The Open University – an unrivalled learning experience

The Open University (OU) is a remarkable organisation that has helped to change the face of adult learning. In little more than 30 years, we have become the UK’s largest university, attracting students from all over the world.

• Our teaching is rated among the best in the country.
• We lead the world in developing innovative approaches to distance learning.
• Our programmes draw on the experience of practising professionals, service users, carers and the latest research.
• Students can study with us without putting their careers on hold, and put their new knowledge into practice as they learn.

Connect to the power of learning

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Welcome to The Open University Pre-Registration Nursing Programme – a flexible, supported open learning route to nurse registration and the Diploma in Higher Education (Nursing).

For employers, the programme offers a high quality, effective way to develop unqualified support workers with one of the largest and best-known providers of open learning in the world.

Staff can qualify as nurses in as little as four years while they continue to work. Employers will reap the benefits of a home-grown workforce, while boosting recruitment and retention. They’ll also be in tune with government priorities like widening participation, investing in staff and strengthening multi-professional working.

For students, it’s a gateway to a professional career and a chance to unlock their potential. They continue to earn while they learn, and put their new knowledge and skills into practice right from the start.
How the programme works

What the students learn...

The programme is a careful balance of theory, practice, assessment and tutorials. It starts with a common foundation that everyone studies, and then focuses on either mental health or adult nursing.

Whichever route a student takes, they’ll investigate the major issues that challenge contemporary nursing – like how best to serve the interests of service users, the role of evidence in nursing and how to work effectively with professionals in other fields. They’ll also consider the nature of professional practice, and what is meant by reflective practice, leadership and autonomy.

By the end of the programme, students will be able to demonstrate and apply their understanding of:

- the contemporary context in which care takes place
- the experience of care from a service user’s perspective
- theories and concepts that underpin and challenge practice and professionalism
- different philosophies of practice, and their impact on service provision
- the legal and ethical frameworks in which care takes place
- research methods and their application to practice.

…and how they learn it

The programme is delivered in partnership with employers, who sponsor groups of staff, provide some of the settings for the practice learning, appoint a mentor and give their employees study leave. The balance between theory and practice is 50:50.

The theory part of the programme is taught through our unique method of supported open learning, for which we’re justly famous. Students have the support of a personal tutor throughout their studies, attend group tutorials, and swap ideas and experiences through online conferencing. They get all the innovative learning materials they need to study the course – underpinned by strong research and academic units – and access to a state-of-the-art online library. As they study the course, students produce assignments for their tutors focusing on their learning experience, and their reflection on that experience. The assignments are designed to consolidate learning, and to help tutors provide constructive feedback.

Students study at their own pace, when and where they choose, without having to sacrifice work and family commitments. They also have a specific number of study days arranged with their employer.

The practice element of the programme can take place in a student’s own workplace, although they’ll need at least one other complementary or contrasting setting in both the Common Foundation Programme and the specialist branch. It includes supervision, reviewing, refining and developing skills, and exploring the relationship between theory and practice.

A programme tutor and mentor will be on hand to support students throughout. Again, a specific number of days are allocated for study leave and practice learning.

The employer organisations provide mandatory training for moving and handling, basic life support, health and safety, etc.
The programme structure

Common Foundation Programme (normally 2 years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KYN100</td>
<td>Understanding health and social care</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KYN107</td>
<td>Introducing professional practice and knowledge</td>
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Adult branch (normally 2 years)

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<td>Reflecting on whole lives: diverse perspectives on health and illness</td>
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<td>KYN276</td>
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<td>SKYN277</td>
<td>Human biology</td>
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<td>KYN278</td>
<td>Developing professional practice and knowledge in adult nursing (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>KYN279</td>
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Mental health branch (normally 2 years)

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<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KYN257</td>
<td>Mental health and distress: perspectives and practice</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KYN271</td>
<td>Developing professional practice and knowledge in mental health nursing (1)</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>KYN272</td>
<td>Challenging ideas in mental health</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>KYN273</td>
<td>Developing professional practice and knowledge in mental health nursing (2)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>KYN274</td>
<td>Refining professional practice and knowledge in mental health nursing</td>
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Registered Nurse/Diploma of Higher Education (Nursing)

Where next?

