

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Key Information

Programme Title:	FdA Health and Social Care
Awarding Institution:	Buckinghamshire New University
Teaching Institution(s):	Buckinghamshire New University
Subject Cluster:	Social Work
Award Title (including separate Pathway Award Titles where offered):	FdA Health and Social Care
Pathways (if applicable)	
FHEQ level of final award:	Level 5
Other award titles available (exit qualifications):	Certificate of Higher Education
Accreditation details:	N/A
Length of programme:	2 years
Mode(s) of Study:	Full Time
Mode of Delivery:	In person (on-site) delivery
Language of study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark(s):	No subject benchmarks
Other external reference points (e.g. Apprenticeship Standard):	
Course Code(s):	FAHASCFT
UCAS Code(s):	L510
Approval date:	February 2023
Date of last update:	April 2024

2. Programme Summary

Structured around employment in the health and social care sector, this course has been designed with relevant employers to meet the demanding needs of the industry.

You will develop specialist knowledge and skills in care work as well as analysis and evaluation meaning you can make a positive impact in whatever career you choose to pursue.

By studying our FDA Health and Social Care, you'll open doors to opportunities to work with young offenders, those with mental health needs, learning disabilities and the vulnerable, elderly and disabled. The breadth of subjects you'll study on this course will give you an

introduction and insight into the ethics of caring for vulnerable people in our society. This knowledge will aim to deepen your development and understanding of working in the health and social care sector and subsequently increase employment opportunities for you in the future.

Learners will have some choice within the programme with an opportunity to choose from a range of Opportunity modules worth 20 credits in Level 4 and Level 5.

3. Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

Programme Aims

This programme aims to:

- Provide the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary for successful employment within health and social care. It will provide the necessary academic grounding for progression to study at Honours degree level
- Provide an educational foundation and insight into health and social care policies to guide the students' career choice in health and care sector and understand how these policies impact on the overall welfare of clients requiring health and social care
- Provide specialist studies directly relevant to individual vocations and professions in which students are working
- Provide flexible skills and motivation as a basis for future studies and career development
- Develop students' ability in the health and care environment through effective use and combination of the knowledge and skills gained in different parts of the programme
- Develop skills in self- promotion and personal professional development
- Develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attributes essential for successful performance in the world of work. This will include an understanding of risk management behaviours, communication skills and attitudes and knowledge of the health and social care context in the UK

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding (K)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
K1	To demonstrate an understanding of the current health and social care sector and evaluate current change within the sector
K2	Understand community approaches and initiatives in health and social care that build upon client capacity and well being
K3	Understand the significance health and social care policy has on working with clients in the care sector
K4	Identify and understand the effectiveness of different forms of communication
K5	Explore and demonstrate an understanding of research methodologies relevant to health and social care

Analysis and Criticality (C)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
C1	Critically articulate different styles and theories of leadership
C2	Critically evaluate current literature in the field of health and social care
C3	Critically discuss managerialism in the care sector
C4	Recognise the leadership and management skills required to maintain quality care and positive care environment in a health and social care setting
C5	Evaluate key theories and articulate a holistic view of human health

Application and Practice (P)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
P1	Promote anti-discriminatory practice and social justice through advocacy and empowerment
P2	Explore the importance of maintaining confidentiality within communication in the health and social care setting
P3	Apply risk assessment in the care planning process when responding to the individual needs of clients
P4	Establish a link between sociology, psychology and health
P5	Consider community approaches and initiatives in health and social care that build client capacity and well being

Transferable skills and other attributes (T)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
T1	Demonstrate organisational skills in the presentation of a carefully designed and logically developed literature review
T2	Demonstrate personal and professional insight in relation to future employability in the presentation of a curriculum vitae and personal statement
T3	Critically reflect on continuing professional and personal development of self and others in order to enhance knowledge, skills and attitudes
T4	Articulate current professional issues in relation to their chosen field of practice
T5	Understand the changing concepts and frameworks of identity and individual need to develop culturally sensitive services

Graduate Attributes

The BNU Graduate Attributes of: Knowledge and its application; Creativity; Social and ethical awareness and responsibility; and Leadership and self-development focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens.

On this programme, attributes are developed through:

Demonstrating an understanding of contemporary approaches in the health and social care sector. (K 1-5)

Demonstrating an ability to critically evaluate theories in leadership and management in the health and social care sector. (C 1-5)

Students will also be enabled to use skills and values gained from the programme to work effectively in interprofessional settings in community health and social sectors (P 1-5)

Finally, students will develop key skills of communication and organisational skills that will further their career progression. (T 1-5)

4. Entry Requirements

The University's [general entry requirements](#) will apply to admission to this programme

- A typical offer will require a UCAS tariff score of: 56 - 80

If you do not meet the entry requirements you may, if you have relevant professional experience, still be invited for interview, where you will be required to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and understanding for entry onto the course.

