

BSc (Honours) Nursing Programme

Information for enquirers in Scotland

October 2025 entry

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Section A: General information

This booklet contains the information specific to studying Nursing with the Open University in Scotland. The next opportunity to apply for a place on our Pre-registration Nursing Programme in Scotland will be in February 2025 for October 2025 entry.

The BSc (Honours) Nursing degree (Code: R39) is a practice-based qualification in association with partnering employers. Applicants **must** be working in healthcare practice in a healthcare role where you work with registered nurses who have been prepared as supervisors and/or assessors meeting the NMC (Nursing and Midwifery Council) 2018 Standards for student supervision and assessment. This programme is funded by the Scottish Funding Council therefore students and/or workplaces do not need to provide any funding.

Students study in one of four fields of nursing:

- Adult Nursing
- Mental Health Nursing
- Learning Disabilities
- Children and Young People

Applicants need to meet the entry requirements and require their employer support before applications can be progressed (see Section C).

Course information website: [BSc \(Honours\) Nursing](#)

This is a 4-year programme, delivered in 3 Stages.

Each stage lasts for 16 months and comprises of two modules providing a balance of theory and practice where you will develop knowledge and skills required to become a registered nurse.

To study all modules, you must be employed in a suitable healthcare setting and have the support of your employer.

Please note that in Scotland, there is currently one intake per year in October.

Section B: Programme structure and content

Pathway	Adult Nursing	Children and Young People Nursing	Learning Disabilities Nursing	Mental Health Nursing
Stage 1 (120 credits)	<p>KYN102: Introducing health and social care</p> <p>KYN104: Introduction to healthcare practice</p>	<p>KYN102: Introducing health and social care</p> <p>KYN104: Introduction to healthcare practice</p>	<p>KYN102: Introducing health and social care</p> <p>KYN104: Introduction to healthcare practice</p>	<p>KYN102: Introducing health and social care</p> <p>KYN104: Introduction to healthcare practice</p>
Stage 2 (120 credits)	<p>KYN210: Understanding nursing: knowledge and theory</p> <p>KYN211: Developing nursing practice</p>	<p>KYN210: Understanding nursing: knowledge and theory</p> <p>KYN211: Developing nursing practice</p>	<p>KYN210: Understanding nursing: knowledge and theory</p> <p>KYN211: Developing nursing practice</p>	<p>KYN210: Understanding nursing: knowledge and theory</p> <p>KYN211: Developing nursing practice</p>
Stage 3 (120 credits)	<p>KYN325: Assimilating nursing: knowledge and theory</p> <p>KYN326: Becoming an autonomous practitioner: adult</p>	<p>KYN325: Assimilating nursing: knowledge and theory</p> <p>KYN329: Becoming an autonomous practitioner: children and young people</p>	<p>KYN325: Assimilating nursing: knowledge and theory</p> <p>KYN328: Becoming an autonomous practitioner: learning disabilities</p>	<p>KYN325: Assimilating nursing: knowledge and theory</p> <p>KYN327: Becoming an autonomous practitioner: mental health</p>

3) Module delivery

There are two modules in each stage of the programme.

The first module of each stage is **theory based** and delivered fully online.

Tuition is provided online by your module tutor who supports your learning and achievement in online tutorials, email or telephone-based discussions and feedback on your assessed work.

The second module in each stage of the programme is a **theory/practice-based** module. You will have an allocated module and practice tutor. You will be supported in your placements by a practice supervisor and assessed by a practice assessor. Your OU Practice Tutor/Academic Assessor will also support you in placement, linking with the practice supervisor and practice assessor. In each stage of the programme, you will complete 770 hours (3 placements), two of which are out-with your workplace. Whilst on placement as a student nurse, you are supernumerary. Placement experiences enable you to apply theory to practice and provide you with a wide range of skills and experiences to meet NMC requirements.

Section C: Programme entry requirements

4) Entry criteria

a) Education and qualifications

Applicants need to have a minimum of 10 years full time education or the equivalent – this 10 years' requirement includes primary schooling.

Applicants must have been awarded Core Skills Numeracy and Communication at SCQF level 5 or above and **be able to provide the evidence of this at the time of application.**

Please note this evidence **must** be a copy (scan or photo) of your qualification certificate, we cannot accept screenshots of your SQA page as evidence.

