

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This Programme Specification is correct as of the date indicated; however, minor amendments may be made throughout the year and will be incorporated in the annual updating process.

SECTION A: DETAILS OF THE COURSE AND AWARD

Programme Title	MSc. Nursing
Awarding Body	Buckinghamshire New University
Teaching Institution	Buckinghamshire New University
Faculty	Society & Health
School	Advanced & Continuing Practice
Name of Final Award	Master of Science, MSc
NQF/FHEQ Level of Qualification	Level 7: Master's degree
QAA Benchmark Statement(s)	<p>This programme has been developed in accordance with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) and meets the requirements for master level study <i>Level 7</i>.</p> <p>This programme has been examined against the QAA Subject Benchmark for <i>Health and Nursing</i></p> <p>This programme has been designed to meet the requirements of the <i>Skills for Health Knowledge and Skills Framework</i></p>
UCAS Code	NA
Course Code(s)	MP1NUR2
Mode and Length of Study	One Year Part Time
Number of Intakes	Two Intakes Annually in February and September
Regime of Delivery	Attendance
Language of Study	English
Details of Accreditation	NA
Publication Date	29 March 2013 / February 2020

Potential Student Profile / Criteria for Admission:

What the award is about and who the programme is aimed at:

This award has been developed to enable potential students who hold a Postgraduate Diploma Prequalifying Nursing with NMC registration in the UK to 'top-up' their award to a full Masters qualification. Though primarily designed to meet the needs of Buckinghamshire New University Graduates, the programme is also open to students who have undertaken a commensurate programme externally. Potential applicants do not need to have completed a period of additional practice following registration prior to starting the programme, though they should be employed within a healthcare setting to facilitate application of the research to practice.

Entry requirements include:

- A Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (pre-qualifying) with registration with the NMC
- Employment in clinical practice.
- If the PgDip taken outside of Bucks New University, then evidence of successful completion of a level 7 research module will be required

Why students should choose this award:

Students should choose this award if they have completed a postgraduate diploma in prequalifying nursing and wish to 'Top up' this award to a masters degree enabling them to develop their research skills within a practice environment. At a time of ongoing changes in NHS Education and the workforce, achievement of a masters degree will add significant value to a CV promoting achievement of academic rigour, problem solving, critical analysis and evaluation and synthesis of evidence. In light of the Francis Report (DoH 2013) and the resulting recommendations the award will facilitate the implementation of evidence based practice.

Opportunities available for students after completion of the award:

Students may find they have additional opportunities for employment because of their enhanced critical thinking and problem solving skills developed through evidence based research. The qualification will allow them to work with degree level prequalifying students providing academic guidance. On completion they may wish to study further at level 8. Currently two options exist a PhD and the Doctorate in Nursing or Education. This would be natural progression to develop research skills and support evidence based practice

Expected knowledge and skills that the entrant will have on entry to the programme:

Students will enter the programme having demonstrated they have met the generic statement of outcomes set out in the qualification descriptor within The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) (QAA 2008). This framework sets out what graduates should demonstrate and the wider abilities that they would have expected to have been developed. Additionally, they will have met the competencies and standards required by the NMC for Nurse Registration in all fields, and have experienced clinical practice in a variety of settings whilst completing their postgraduate programme and additionally in their current employment. Students will have undertaken a research module at academic level seven as part of their previous programme of study.

SECTION B: PROGRAMME AIMS, OUTCOMES, LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

Programme Aims

The main educational aims of the programme are to:

1. To support the student in undertaking an independent piece of research; a work based project; extended literature review or research study.
2. Enable the student to demonstrate the ability to synthesise and evaluate knowledge at an advanced level, through the systematic investigation of a topic relevant to their workplace.

Programme Learning Outcomes

A. Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of the programme a graduate will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the methods of collection, and analysis of data/findings in the development of an independent piece of research/ research project/work related study
2. Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge to construct recommendations for future research or practice innovation

B. Intellectual/Cognitive Skills

On successful completion of the programme a graduate will be able to:

1. Critically discuss the identification of a research topic, which where necessary involves gaining ethics approval
2. Systematically and creatively evaluate related literature to their chosen research area, identifying unique practice related insights into the cited literature
3. Critically debate and analyse the justification of an appropriate methodology for their chosen research
4. Synthesise conclusions from the research

C. Practical Skills

On successful completion of the programme a graduate will be able to:

1. Manage complex issues in an organised manner
2. Independently manage a research process in a timely manner

D. Key/Transferable Skills

On successful completion of the programme a graduate will be able to:

1. Support collaboration and effective working relationships
2. Employ advanced reflective skills to develop as an independent learner throughout scholarly activity and autonomous working
3. Identify continuing professional development needs in response to relevant professional requirements.
4. Demonstrate personal attributes to allow them to continually challenge boundaries

Table 1: Programme Skills Matrix – Assessment

Module Code	Information Acquisition	Critical thinking, analysis and synthesis	Self-reflection and Criticality	Communication Skills: Oral	Communication Skills: Written	Information & Communications Technology (ICT)	Numeracy & Quantitative Skills	Problem Solving & Decision Making	Independent & Self-managed Learning	Working with Others
PF747	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods to achieve the Programme Learning Outcomes

Teaching and Learning Strategy

Teaching and learning strategies employed within the programme reflect the nature of the learning experience at Level 7 and the target audience. Strategies adopted will encourage further student independence and learning from and through experience, using reflection, and the development of the skills required to practice. The prior experience and expertise inherent within this student population will be actively employed. Paramount to the teaching and learning strategy will be the value placed on the student's own experience of practice and theoretical underpinnings of practice. The programme will provide a model of care that will be reflected in the students' practice. This is analogous to the teacher-student relationship and the healthcare professional-patient relationship.

