



Foundation Degree/Higher Apprenticeship Assistant Practitioner Degree

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does a mentor need to be assigned for the learner?

Each learner on the programme requires a mentor in their workplace to support them with the completion of their practice assessment documents throughout the two years of the programme. These documents are similar to the year 1 pre-registration nursing and include a range of foundation clinical skills and competencies that reflect the role of an Assistant Practitioner.

Who can be a mentor?

The mentor is usually a Registered Nurse but can be a senior clinical support worker or the manager of the learner's workplace.

Does the mentor need to have a recognised mentorship qualification?

No, this is not a requirement.

Do mentors receive any help from the university?

Personal Tutors and the Programme Lead are available throughout the programme via email and phone for support if required and to answer any relevant questions that the learner, mentor and employers may have.

How many hours a week does the mentor need to support the learner?

On average, the learner will require approximately an hour a week with the mentor throughout the two year programme.

Do the learners need to submit essays?

Yes, as this is a Foundation Degree, level 4 and 5 assessments are required for each module throughout the two year programme. There are also exams and an assessed presentation.

Can the programme help me join the pre-registration nursing course?

Yes, if learners successfully complete the Assistant Practitioner programme, this qualification can count towards entry requirement onto a pre-registration nursing course if accepted by a university that provides nurse training. Please note that is not the case for pre-registration midwifery programmes.

Can the programme be accessed as an Apprenticeship?

Yes. Candidates would need to confirm this with their employers that this would be applicable to them prior to applying for the programme. Advice can also be sought from the Apprenticeship Hub at Buckinghamshire New University via Ahteam@bucks.ac.uk

Will I need to attend an academic interview for the programme?

Yes. Once email confirmation of employer support has been received by the Admissions team and the candidate meets the entry criteria, all candidates will need to attend and be successful at academic interview before commencing the Assistant Practitioner programme.

Who pays for the programme fees?

If learners are self-funding, they should apply for a student loan. If learners are applying via the Apprenticeship route, the learner's employer will pay for the fees with a combination of local and governmental funding.

Do learners attend university for seminars every week?

All learners attend seminars in university one day every other week during semester time and then are expected to negotiate with their employers to have the one day every other week as study time to complete their practice assessment documents. Learners attending the programme via the Apprenticeship route are allowed 20% time off the job experience throughout the programme.

Which campus will the programme run from?

The programme is offered across all three campuses but the decision for the location for each cohort is decided upon with the location that suits the majority of the learners for each intake of the programme. Currently, the course is being taught online.

Any other questions can be directed to the Programme Lead Christina Ebanks on Christina.Ebanks@bucks.ac.uk