- Numeracy may be achieved by completing either a Maths or Numeracy course or element of a course which meets this standard. If you don't currently have the required level of Numeracy, suggested courses are available at: *
 - [Numeracy @ SCQF Level 5 | Dumfries & Galloway College \(dumgal.ac.uk\)](http://dumgal.ac.uk) **or**
 - [Core Skills: Numeracy SCQF Level 5 \(fife.ac.uk\)](http://fife.ac.uk)

- Communication may be achieved by completing either an English course or English, Literacy or a Communication element of a course which meets this standard. If you don't currently have the required level of Communication, suggested courses are available at: *
 - [Communication \(NC\) @ SCQF Level 6 | Dumfries & Galloway College \(dumgal.ac.uk\)](http://dumgal.ac.uk) **or**
 - [Literature 1 @ SCQF Level 6 | Dumfries & Galloway College \(dumgal.ac.uk\)](http://dumgal.ac.uk) **or**
 - [Online Access Course in English - SCQF 6 - Higher | University of Aberdeen | UK \(abdn.ac.uk\)](http://abdn.ac.uk)

*For NHSGGC applicants only. If you do not have the required numeracy and literacy qualifications or core skills at SCQF 5, please would you contact David Lamont, OU Employer Link for NHSGGC on David.Lamont@ggc.scot.nhs.uk who will provide further advice on how you can undertake numeracy and literacy at SCQF Level 5 via the SQA trainer in NHSGGC.

Please note that courses **must** be accredited to meet this requirement. *

Examples of these are (but not limited to):

- A module or element of a course which meets SCQF level 5 (this evidence will be shown on the Core Skills section of your SQA profile)
- National 5 unit
- Standard Grade credit grade (1 or 2)
- O Grade (Scotland) 1 or 2
- O Level A-C
- Intermediate 2
- Higher
- GCSE grades A*-C, or 9-4
- (Ireland) Level 4 Certificate
- (Ireland) Leaving Certificate
- For qualifications obtained overseas, an ENIC Statement of Comparability is required - [Statement of Comparability \(enic.org.uk\)](http://enic.org.uk)

b) Current employment and experience

You are required to be in a **permanent** post as a Health Care Support Worker (or equivalent role) working a minimum of 26 hours per week whilst on placement. Ideally you should have a minimum of 1 years' experience of working as a Health Care Support Worker, and you must have your line manager's support to study for the programme.

c) References

We will require a reference from your current line manager as part of your application.

If you have previously commenced nursing studies with another university within the last 7 years, we will require an academic reference from them which includes a summary of whether there were any issues of professionalism identified during your studies. If you are successful in being offered a place on the programme, we would at that stage ask you to request this reference.

d) Right to Work in the UK

Please note that due to how this programme is funded (detailed in Section C, part 10), you must have the right to work in the UK on an unlimited time basis to be eligible to study on this programme. This means that if you do not hold British or Irish nationality, you would need to hold EU Settlement / Pre-Settlement status, Indefinite Leave to Remain, or similar status. If your immigration approval contains the comment 'No public funds', this means you cannot apply to this programme at this time.

All applicants will be requested to submit a copy of this evidence with your application to ensure that we would be able to progress your application through our recruitment process. Therefore, if you are British or Irish, we would need to receive a copy of your passport or birth certificate as evidence. If you are another nationality, we would need to receive a copy of your passport **and** immigration status as evidence.

Please note, this evidence must be submitted at the point of application.

e) In addition, candidates must be of:

- **Good character** as evidenced through membership of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme. Successful candidates offered a place on the programme will be contacted to provide evidence required by Disclosure Scotland. Following a process of document checking, a new PVG as an OU Student Nurse will be requested
- **Good health** as evidenced through the self-declaration of health status, occupational health screening, and review of previous sickness and absence records

5) Partners

Applicants who meet all the above criteria & who are supported by eligible employers may apply for a place on the Nursing Degree.

The Open University currently offers the Pre-registration Nursing Programme in Scotland in partnership with the Scottish Government and all NHS (Scotland) Boards.

6) Working in a Health Board

If you are employed in a healthcare support worker role within NHS Scotland, please complete the 'Nursing Enquirer form' confirming which Health Board you are employed in, and we will be able to provide you with more information relevant to your area.

