)

If you have received any other vaccinations, e.g. for work/travel purposes, such as Hepatitis B / Hepatitis A, please also send those records.

You MUST submit your documented vaccination records to the HSE Occupational Health Department by induction day.

If you do not produce the above records, your Hepatitis B vaccination (which is strictly recommended for all healthcare employees) may be delayed, which could subsequently affect clinical placement.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Eileen Cahill Canning
Specialist Occupational Physician

Department of Nursing & Health Care
1st Year Student Registration Checklist

Registration Process	Students	Complete	Follow -Up Required
Online Registration	**All Students**		
Review All Policies	**All Students**		
Computer Services Induction	**All Students**		
ATU Donegal Student Card	**All Students**		
ATU Student Number	**All Students**		
ATU Student Email	**All Students**		
Access ATU Blackboard (Virtual Learning Environment)	**All Students**		
Admissions/Fees – Fee Payment plan	**All Students**		
Garda Vetting **Required to complete registration.** • Photographic ID • Proof of address • Contact Garda Vetting Liaison Officer	**All Students**		
Induction • Meet Programme Team • Timetable/Class Group	**All Students**		
Mandatory Training Further information at Induction	**All Students**		
Materials Fees extra costs for your course check ATU Student Account	**All Students**		
Access to Blackboard (Virtual Learning Environment)	**All Students**		

Useful Contact Details

Department	Extension	Email	Location
Admissions	0749186125/ 6129/6127	Admissions.Donegal@atu.ie	Reception, Main Building
Exams Office	0749186124/ 6126/6128	Exams.Donegal@atu.ie	Reception, Main Building
Computer Services	0749186050	Ithelpdesk.Donegal@atu.ie	Main Building
Student Health Centre	0749186855	Health.Donegal@atu.ie	An Dánlann
Sports Centre	0749186800	sportscentre.donegal@atu.ie	An Dánlann
The Curve, Learning Support Centre	0749186175	thecurve.donegal@atu.ie	Third Floor, Main Building
Library	0749186150	librarymail.donegal@atu.ie	Main Building
Careers Service	0749186812	Careers.Donegal@atu.ie	An Dánlann
Reprographics (Printing)	0749186599	Reprographics.Donegal@atu.ie	Room 1148, Main Building
Students Union	0749186820	atusudonegal.ie	An Dánlann
Flexible and Online Learning Unit	0749186109	Flexibleonline.donegal@atu.ie	Co-Lab
Department Nursing & Health Care Administrator	0749186308	Nursing.donegal@atu.ie	Room 2469 Main Building
Garda Vetting Liaison Officer- Ms Aisling Erskine	0749186305	Aisling.Erskine@atu.ie	Room 3401 Main Building
Nursing Allocations Officers	0749186307	Sandra.McMonagle@atu.ie Bernadette.lafferty@atu.ie	Room 2467 Main Building
Head of Department	0749186303	Louise.mcbride@atu.ie	Room 2403 Main Building