Materials that are used to support module delivery will be made available within a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). This might include PowerPoint slides, handouts, worksheets, website links, and articles electronically scanned into PDF files. Discussion boards will be set up to aid interactive discussion between students and lecturers. These can be accessed on or off campus.

The module will be front loaded with taught sessions in the form of key lectures/seminars to impart key information regarding research process, methodologies and expectations of the programme. Subsequently, the module will be delivered using supervision. Each student will be allocated an academic supervisor to guide them through their dissertation. Meetings between the student and supervisor will be arranged regularly and will enable:

- Generation and development of the aim and research question for the dissertation
- Identification of a search strategy and exploration of relevant literature to inform the study
- Development of an appropriate research strategy to meet the requirements of the research question
- Presentation of research findings, methodology, discussion, accurate Harvard referencing and application to practice, promoting evidence based practice
- Continuous feedback from the supervisor in an agreed format between the student and the supervisor.

The emphasis will be on student support and facilitation enabling tailoring of support to meet individual student need. Supervision will be allocated as per normal university guidelines of 20 minutes per student per week. The Learning Development Unit and the Library are examples of additional support that maybe accessed by the student where appropriate.

Students accessing the programme from within Bucks will have already undertaken a research module, which prepares them for academic work of this nature. Students accessing the programme having studied elsewhere will have to demonstrate that they have undertaken a research module at academic level seven and at interview demonstrate their ideas for the forthcoming dissertation. The course team can then facilitate access to additional support as required, for example the learning development unit. The dissertation presented is a unique piece of work that is assessed at regular intervals during preparation. The University is working towards using Turnitin for electronic submission of all assessments where able.

Assessment

The MSc Nursing is a one year programme that enables the student to complete study in the achievement of a Masters qualification. The assessment of a 60 credit dissertation is in line with the QAA (2010) Masters Degree Characteristics, which states that normally a third of a master's programme is devoted to a research project, leading to a dissertation or the production of an output equivalent.

Dissertation guides will be issued to the students at the start of the module, and will provide the guidelines and criteria to which the student will conform and ensure the learning outcomes of the module are met. These guidelines will present the different options available to the student in completing a dissertation and may include, for example an extended literature review; a work based project; an audit or primary research.

The assessment will be marked against the Faculty marking guidelines for academic level 7 and dissertation guidelines developed by the module leader.

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The programme will conform to the University Framework and Assessment Regulations.

The assessment will be handed in within week 30 of the students' semester 2 timetables in line with the University Calendar assessment week, and agreed prior to the commencement of the academic year. i.e. June for students commencing in September and January for students accessing the programme in February.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME STRUCTURE(S) AND MATRIX MAPPING

Table 2: Programme Structure Table

Course Title		MSc Nursing							
Course Code		MP1NUR2							
Mode of Study		Full Time							
Credit Value		UK	60		ECTS		30		
Module Code	Module Title	QCF/FHEQ Level	Course Stage / Year	Status in Award ([C]ore / [O]ptional)	Credit Value	Assessment Regime			Semester Taught
						Written Exam %	Coursework %	Practical %	
PF747	Dissertation	7	1		60		100		YL

Table 3: Mapping of Programme Outcomes to Modules

Programme Outcome	Level 4 (Code)	Level 5 (Code)	Level 6 (Code)	Level 7 (Code)	Level 8 (Code)
A. Knowledge and Understanding					
A1				PF747	

Programme Outcome	Level 4 (Code)	Level 5 (Code)	Level 6 (Code)	Level 7 (Code)	Level 8 (Code)
A2				PF747	
B. Intellectual / Cognitive Skills					
B1				PF747	
B2				PF747	
B3				PF747	
B4				PF747	
C. Practical Skills					
C1				PF747	
C2				PF747	
D. Key / Transferable Skills					
D1				PF747	
D2				PF747	
D3				PF747	
D4				PF747	

SECTION D: CONTACT HOURS

Hours are worked on the basis of full-time study. 1 Academic Credit is equated to 10 notional learning hours. Module Descriptors provide detailed breakdowns of the categories given below.

Table 4: Breakdown of Contact Hours

Year of course	Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities	Guided Independent Study	Placement / Study Abroad	Total
1	26	574	NA	600
Total	26	574	0	600

SECTION E: ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

This programme conforms to the approved University procedures as detailed on the University website with the following exceptions:

The following modules may not be condoned:* PF747. Only two attempts at the assessment may be made by the student.

* *Delete as applicable*

This programme will be covered by the following University regulations: *University Academic Framework and Assessment Regulations*

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