



The Open  
University

# PRE-REGISTRATION NURSING DEGREE PROGRAMME



For over 16 years we've delivered a highly successful work-based Pre-registration Nursing programme in partnership with healthcare employers. Over 1,700 Health Care Support Workers (HCSW's) have qualified as registered nurses since 2002 and there are more than 1,400 student nurses currently studying with us. Successful completion of our Pre-registration Nursing Degree Programme (PRNDP) will advance you towards registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as a registered nurse.

## KEY BENEFITS OF OUR PROGRAMME

### FOR YOU

- Provides a flexible and structured career pathway towards becoming a registered nurse.
- Allows you to earn while you learn and put theory into practice straight away.
- Online content and forums are available 24/7 to support high quality education and learning, regardless of your location.

### FOR YOUR EMPLOYER

- Addresses nursing workforce shortages by investing in staff training and nurturing talent, in order to support the growth and efficiency of organisations.
- Students immediately apply new evidence-based learning into practice, for the positive benefit of service users.

Our programme currently leads to a qualification in either adult or mental health nursing. We're currently developing new curriculum for implementation in September 2020, which subject to NMC approval will lead to a qualification in either adult, mental health, learning disability or children's nursing.



### WHO'S IT FOR?

Our programme is designed for HCSW's who've demonstrated the capabilities, motivation and commitment to work and study at the same time. It provides the opportunity to train to be a registered nurse for those who full-time study is not an option.

Nursing is a highly rewarding, interesting and challenging career with opportunities to work with people of all ages and backgrounds in a variety of settings including hospitals, residential care, the justice system, the community and in people's own homes. Nurses need to have excellent people skills, an ability to think analytically whilst also using their initiative to deliver hands-on care in a continuously developing and changing healthcare environment.

Nursing roles can combine a clinical career with research, education or management. Increasingly healthcare is moving from hospitals and into community settings, where nurses support people with long-term conditions to live at home. Nursing roles can be within the NHS or within private, voluntary and independent sector organisations, many of whom provide care to NHS patients.

### WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

Our programme is made up of at least 4,600 hours, with an equal divide between theory and practice learning hours. It's split into 3 stages consisting of 60 credits of theoretical study and 60 credits of practice learning in each stage. For more information on the modules you'll study go to [openuniversity.co.uk/nursing](https://openuniversity.co.uk/nursing).

## Theoretical study

Your learning will be delivered flexibly around the demands of your work place, using our tutor-supported, rich media online delivery methods. Learning is accessible 24/7 and can be delivered simultaneously to various locations using tried and tested educational technology.

Assessments include tutor marked assessments (TMAs), end of module assessments (EMAs), examinations and a portfolio of practice experience.

Study leave is negotiated between you and your employer.

## Learning in practice

The NMC requires nursing students to spend at least 2,300 hours of the Pre-registration Nursing Degree Programme learning in clinical practice. You must be supported to learn in practice, without being included in the staffing numbers required to deliver safe and effective care – this is referred to as supernumerary.

Practice learning experiences need to be across a diverse range of care contexts and service user groups, in both community and in-patient settings. You'll have a core practice base, which is usually your place of employment, which will make up approximately 60% of your practice hours. The remaining 40% is gained in alternative practice placements, to ensure you gain the full breadth and depth of experience required by the NMC. On average you'll spend two days a week on supernumerary practice learning and must gain experience working both day and night shifts.

Within the clinical setting you'll need access to sufficient registered nurses to support your learning and development, while also meeting the *NMC (2018) Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment*.

## WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

We're open to everyone and as such don't have any formal entry requirements, other than those set by the NMC:

- Applicants must be working in a healthcare setting with registered nurses who meet the *NMC (2018) Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment* and they must also have the support of their employer.
- You must have achieved Functional skills level 2 in English and maths (GCSE Grade C/4 or above).
- Have passed a satisfactory criminal disclosure check (DBS or equivalent).
- Occupational health clearance.
- Two references, one of which must be from your current employer.
- An academic reference if you have previously commenced a nursing programme at another university.
- Throughout the recruitment and selection process, applicants must demonstrate having the appropriate values and personal qualities for nursing.

## CREDIT TRANSFER

If you've successfully completed higher education which is relevant to the programme, you may be eligible for credit transfer leading to a shortened period of study. For more information speak with the nursing staff tutor/ education manager or go to [openuniversity.co.uk/credit-transfer](https://openuniversity.co.uk/credit-transfer).

## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

The programme is studied over approximately four years, based on students working a minimum of 30 hours per week, and starts in February (England only) and September.



## WE'LL SUPPORT YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY

We provide a range of support to learners and their employers:

- **Practice tutors** - will help to integrate your learning into the workplace and support the delivery of the practice-based learning modules throughout your studies.
- **Academic module tutors** - facilitate learning for the theory modules throughout the programme providing personalised tuition, delivering online tutorials, marking assignments and giving extensive feedback in order to develop your academic writing skills.
- **Nursing staff tutor/education manager** - support employers to deliver the programme, in order to meet organisational needs and the quality assurance requirements set by the NMC for practice learning.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The fees and funding options depend on where you live in the UK. For more information on how much it will cost, how you can fund your studies - including tuition fee loans, sponsorship and apprenticeships - please go to [openuniversity.co.uk/nursing-funding](https://openuniversity.co.uk/nursing-funding).

## EMPLOYER INFORMATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the employer to allocate a member of staff who will liaise with the OU staff tutor/education manager to ensure that their employees on the programme have access to learning resources, practice assessors and practice supervisors or mentors, in order to achieve the practice outcomes. The employer responsibilities are:

- To work with the OU to recruit and select members of staff, who are suitable to undertake a work-based distance learning Pre-registration Nursing Degree Programme.
- If sponsoring employees, they pay the nursing students tuition fees.
- Provide practice learning opportunities, which meet NMC standards for pre-registration nursing programmes.
- Participate in the audit of practice learning environments.
- Identify registered nurses who are suitably trained to supervise and assess nursing students in clinical practice (practice supervisor/assessor or mentor).
- Ensure that there are sufficient practice supervisors/assessors or mentors available to support nursing students on clinical placement, including cover for annual leave, sickness, special leave and staff leaving.
- Release nursing students (employees) to undertake at least 2,300 hours of supernumerary practice, across the three stages of the programme.
- In consultation with the OU identify and arrange employees alternative practice placements, in other healthcare settings.
- Release nursing students to take part in face to face or online facilitated learning, as required by the programme.
- Provide sufficient time in clinical practice for the nursing student, to regularly meet with their practice assessor/supervisor (mentor) in order to discuss their progress and areas for further development.
- To inform the OU of any changes to the practice learning environment, which might affect the learning opportunities for nursing students.
- To immediately inform the OU, if they become aware of any issues that might affect a student's fitness to practice.



## WHAT TO DO NEXT

### STUDENTS

To find out more, speak to your line manager or your organisation's learning and development team, in order to find out whether they currently work with the OU on this programme. If not you may find it useful to share this information with them.

### EMPLOYERS

Contact our team on  
**01908 654229.**

The Open University is incorporated by Royal Charter (RC 000391), an exempt charity in England & Wales, and a charity registered in Scotland (SC 038302). The Open University is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority in relation to its secondary activity of credit broking.

Printed by Newnorth Print on FSC® certified stocks and using 100% vegetable inks.

Frontcover image:  
© Chris Floyd  
Copyright © 2019  
The Open University.  
SUP 084125

