



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

College of Medicine,
Nursing & Health Sciences

Studying Podiatry



www.nuigalway.ie/podiatry

Studying Podiatry at NUI Galway

Podiatry is a healthcare profession that specialises in the management of disease and disorder of the lower limb and foot. Podiatry can significantly improve peoples' quality of life by promoting and maintaining mobility. Therefore, podiatry as a career can be extremely rewarding and fulfilling and can give immense job satisfaction.

As a Podiatrist you will work as an independent, autonomous, practitioner, demonstrating expertise in assessing, diagnosing and managing lower limb and foot related problems. Clients vary widely and patient management ranges from nail and skin pathologies, management of patients with disease that can compromise the viability of the foot and lower limbs, biomechanics, gait analysis, sports injuries, and minor surgery, through to more complex surgical techniques.

Podiatrists also offer advice on how to prevent problems for example advising someone who is at risk of amputation on how to manage their condition to prevent such an outcome. As a podiatrist, you will work alongside other health professionals for instance doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and orthotists.

Course Facts

Bachelor of Science (Podiatry)

CAO Code: GY504

Entry points (2009): 400

Duration: 4 years full time

Average intake: 25

Entry requirements Minimum Grade HC3 in two subjects and passes in four other subjects at H or O Level in the Leaving Certificate including: Irish, English, another language, Mathematics, a laboratory science subject (i.e. Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physics with Chemistry (joint) or Agricultural Science and any other subject recognised for entry purposes.

Additional requirements Students must satisfy the Garda Vetting and Medical Clearance requirements.

Did you know

NUI Galway is the only University in Ireland to offer a course in Podiatry.

Podiatry is a major growth area within the Irish health services sector and the demand for qualified Podiatrists is growing.

Course Outline

Podiatry Students will be educated in diagnosis and in planning and implementing interventions for all age groups. The structure of the degree programme introduces, in a defined manner, inter-professional learning in both academic and clinical modules.

It has, as its central focus, the integration of theory with clinical practice with opportunities for inter-professional learning with other health care professionals, for instance occupational therapists, speech and language therapists and doctors.

The overall goal of this programme is to prepare competent, flexible, accountable practitioners, who are capable of lifelong learning. Preparing students to be flexible and self-directed in learning is considered to be a key outcome of the degree programme as it is recognised that the current rapid pace of change in the health services means the skills of tomorrow will be different from those of today.

Work Placement

Clinical Studies are an integral part of the programme and will be undertaken each year. The majority of clinical studies will take place in a dedicated clinical facility at Merlin Park University Hospital, Galway. Students will undertake over 1,000 hours treating patients with a wide variety of medical and surgical conditions, children, sports injuries and patients requiring soft tissue surgery successfully under the supervision of a qualified Podiatrist.

Clinical Practice will be integrated into each year of the programme, so that you will have the opportunity to put your knowledge into practice as you work through your course.

Year 1

- Introduction to Clinical Studies
- Podiatry Theory 1
- Anatomy
- Human Body Function
- Professional Development
- Redefining Health and Wellbeing

Year 1

- Clinical Studies 2
- Podiatry Theory 2
- Pathophysiology
- Functional Anatomy and Biomechanics
- Research Methods 1
- An Introduction to Pharmacology

Year 3

- Clinical Studies 3
- Medicine and Surgery
- Pharmacology in Health and Disease
- Research Methods 2
- Podiatry Theory 3
- Health Promotion

Year 4*

- Clinical Studies 4
- Podiatry Services
- Footwear and Orthoses
- Research Project
- Elective Modules

*Subject to change as the programme evolves

"The population is aging and we are also experiencing a dramatic growth in diabetes. This is increasing the need for podiatrists ... Podiatrists can make a big difference to people's mobility and therefore their quality of life. This applies not just to people as they get older but also to people with illnesses such as Diabetes."

Mary Harney, T.D Minister for Health and Children

Did you know

NUI Galway is the only university where students undertake 1,000 hours of clinical placement during the programme in a dedicated Podiatry Clinic in Merlin Park University Hospital, Galway, as well as in the community.



Career Opportunities

Podiatry is an interesting and broad career and graduates have a variety of employment options, both at home and abroad. This programme has been developed in response to a recognised need for podiatrists in Ireland and is the only course available in the Republic of Ireland. Graduates of this degree course will be in a position to work in a variety of settings and with a variety of patients / clients including:

- Hospitals – acute hospital services, services for older people, specialist hospital services
- Community Rehabilitation Services
- Nursing homes / continuing care facilities
- GP practices / Primary Care
- Private Practice
- Education and Research

Graduates also have the option of studying a variety of programmes at postgraduate, Masters and PhD levels.

Caoinleain Soffer



A week in the life of a Podiatry student

A week in Podiatry consists of lectures in anatomy and physiology, podiatry theory, clinical studies and most importantly; clinical placements. It can be an exhausting week but is always interesting and enjoyable.

Although there are not many hours of lectures (13-15 hours on average), many valuable things are learnt throughout the week. For example, this semester we have been on clinical placements and the theory learned from podiatry classes has enabled my classmates and I to use our time on placement effectively, which can be very satisfying.

An orthotics room has also been set up which has made us aware of the many different areas in podiatry. It is essential not to miss out on any classes as each week continues to increase our skills and knowledge for a bright future career in Podiatry.

Aisling Phelan



What our students say...

Why did you choose Podiatry?

I liked working with people on a one to one basis and wanted to work as part of the healthcare team. It was a toss of a coin between Podiatry and general nursing, however I chose Podiatry in the end as I felt the course had better working hours and better prospects.

What do you most enjoy about the course?

I really enjoy the clinical aspect of the course as it allows you to put the theory you have learned into practice. I enjoy the confidence boost you feel after treating a patient and knowing the immediate positive affect you have on their mobility when they leave the clinic.

What is good about studying in Galway?

The city, location, social life, people and the college.

What advice would you give others thinking about studying Podiatry?

I would say to write down all the courses you are interested in and what aspects of a course interest you. I found it a help to write down all the pro's and con's of doing Podiatry against nursing and I discovered that Podiatry had more pro's than nursing. It is a great course for people that want to be involved in developing a new course and profession in Ireland and for people who want to work their own hours. An interesting and enjoyable course!

School of Health Sciences

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