Blended Learning Nursing Degree Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. I do not live locally to Oxford. Can placements be arranged to a hospital Trust or health care institution near where I live instead?
A. Unfortunately not. Students must ensure they can travel to and from placement areas at correct times.

Q. I do not currently work in healthcare. Can I still apply for this course?
A. You do not need to be working in healthcare, however you must be able to commute daily to Oxford or Banbury.

Q. I am already working in a hospital/care setting elsewhere. Can I carry on and complete my placements in my place of work?
A. No, we are only able to offer and support placements with OUH.

Q. Can I carry on working whilst studying?
A. Yes, however it is full-time study, and placements and attending tutorials must take precedence.

Q. How many work placement blocks are there in a year?
A. There are three blocks of placements each year. Each placement block ranges from five to eight weeks, with a required number of hours to be completed. The longer placement duration allows flexibility and allows students to continue working part time.

Q. I have a young family. Can placements happen during school holidays?
A. Placements are scheduled through the university calendar and can run during school holidays. However, we do not have placements at Easter and Christmas. You may be able to negotiate to work fewer hours during some of these weeks, but this is dependent on placement areas being able to provide the right level of supervision and support throughout the placement to ensure you meet the assessment and NMC requirements.

Q. Can I arrange my own holiday weeks or are they fixed?
A. Holiday weeks are scheduled within the programme. This allows for continuity of placement experience. Before booking anything please liaise with the relevant programme leads.

Q. Will I be required to attend classes in campus?
A. Yes. There will be some teaching on the OUH campus. This will mainly be skills teaching and simulated practice activities.
Q. I know nurses work long hours, nights, and weekends. Will I be expected to work long hours, nights, and weekends as a student on placement?
A. The nursing programme requires students to gain experience of the 24-hour nature of patient care, therefore you will be expected to do shift patterns when on placement, including weekends and nights.

Q. How long will my commute be?
A. Commutes will vary, depending on the location of the placement area (within Oxfordshire and Banbury) and according to the shift pattern being worked within this area. For example, some areas may operate 12-hour shifts, whereas other areas will operate an 8-hour pattern, and start times will vary. In addition, certain areas will need you to work some weekends and nights.

Q. What time do placements start?
A. Student placements start at the same time that work hours start on placement areas. Start times vary; a long day in a hospital typically starts at 7:30 while a night shift can start at 19:30 for example, and clinic placement typically starts around 8:30.

Q. How do I apply for finance? Is it part-time or full-time?
A. You can find further information on fees, student loans and other payment options on our qualification description. Student Loans are handled by the Student Loans Company. Loans can take up to ten weeks to process so it is essential that you apply as early as possible.

Q. I have a degree, can I still get a loan for this degree?
A. Yes, you can still apply for a loan even if you already hold a degree. You may also be eligible to receive an NHS Training Grant of £5,000 per academic year. Please refer to the NHS careers website for the most up to date information.

Q. Do I get any help with a laptop?
A. We do not offer support for getting a laptop unless you have additional learning needs. A student with additional learning needs can find out more on the OU website.

Q. When do I get access to the modules?
A. Approximately three weeks before the start date of the module.