Pre-registration nursing

A work-based learning route to registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council 2011
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Why choose The Open University for pre-registration nurse education?

- The Pre-registration Nursing Programme is a unique, part time, flexible, work-based learning route which on successful completion can lead to registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).
- We offer a Diploma of Higher Education (Nursing), in either adult or mental health nursing for delivery in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the States of Jersey.
- You can study in a flexible way that works for you – at home, at work or on the move. We call this approach supported Open Learning.
- We’re with you all the way and you’ll benefit from unrivalled one-to-one support from your tutors and mentor. Support is available via email, phone or face to face.
- Enjoy the support of your fellow students. There’s a whole community to meet in tutorials, online forums or to network with socially.
- As a sponsored employee you can earn while you learn.

"The Open University has taught me lots of things. It has shown me that education is a wonderful thing. It’s opened up new insights and I think differently now. And it’s made me think about my life. The Open University has taught me that I am worth something."
Jackie Westlake Nursing student (Mental Health Branch)

Case study
Anne McMillan, Nurse, Campbeltown
Choosing The Open University has allowed Anne to study nursing from a remote location and progress her career.

When Anne decided that she wanted to build a career in nursing, she had some big hurdles to overcome. Quite apart from being a mum of three, she was living in Campbeltown, and the nearest university offering a nursing course was 140 miles away.

"In order for me to progress at my work, I would have needed to do some form of study, because I had been an auxiliary for a number of years and I had progressed as far as I could.

I have three children and my husband has his own business here, so living in a rural area, flexible learning was the way for me to do it."

Anne recently secured a permanent nursing post as a result of having completed her Diploma of Higher Education in Adult Nursing. For Anne, an unexpected benefit from her studies was the opportunity to meet other nursing students from rural communities across the west of Scotland.

For more information, click www.open.ac.uk/hsc
How does the programme work?

The Pre-registration Nursing Programme is a balance of theory and practice leading to registration as a nurse. You’ll bring a lot of experience to your learning, which leads to demonstrable confidence and competence – attributes highly valued by healthcare employers.

The practice element

The practice element of the programme mostly takes place in your own workplace, although at least one complementary practice experience will be undertaken in the Common Foundation Programme and one in the Branch Programme. In practice, you’ll be supervised to review, develop and refine your skills, while exploring the relationship between theory and practice.

A programme tutor and mentor will support you throughout your practice experiences. A specific number of days are allocated for practice learning (arranged with your employer). Throughout the programme, your employer continues to provide mandatory training for moving and handling, basic life support, health and safety, etc.

...Students are applying the links between practice and theory. The Trust is able to support the learning of practice-based skills and this is valued by the managers and mentors, who see the benefits of students learning these skills on-site and in accordance with Trust policies.

Tracey Ali – formerly Clinical Placement Facilitator, Northampton General Hospital

The theory element

The theory part of the programme is taught through our unique study method – supported Open Learning. You’ll study flexibly within a structured framework. You will be supported by a tutor throughout your studies, take part in tutorial activities and exchange ideas, engage in debates and share experiences through online forums.

You’ll have a specific number of study days (negotiated with your employer) for each course. You’ll receive all the learning materials you need and you’ll also have access to a state-of-the-art online library. As you study the courses, you’ll prepare assignments, focusing on your learning experiences, and your reflection on that experience. The assignments are designed to consolidate learning, and tutors support this learning by providing you with constructive feedback.

The Open University/Employer partnership

Employers share responsibility for students’ learning with The Open University.

- Employers sponsor individuals or groups of staff; provide some of the settings for practice learning; appoint mentors to support and assess students; and negotiate employees’ study/practice leave.
- The Open University organises the administration; develops and delivers the learning materials; provides tutors and support staff; organises assessment; monitors each student’s academic achievement and practice development; and takes the lead responsibility for quality assurance and enhancement.
Programme content

The programme starts with a common foundation undertaken by all students, and then focuses on either mental health or adult nursing.

You’ll investigate the major issues that challenge contemporary healthcare practice such as how best to identify and meet the needs of service users, the role of evidence in healthcare practice, and how to work effectively with practitioners in other fields. You’ll also consider the nature of professional practice, and what is meant by reflective practice, leadership and autonomy.