7) Working in a Care Home, Private Employer or GP Practice

If you work in a Care Home or for a private employer and meet the entry criteria above, we will need to know the name, type and location of your employer and whether your workplace currently takes pre-registration nursing students on practice placement. We will then ask one of our Staff Tutors to advise if the programme is available in your area / workplace setting.

8) Credit Transfer

The OU offers a process called credit transfer which assesses whether you would be given academic credit on the nursing programme for study you have undertaken in another educational institution. To be eligible to apply for credit transfer, you will need to have undergone a successful recruitment and selection process.

Your previous study must have been at the same level as OU modules (SCQF level 7 or above) in a nursing or healthcare programme within the last 5 years. Credit transfer is not guaranteed and the maximum credit transfer available for the nursing degree is 180 credits.

More information is available at [Credit transfer | Open University](#) Please note, you are unable to apply for credit transfer until you have been offered a place on the programme.

9) Credit Migration

If you have previously studied achieved K102 / K104, then you will be eligible to receive credit migration. If you have studied K102, you would commence the programme on KYN104, whereas if you had studied K102 and K104, then you would receive credit migration for Stage 1, and would commence the programme in Stage 2. If you achieved the earlier modules K101 and K117, you may be eligible for credit migration depending on time lapsed.

10) Fees & funding

This programme is funded by the Scottish Funding Council therefore students and/or workplaces do not need to provide any funding.

In addition, whilst the student is on placement, their own workplace will receive backfill funding.

Please note that we cannot accept students onto the programme in Scotland who are self-funding, or their funding is supplied by a private employer.

Section D: Recruitment and selection process

11) Awareness and Information Sessions

Awareness and Information sessions are held regularly and will cover entry requirements, an overview of the programme and how to apply along with the opportunity to ask questions to one of our Staff Tutors. These are advertised via social media and your employer. Local Health Board sessions run from late Autumn through to January.

12) Selection process

There is a formal selection process, requiring all applicants to:

- Complete the Scotland Nursing Enquiry 2025 form -
- Complete the OU application form, which will include a personal statement. This will be sent to everyone who has completed an Enquiry form when the application form is available from February 2025
- Provide evidence they meet the academic entry requirements
- Provide evidence that (due to funding requirements) they meet the Right to Work criteria
- Provide evidence that their application is supported by their Line Manager, Senior Manager and Budget Holder (using the template provided in the application pack)
- Ensure that their Line Manager provides a reference using the template provided in the application pack
- Take part in the selection process. OU Staff Tutors and OU board partners jointly shortlist all applicants. Shortlisted applicants are invited to attend an interview which will include a face-to-face interview either in person (in the partner Health Board) or conducted via MS Teams

If offered a place on the programme, the applicant will need to:

- Complete all required registration forms by the date specified in the offer letter
- Complete Occupational Health forms and provide the evidence requested
- Undertake a check under the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme to be registered as an OU Student Nurse

13) Timescales

The process from submitting an application to receiving an outcome of interview takes approximately 5 months. Although exact dates for the October 2025 recruitment process are still to be confirmed, approximate timescales are:

- The application window is expected to open from early February to early March
- Shortlisting is expected to take place by mid-May. Applicants will be notified if they have been successful or not at this stage (and if successful, invited to interview)
- Interviews are expected to be completed by the end of June
- All interviewed applicants across Scotland will be advised of their interview outcome once all interviews have concluded (expected to be by the mid to end of July)

14) How to apply

If you meet the above criteria and wish to note your interest in this programme (and receive an application pack) for October 2025 entry, please complete and submit:

[Scotland Nursing Enquiry Form](#)

This process should only take a few minutes to complete. Please note that most fields on the form are mandatory to allow us to provide region-specific information to you.

Please only complete this form once, unless your contact / working details change.

15) Contact details

To contact the OU in Scotland Nursing Team with any queries not answered in this guidance, please email scotland-nursing-applications@open.ac.uk advising which NHS region you work in and your query, and we will arrange for someone to contact you.

Please note that although there are other avenues to contact the Open University, the above email address is a direct contact to our team, and we will be able to provide a more timely and specific response if the query is directed here.