

## Annual Leave

Annual leave for entitlements for full time staff nurses are as follows:

- **187.2 hours for staff nurses with 0-5 years experience**
- **195 hours for nurses with over 5 - 10 years experience.**
- **210.6 hours for nurses with over 10 years experience.**

There are also nine public holidays per year.

Annual leave is calculated in hours and is taken in 39 hour weeks. All Leave must be taken within the calendar year.

Entitlements for part time staff are calculated on a pro-rata basis.

## How to apply for a position

Application for a position in the Operating Department should be made to Nursing Human Resources at 01-2774180. Alternatively you can forward your CV or request more information by emailing [nurseopenday@st-vincent's.ie](mailto:nurseopenday@st-vincent's.ie)

## Informal Visits

Informal visits to the Operating Department are welcome by prior arrangement with the Clinical Facilitator at 01 277 4438

## Philosophy

*"Our philosophy involves providing patient care of the highest standard, which also incorporates providing a supportive environment for all staff. As part of this, we offer a comprehensive orientation programme tailored to the needs of the nurse, which provides support in the education and development of staff members. The orientation of a new staff member will have a collaborative approach, taking into consideration previous experience and prior learning, and tailored accordingly."*

## Mission Statement

*"We strive for excellence in meeting the holistic needs of our patients in a caring and healing environment in which the essential contribution of each member of staff is valued. The values of human dignity, compassion, justice, quality and advocacy, rooted in the mission and philosophy of the Religious Sisters of Charity, guide us in our work. We will, within the foregoing context, make every effort to maintain excellence in clinical care, teaching and research."*

*Comh mheas, comh bhá, comh phártíocht agus comp oibre bunsraith ár gcuid saothar uile.*

## Core Values of Hospital

**Human dignity**  
**Compassion**  
**Justice**  
**Quality**  
**Advocacy**

## Thinking about a Career in the Operating Department?



## Information for nurses interested in working for the Operating Department

The department consists of eleven operating theatres. We have a friendly, dynamic team of peri-operative, anaesthetic and post anaesthetic care nurses.

## Operating Department

St. Vincent's University Hospital,  
Elm Park,  
Dublin 4.

Phone: 012774180  
Email: [nurseopenday@st-vincent's.ie](mailto:nurseopenday@st-vincent's.ie)  
<http://www.st-vincent's.ie>

## Overview

Our Operating Theatre Department at St. Vincent's University Hospital consists of eleven theatres, patient reception area and PACU. We have a wide variety of surgical specialities including:

- General surgery
- Urology
- Gynaecology
- Hepato-biliary
- Colorectal
- Gastrointestinal
- Liver transplant
- Thoracic
- Breast
- Plastics
- Orthopaedic
- ENT
- Ophthalmic

The surgery carried out is diverse and wide ranging and we aim to fulfil our philosophy of providing quality, holistic care within the structure of the multidisciplinary team. In early 2006, our department will be moving to state of the art operating theatres on the top floor of the new development.

## Staffing

The Operating Department is staffed by approximately 100 nurses, employed on a whole time or part-time basis. The nursing team consists of a Divisional Nurse Manager, a Clinical Nurse Manager 3, Clinical Facilitators, Clinical Nurse Managers for each theatre, anaesthetics and PACU, and staff nurses. Lists in each theatre are run jointly by the nurse in charge and the surgical team. A senior staff nurse is in charge of the department during the evening, at weekends and on night duty.

The nursing staff are supported in their role by theatre aids and portering staff. The Hospital Sterile Services Department and Clinical Engineering are incorporated into the support mechanism of the department.

## Duty Patterns

Whole-time staff work thirty nine hours per week. Duty patterns for staff nurses are 8a.m. to 5p.m. three days per week, one late shift, 12.30p.m. to 8.30p.m., and a half day, 8a.m. to 2p.m. Weekends rotate approximately six weekly. Staff rotate onto night duty where they work 12 hour shifts, 8p.m. to 8 a.m. with seven shifts on and seven off. Overnight call is taken by two staff per night as backup to the rostered staff. Staff also rotate onto liver transplant call approximately every six weeks. Overall, the requirement is one weekend in six to work, and one weekend in six on call.

## Post Anaesthetic Care Unit

The PACU provides post-operative care for a variety of surgical specialities, angiography and the x-ray department. Staffing levels are 1.5 nurses per patient at peak times. PACU is staffed from 8a.m. to 8p.m. Various shift patterns are available and weekends are worked on a rota basis. The nursing team is made up of a Clinical Nurse Manager 1 & 2, Clinical Facilitator, and staff nurses. Staff assist with research, auditing, teaching, and presentations. Continuous in-service education is provided.

## The National Liver transplant Programme

The National Liver Transplant Programme has been running at St. Vincent's University Hospital since 1993. Approximately 50 transplants are carried out per year. All staff participate in the on-call rota to facilitate this programme

## Professional Development

St. Vincent's University Hospital is strongly committed to, and supportive of, career development. Professional development opportunities include:

- Precepted orientation
- In-service education
- Study leave to support continuous professional development
- Higher Diploma in Peri-Operative Nursing

## Higher Diploma in Peri-Operative Nursing

The Higher Diploma in Peri-Operative Nursing is offered in partnership with UCD, the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children. The aim of the course is to advance the knowledge and skills of the nurse in the peri-operative environment. The focus of the programme is on all areas of peri-operative nursing; theatre, anaesthetics and PACU. On successful completion of the programme, the nurse will be awarded a Higher Diploma in Peri-Operative Nursing.

## Study Leave

St. Vincent's University Hospital has a study leave policy that follows the guidelines agreed by the Dublin Area Teaching Hospitals group. Each nurse has the opportunity to apply for study leave and financial support to attend:

- Short courses
- Relevant specialist conferences
- Higher Diploma programmes
- BSc Nursing/ Management
- MSc Nursing/ Management/ Education

A detailed study leave application including a learning contract is completed as part of the application process. Study leave applications are assessed on an individual basis.