By the end of the programme, you’ll be able to demonstrate and apply your understanding of:

- the contemporary context in which care takes place
- the experience of care from service users’ perspectives
- 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.

"The Open University offers the flexibility for those students who absolutely cannot commit to typical 09:00–16:00 attendance at a university. This enables the Trust to present an equitable alternative to those healthcare workers, who might otherwise be unable to access conventional nurse training."

Tracey Ali – formerly Clinical Placement Facilitator, Northampton General Hospital

Routes into nursing

Stepping on

Do I meet NMC entry requirements?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO</th>
<th>YES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Starting with maths (Y162)</strong>[1]</td>
<td><strong>Understanding health (Y178)</strong>[1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four intakes per year</td>
<td>Four intakes per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September, November, March and June</td>
<td>September, November, March and June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum duration 22 weeks</td>
<td>Maximum duration 22 weeks</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Foundation Programme</th>
<th>Branch Programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>An introduction to health and social care (KYN101)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Introducing professional practice and knowledge (KYN107)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>An introduction to health and social care (K101)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Introducing professional practice and knowledge (APEL route) (KZL107)[1]</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stepping off

| Certificate in Health and Social Care (D34) | Certificate of Higher Education in Health Care Practice (C45) | Diploma of Higher Education (D67 or D68)/NMC Registration\[2\] |

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1 Students whose practice experience or existing qualifications are equivalent to the specific requirements for Introducing professional practice and knowledge (KYN107) and who have an appropriate 60 credit points of study at Level 1 may be able to have their prior learning and/or experience recognised as meeting the NMC’s outcomes for entry to branch programmes on a Pre-registration Nursing Programme. The course code for this route is KZL107. Contact us for more details, see back page.

2 Successful completion of the Common Foundation Programme, Branch Programme and confirmation of meeting NMC requirements entitles students to apply for registration as a registered nurse with the NMC.

For more information, click [www.open.ac.uk/hsc](http://www.open.ac.uk/hsc)
Frequently asked questions

Can anyone study the programme?
The programme is only open to those who are being sponsored by their employer working in partnership with The Open University. Applicants must meet the regulatory body’s minimum entry requirements for pre-registration programmes, which are:

• good health
• 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 (SCQF level 5 in Scotland) in English and maths prior to entry to the programme.

This programme is approved by the NMC for delivery in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the States of Jersey. Since the qualifying route to registered nurse is solely through a degree in Wales, we are currently unable to offer the Pre-registration Nursing Programme there.

Do students need a computer?
Yes. The course materials are a dynamic mix of text, audio, DVD-ROM and online resources. So students will need basic computing literacy and access to a computer with a regular and reliable internet connection. Students will have the opportunity to develop their IT skills during the early parts of the programme. We have a dedicated helpdesk to provide IT support to students.

Is there a minimum number of students?
Yes, each group will normally have a minimum of ten students. Employers must register their students as part of a group – either with colleagues from within the same organisation, or with staff from another organisation. If your organisation cannot support groups of ten students, The Open University will build up mixed groups from other organisations where possible.

How are the students selected?
Students are selected jointly by their employer and The Open University:

• Employers identify and select candidates for nomination, ensuring that the candidates have the approval of their manager.
• Candidates must be working as a healthcare worker in – or able to transfer to – a suitable practice area (adult or mental health nursing) which is assessed and demonstrates relevant learning opportunities.
• Candidates need two satisfactory references (one from their current employer); an occupational health check; and an Enhanced Criminal Records Disclosure check.

Successful candidates are offered a place on the programme, subject to meeting all the selection criteria.

How long does the programme take?
It typically takes four years and three months to complete the programme or two and a half years for students directly entering the branch courses. Applicants will need to agree a timetable with employers, taking into account factors like previous study, experience of supported Open Learning and other commitments.

The Common Foundation Programme and the Branch Programme may not be studied at the same time. The programme must be completed within seven years to meet NMC part-time study requirements.

What are the arrangements for study leave?
Support for study leave is individually negotiated with the relevant employer.