We offer a wide range of advanced courses in health, social care and management for registered nurses who want to continue their professional development. For example, by completing just 120 additional points at Level 3, staff with the Diploma of Higher Education (Nursing) can gain the BA/BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies. Course options include Promoting public health, Critical practice in health and social care, Managing care or Managing health and social care and Communication in health and social care. Request a brochure to find out more (see back cover for address details).

Quality assurance

This programme is approved by:
- Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) for delivery in England and Jersey
- NHS Education Scotland (NES)
- Northern Ireland Practice and Education Council for Nursing and Midwifery (NIPEC).
The courses

The Common Foundation Programme

**KYN100 Understanding health and social care**
This course offers a broad practical introduction to health and social care. Using real examples, it explores the nature of modern caring, the effects of technological, social and political change, and the shift to more flexible, interprofessional ways of working. It also develops the intellectual and study skills needed to progress through the programme.
Includes 80 study days

**KYN107 Introducing professional practice and knowledge**
This is the first of four practice-based courses in which students apply their study to practice settings as they work towards professional learning outcomes. The course begins to establish areas of knowledge and competence in nursing, and addresses personal-identity formation. Students make links between theory and practice in their own working lives, and develop accounts of how theory and practice fit together in their work.
Includes 40 study days and 40 days supernumerary practice directed from course materials and 60 practice days

Adult branch

**KYN275 Reflecting on whole lives: diverse perspectives on health and illness**
This course takes a holistic approach to health and illness, examining our experiences from a life-course perspective. It addresses the contested nature of health and ill-health, and the socio-political context in which meanings and experiences of illness emerge. It draws students into an exploration of differing theoretical frameworks and research evidence underpinning approaches to the understanding of peoples’ lives and their illnesses.
Includes 40 study days

**KYN276 Developing professional practice and knowledge in adult nursing (1)**
This is the first of three practice-based courses in the adult branch of the programme, in which students develop their performance, clinical nursing skills and ability to theorise practice. The course enables students to apply material from practice-based courses to their clinical placement experiences and vice versa. They begin to develop accounts of their experiences in relation to a variety of patients, primarily in community settings. In the context of specific practice settings, students examine the practice implications of nursing situations and relate their role to Nursing and Midwifery Council standards of proficiency.
Includes 40 study days and 66 practice days

**SKYN277 Human biology**
This course presents human biology in a way that connects it directly with health and disease. It starts with the concept of a healthy body and explores the mechanisms that enable it to maintain its integrity. Although the course deals with the physiology of each body system separately, the overall emphasis is on interaction and coordination. It provides students with sufficient background to appreciate how systems can fail, and what kinds of medical intervention can be successful.
Includes 26.5 study days and 66 supernumerary practice days and 13.5 supernumerary studying in practice days directed from course materials

**KYN278 Developing professional practice and knowledge in adult nursing (2)**
This course enables students to produce quite complex accounts of practice, and to demonstrate their increasing confidence in working towards a professional identity. Working in settings complementary to their ‘home’ work base, students further develop their knowledge and understanding of nursing and health care across different patient/client groups and dependency levels, and reflect on (and develop accounts of) clinical activities.
Includes 40 study days and 61 practice days

**KYN279 Refining professional practice and knowledge in adult nursing**
In this final practice-based course, students work in a setting that provides opportunities to develop their understanding of professional nursing practice and associated knowledge. They are supported by a learning guide that helps them re-examine and further develop the professional knowledge they have gained from all previous courses. The course focuses on the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) standards of proficiency for entry onto the NMC Register, and consists primarily of extended project work. During this, students gather together the evidence to demonstrate that they have fulfilled all the learning outcomes and competencies that the programme requires.
Includes 26.5 study days and 66 supernumerary practice days and 13.5 supernumerary studying in practice days directed from course materials
Mental health branch

KYN257 Mental health and distress: perspectives and practice
This course encourages students to see mental health issues from different points of view, including those of mental health service users. Students explore the contested nature of mental health, how services can match users’ needs, and the implications for better practice.
Includes 40 study days

KYN271 Developing professional practice and knowledge in mental health nursing (1)
This is the first of three practice-based courses in the mental health branch of the programme, in which students develop their performance, nursing skills and ability to theorise practice. The course enables students to apply material from practice-based courses to their practice experiences and vice versa. It helps them develop accounts of their experiences in relation to a variety of patients/clients. In the context of specific practice settings, students examine the implications of nursing situations for practice, and relate their role to Nursing and Midwifery Council standards of proficiency.
Includes 40 study days and 66 practice days

