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 a number of 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.

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.

Q. Can I carry on working whilst studying?
A. Yes, but placements and attending tutorials must take precedence.

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.

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. The flexible nature of the programme allows students to complete required placement hours per block and continue to work part time at the same time for around 14 hours per week. 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. 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 located 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.

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. These dates are still to be confirmed.

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

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.