How does practice learning work?
The practice-based courses include a specified number of practice days (click www.open.ac.uk/study for details). Practice learning opportunities are designed to meet a range of learning experiences and outcomes required by the NMC.

The Open University will help students to identify learning opportunities for specific and predetermined practice learning. Students record their learning in a portfolio, and are assessed by their mentor who supervises the student in practice.

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 your needs with us as early as possible – contact us for more information.

How much does the programme cost?
Students must be sponsored by their employer to join the programme, so if you’re interested in becoming a student, please share this information with your line manager and encourage them to get in touch with the University.

The latest fee information can be found on our website and is based on Department of Health benchmark pricing where appropriate. Go to www.open.ac.uk/hsc and select Nursing to find the section on pre-registration nursing. You’ll find further information and a section on fees.
Who pays for the programme, and how?
The employer or sponsoring organisation pays the fees. This is not always the students’ direct employer (for example, a Strategic Health Authority, The Scottish Government or The Northern Ireland Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety can pay rather than a specific hospital or Primary Care Trust/Health Board). We’re happy to negotiate over the timing of invoices and payments, so they fit in with the sponsors’ financial year and/or commissioning arrangements.

What if a student needs time out of the programme?
Open University 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 NMC.

If students do have to leave the programme altogether, they’ll still have valuable recognition for their successfully completed study as every stage is a ‘stepping off’ point – which carries its own academic credit – that can enable them to rejoin at a later date.

I’m an employer, how does this help me?
The programme offers a high quality, cost-effective opportunity to invest in the workforce, widen participation and make a real difference to the lives of service users. Students carry on working as they learn, and they can apply their new knowledge and skills from the word go.

What to do next

Employers
If you would like to find out more, please contact your national or regional centre (see overleaf). You can also visit www.open.ac.uk/hsc. We would welcome the opportunity to visit your organisation and answer any further questions you might have about the programme.

Prospective students
If your employer isn’t involved in the programme already, you could get things moving by sharing this information with them.

There are advantages to the home base in retaining their employees as a student in the area, and being able to capitalise on their existing expertise.

Karen Hill, Clinical Practice Development Lead, Derby Hospitals Foundation NHS Trust

For more information, click www.open.ac.uk/hsc
Prospective students
If your employer isn’t involved in the programme already, you could get things moving by sharing this information with them.

Employers
If you would like to find out more, please contact your national or regional centre (see below). Alternatively, you could visit www.open.ac.uk/hsc.

The Open University national and regional centres

For further information from your national or regional centre contact:

The Open University in London
Area covered: Greater London
Phone 020 7485 6597
Email london@open.ac.uk

The Open University in the South East
Area covered: Kent, Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex
Phone 01342 327821
Email south-east@open.ac.uk

The Open University in the South
Area covered: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Channel Islands, Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire, part of Wiltshire (including Salisbury)
Phone 01865 327000
Email south@open.ac.uk

The Open University in the South West
Area covered: Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Isles of Scilly, most of Wiltshire (excluding Salisbury)
Phone 0117 929 9641
Email south-west@open.ac.uk

The Open University in the West Midlands
Area covered: Herefordshire, Shropshire, most of Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, Worcestershire
Phone 0121 426 1661
Email west-midlands@open.ac.uk

The Open University in the East Midlands
Area covered: most of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, part of Staffordshire (Burton-on-Trent area)
Phone 0115 962 5451
Email east-midlands@open.ac.uk

The Open University in the East of England
Area covered: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk
Phone 01223 364721
Email east-of-england@open.ac.uk

The Open University in Yorkshire
Area covered: North, South and East Riding of Yorkshire, West Yorkshire
Phone 0113 244 4431
Email yorkshire@open.ac.uk

The Open University in the North West
Area covered: Cheshire, part of Derbyshire, Isle of Man, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside
Phone 0161 998 7272
Email north-west@open.ac.uk

The Open University in the North
Area covered: Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, Teeside, Tyne and Wear
Phone 0191 477 6100
Email north@open.ac.uk

The Open University in Scotland
Phone 0131 226 3851
Email scotland@open.ac.uk

The Open University in Ireland
Phone 028 9024 5025
Email ireland@open.ac.uk