KYN272 Challenging ideas in mental health
This course uses a holistic framework to explore ideas and practice in mental health: ideas which can be challenging in themselves, both personally and intellectually. Understanding the origins of such ideas, and the evidence and experience on which they are based, enables students to review their own beliefs and experiences and to challenge themselves and others on a sounder footing.
Includes 40 study days

KYN273 Developing professional practice and knowledge in mental health nursing (2)
In this second practice-based course of the mental health branch, students work in settings complementary to their ‘home’ work base as they continue to develop and demonstrate professional standards of proficiency in mental health practice. Students learn to understand and value the contribution of the charity/voluntary sector, and to respond more confidently to people of different ages and with complex needs (for example, ‘dual diagnosis’). They also learn to engage effectively in mental health promotion.
Includes 40 study days and 61 practice days

KYN274 Refining professional practice and knowledge in mental health nursing
This final practice-based course assists the transition from student to the role of registered nurse. It is designed to enable students to re-examine and develop further the professional practice and associated knowledge they have gained from previous courses. Focusing on the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) standards of proficiency for entry onto the NMC Register, students undertake extensive project work during which they gather evidence to demonstrate their underpinning knowledge and fulfilment of the programme’s requirements. They work in a setting that provides opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of professional nursing practice.
Includes 26.5 study days and 66 supernumerary practice days and 13.5 supernumerary studying in practice days directed from course materials

www.open.ac.uk/hsc
FAQs

Can anyone study the programme?
No. It’s only open to students who are being sponsored by employers working in partnership with the OU.
In addition, students must meet the regulatory body’s minimum entry requirements for pre-registration programmes, which are: good health; a good character; and a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy. We have set the standard at Key Skills Level 2, which is equivalent to GCSE grade C or above.

What does the OU/employer partnership involve?
The OU organises the administration, develops and delivers the learning materials, provides tutors and support staff, organises the assessment and takes the lead responsibility for quality assurance and enhancement.
The sponsor/employer pays the fees, provides practice learning opportunities and study leave, and appoints a mentor to support and assess students in their practice learning.

Is there a minimum number of students?
Yes, each group will have a minimum of 10 students. Employers must register their students as part of a group – either with colleagues from within the same organisation, or with staff from a partner organisation nearby. We can help to build mixed groups of this kind.

How are the students selected?
Students are selected jointly by employers and the OU, according to NMC criteria.
• Employers identify and select candidates for nomination, with the formal approval of their manager.
• Candidates must be working in – or able to transfer to – a suitable clinical area (adult or mental health).
• They need two satisfactory references – one from their current employer; an occupational health check; and Enhanced Criminal Records Disclosure.
All students are interviewed. Successful candidates are offered a place on the programme, subject to meeting the selection criteria.
How long does the programme take?

Students, in conjunction with their employers, can choose whether to study the full programme over 4, 5 or 6 years. The choice may depend on factors like the student’s past study experience and work or family commitments.

Students may not study the Common Foundation Programme and the branch courses at the same time. To comply with the regulations for nurse registration, the full programme must be completed within seven years part-time study.

What are the arrangements for study leave?

For every course, employers must allocate a certain number of study days (see course details), to enable their staff to work through the materials and complete the assignments. For example, 80-study days across a typical 60-point course – which takes 9 months to complete – works out at around 2 days per week. For the practice-based courses, half the study days are used to undertake practice-based learning activities directed from the course materials.

How does practice learning work?

The practice-based courses include a specified number of practice days (see course details). These are supernumerary practice learning opportunities designed to meet a range of learning experiences and outcomes defined by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

Practice learning takes place either in the student’s own workplace, or in another contrasting/complementary setting (for example, they could swap with another student in a different clinical area). We can help employers identify settings for specific and pre-determined practice learning. Students record their learning in a portfolio, and are assessed by their mentor.

Do students need a computer?

Yes. The course materials are a lively mix of text, audio, CD-ROM and online resources, so students will need basic computing literacy and access to a computer with an internet link. We have a dedicated helpdesk to provide IT support to students. To find out more visit www.open.ac.uk/personal-computing

What support do you provide for students with disabilities?

