Blended Learning Nursing Degree Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. I do not live locally to UWE or Middlesex University. Can placements be arranged to a hospital Trust or health care institution near where I live instead?
A. Unfortunately not. Placements are arranged by partner universities: Middlesex University, and University West England. Each university has contracts with several partner Trusts and health care institutions in their locality where respective students are accepted for placement. Students must ensure they can travel to and from placement areas considering the length of placement and start and finish times.

Key things to consider with regards to placements:

- Have you considered that you may need to travel over a wide geographical area?
- Have you considered the time and cost to and from placement?
- Have you considered the placements will be delivered in three blocks each year, and last seven or eight weeks, with you needing to work 22 to 32 hours per week?

Q. I am already working in a hospital/care setting. 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 our partnership Trusts. You can, if you want to carry on working but placements and attending tutorials must take precedence. Whilst on placement you can only work a maximum of 45 hours a week.

Q. Are all placements for Middlesex University based in London?
A. Yes. Please see the map for information of the different healthcare institutions Middlesex University send students to for placement.

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. Leading up to a placement block is a simulation week that will be hosted at the partner University (MDX or UWE).

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. Can I continue to work while I’m on placement?
A. Yes, this is possible. Whilst on placement students can work up to 45 hours per week. If a student works 37.5 hours on their placement, then during this time they can only work an additional 7.5 hours. You will still need to engage in the theory components whilst you are in placement, so that will need to be figured into the working week.

Q. Will I be required to attend classes in campus?
A. There are a number of weeks (around four weeks per year) during the programme when students will attend simulation sessions - a combination of on-campus and virtual learning environment. Middlesex students will attend at Middlesex University and UWE students will attend at University West England.

Q. I know nurses work long hours, nights, and weekends. Will I be expected to work long hours, nights, and weekends as a student in placement?
A. The nursing programme requires students to gain experience in the 24-hour nature of patient care, therefore will be expected to do shift patterns when on placement, including weekends and nights.

Q. What time do placements start?
A. Student placements start the same time 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. Can I claim travel expenses?
A. Travel Expenses and Travel and Dual Accommodation Expenses (TDAE) provides reimbursement towards excess travel and accommodation costs incurred by healthcare students whilst attending a practice placement. The key requirement for claiming travel expenses under TDAE, apart from personal eligibility, is that the cost of your daily return travel to and from your placement site must be in excess of your normal daily return travel costs to university’ (see Travel and Dual Accommodation Expenses | NHSBSA for further details).

As 50% of your programme is practice, which is facilitated by Middlesex University (MDX) or University of the West of England (UWE), your university campus base is either Hendon (MDX) or Glenside (UWE) - you may be entitled to claim the difference between travelling to Hendon (MDX) or Glenside (UWE) and to your placement – if the latter is greater. Unfortunately, you cannot claim that your programme is online and subsequently claim travel from your home to your placements area or to MDX or UWE for your simulation weeks.

As an example, if the cost of your journey from home to Hendon (MDX) or Glenside (UWE) was £15 and your journey to your placement was £18, you may be entitled to claim the £3 difference.

Q. I do not currently work in healthcare. Can I still apply for this course?
A. Yes. Please see entry requirements for full information.

Q. How do I apply for finance? Is it part-time or full-time?
A. Further information on fees, student loans and other payment options can be found here. 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. The programme is full time over three years.

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, visit the NHS careers website.

Q. Do I get any help with a laptop?
A. We do not offer support for getting a laptop unless the student has additional learning needs and can therefore apply via DSA.

Q. When is the start date of the programme as I need to let my employers know?
A. Students starting on Introducing Health and Social Care (KYE102) for University of West England students or Middlesex University (KYD102) will begin 4 February 2023. Students starting on Introducing to healthcare practice (KYE104) for University of West England or Middlesex University (KYD102) will begin 4 March 2023. There will be two days of induction before the programme starts. The Middlesex University student induction days will be on 10 and 11 January 2023. The University of the West of England student induction days will be on 12 and 13 January 2023.

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

Q. Are there any essential requirements which must be met before starting the programme?
A. All applicants must meet the Level 2 English and Maths requirements when applying to the programme. All applications are shortlisted by members of the academic staff and then invited to attend for interview, which is a requirement of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

If successful at interview you will be made an offer, which will be conditional upon meeting in full specific requirements before the start of the programme. These conditions of offer include:

- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance.
- Occupational Health clearance and completing any courses of immunisations, identified by the Occupational Health screening.
- Self-declaration of good health and character.
- Completing all necessary enrolment paperwork in full and within the specified timeframe.
- Applying for a student loan (if required) and supplying evidence of student loan approval.

Q. Do I need to have had my Hepatitis B vaccinations?
A. Any health care worker who has a reasonable expectation of being exposed to blood whilst in the practice area should have the Hepatitis B vaccine. Therefore, we would strongly recommend that you have the vaccine before starting the programme.

Q. Do I need to have had my COVID-19 vaccinations?
A. Whilst it is not mandatory for those in patient-facing roles for CQC registered services to have had their COVID-19 vaccination, we strongly encourage all our nursing students to ensure that they are fully vaccinated against the virus at the earliest opportunity and where possible prior to starting the programme.

All healthcare students, as future professionals, have a responsibility to protect patients, users of service, colleagues, their family, and themselves by getting vaccinated.