We have a wide range of assistive technology and enabling services, so students with additional requirements can participate fully in their chosen course. It’s a good idea to discuss needs with regional support staff as early as possible – visit www.open.ac.uk/contact for contact details.

How much does the programme cost?

The programme fee covers the full four-year study and practice period. The latest information about the fee can found on our website www.open.ac.uk/hsc

Who pays for the programme?

Fees are paid for by the sponsoring organisation, which doesn’t have to be the students’ direct employer. For example, a Strategic Health Authority, Scottish Executive or Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety can pay the fees rather than a specific hospital or Primary Care Trust/Health Board.

How do they pay?

We’re happy to negotiate with sponsors over the timing of invoices and payments, so these can fit in with the sponsors’ financial year and/or commissioning arrangements.

What if a student doesn’t complete the programme?

OU study is very flexible, so if students need a break from studying it may be possible to arrange this in agreement with employers, as long as students complete their studies within the seven years part-time study stipulated by the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

If a student decides to leave the programme altogether, they’ll still have valuable recognition for their studies because every stage is a ‘stepping off’ point which carries its own credit.
What to do next

Employers

For employers interested in enrolling groups of staff on the programme, please use the contacts below.

Call
01908 655767

Employers can also discuss their requirements with specialist staff based at our regional centres. To find your nearest one, visit [www.open.ac.uk/contact](http://www.open.ac.uk/contact) or see opposite for regional contact details.

Visit
[www.open.ac.uk/hsc](http://www.open.ac.uk/hsc)

Email
HSC-PRNP-Queries@open.ac.uk

Write
Student Registration & Enquiry Service
The Open University
PO Box 197
Milton Keynes
MK7 6BJ
UK

Potential students

Individual students can’t register themselves. If your employer isn’t involved in the programme already, you could get things moving by showing them this booklet. For further information please use the contact details below.

Call
0870 333 4340

Visit
[www.open.ac.uk/hsc](http://www.open.ac.uk/hsc)

Email
General-enquiries@open.ac.uk

Write
Student Registration & Enquiry Service
The Open University
PO Box 197
Milton Keynes
MK7 6BJ
UK
Regional contact details

The OU in London
The Open University
1–11 Hawley Crescent
Camden
LONDON NW1 8NP

Area covered: Greater London
Tel: 020 7485 6597

The OU in the South East
The Open University
St James’s House
150 London Road
EAST GRINSTEAD RH19 1HG

Area covered: Kent, Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex
Tel: 01342 327821

The OU in the South
The Open University
Foxcombe Hall
Boars Hill
OXFORD OX1 5HR

Area covered: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Channel Islands, Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire, part of Wiltshire
Tel: 01865 327000

The OU in the South West
The Open University
4 Portwall Lane
BRISTOL BS1 6ND

Area covered: Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Isles of Scilly, most of Wiltshire
Tel: 0117 929 9641

The OU in the West Midlands
The Open University
66 High Street
Harborne
BIRMINGHAM B17 9NB

Area covered: Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, most of Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands
Tel: 0121 426 1661

The OU in the East Midlands
The Open University
Clarendon Park
Clumber Avenue
Sherwood Rise
NOTTINGHAM NG5 1AH

Area covered: Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, most of Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, part of Staffordshire (Burton-on-Trent area)
Tel: 0115 962 5451

The OU in the East of England
The Open University
Cintra House
12 Hills Road
CAMBRIDGE CB2 1PF

Area covered: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk
Tel: 01223 364721

The OU in Yorkshire
The Open University
2 Trevelyan Square
Boar Lane
LEEDS LS1 6ED

Area covered: North, South and West Yorkshire, East Riding of Yorkshire
Tel: 0113 244 4431

The OU in the North West
The Open University
351 Altrincham Road
Sharston
MANCHESTER M22 4UN

Area covered: Cheshire, part of Derbyshire, Isle of Man, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside
Tel: 0161 998 7272

The OU in the North
The Open University
Eldon House
Regent Centre
Gosforth
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE3 3PW

Area covered: Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, Teeside, Tyne and Wear
Tel: 0191 284 1611

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The Open University
24 Cathedral Road
CARDIFF CF11 9SA

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Tel: 0131 226 3851

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Tel: 028 9024 5025
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