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules in accordance with our [accreditation of prior learning](#) (APL) process.

5. Programme Structure

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Exit Awards
Level 4	Core modules: HSC4001 Epidemiology and Health Science – 20 credits HSC4002 Health and Social Sciences – 20 credits HSC4003 Health and Social Care Policies – 20 credits HSC4004 Understanding Culture and Communities – 20 credits HSC4005 Effective Communication in Health and Social Care – 20 credits HSC4026 Developing Reflective and Analytical Skills- 20 credits	Certificate of Higher Education, awarded on achievement of 120 credits at Level 4
Level 5	Core modules: HSC5001 Lifelong Career in Health and Social Care – 20 credits HSC5002 Developing Personal and Professional Practice – 20 credits HSC5003 Contemporary Issues in Management and Change – 20 credits HSC5004 Principles of Research Methodologies in Health and Social Care – 20 credits HSC5014 Leadership and Management of Health and Social Sciences – 20 credits HSC5024 Interprofessional Practice and Education – 20 credits	N/A

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to changes in the subject area.

6. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and teaching

The programme uses a range of teaching and learning methods to promote the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills including:

- Lectures
- Group work/ discussions
- Debates
- Seminars
- Role play
- Presentations
- Work related practice
- Guest speakers
- Self-directed study

The teaching and learning strategy for this programme acknowledges the individual differences and students' previous learning experiences. **Individual module tutorials** facilitate student learning by addressing specific knowledge, understanding and skills needs on an individual basis and remains an integral aspect of the relationship between staff and student in respect to independent academic supervision.

Weekly group and individual tutorials give the students the opportunity to learn essential academic skills and offer the potential for a purposely student led interactive forum for knowledge sharing and acquisition. It is an opportunity for recognising the extra pastoral needs of individual students.

The dissemination of knowledge via **lectures** is not delivered in isolation to other methods of delivery. However, it does form a necessarily structured approach to imparting knowledge especially in specific modules such as epidemiology and social policy. Lectures will present relevant subject information in a structured manner in order to outline key themes, issues and debates and thus provide students with the underpinning knowledge from which to develop practice and conduct further self-directed learning.

Seminars will be used to facilitate smaller group-based discussion, building on the knowledge gained from the lectures. This enables students to analyse theoretical and topical issues in a detailed and in-depth manner. Seminars comprise a range of activities including group discussions, presentations and class debates. Direct examples of seminar-based work include the use of videos to explore the key concepts addressed in the lectures. Further examples include the lecturers using problems and questions relevant to the assessment, both formative and summative to foster scholarship. Seminars also start the process of ensuring the students begin to learn independently whilst fostering their communication and group working skills whilst giving them the opportunity to learn from the work of others.

Guest speakers give the students the chance to learn from academic or professional experts from their specific fields of practice. Students will be given the opportunity to question and learn from these experts in the field of health and social care.

Workshops & practical sessions will provide opportunities to enhance skill development in a practical setting, which will typically involve practical tasks/skills application and problem-solving techniques. The skills lab will be utilised for some of these workshops to give the students the opportunity of working with a 'person' (using simulation) in a health/social care environment.

Equality and Diversity is specifically covered in 'Understanding Culture and Communities' module. Nevertheless, through the integration of equality and diversity in all of the modules within the Foundation Degree it will ensure that this theme underpins and threads through all aspects of the student's behaviours, conduct and understanding within the university and workplace setting.

Students are encouraged to undertake **independent reading and research**, using both printed and electronic material to complement, widen, deepen and consolidate their knowledge and understanding. The programme provides increasing opportunities for self-directed and autonomous learning, particularly as students move from Level 4 to Level 5. For example, two of the modules in Level 5; Developing Personal and Professional Practice and Life-long Career in Health and Social Care are significantly reliant upon students becoming increasingly responsible for their own independent learning to complete successfully the assessment tasks, although on-going formative assessment and support to student learning is provided via tutorials.

The programme affords students considerable scope to achieve knowledge and skills in terms of the explicit requirements of the module outcomes at Level 4 & Level 5. The modules have been developed in a way that students on the programme will be given the opportunity to gradually develop their understanding of skills that are required for the health and social care workforce. This will be assisted by tutorials and interactional lectures where students will be expected to develop and extend upon lecture themes in class and share and consolidate their knowledge and learning. The use of VLE will be an integral part of the learning and all students will be encouraged to utilise this method of teaching and learning. It will be used particularly when working on the e-portfolio which forms part of the assessment for module Developing personal and professional practice. Students will also be encouraged to use blogs and other forms of VLE to enhance their student experience and prepare them for using technology in the workplace.

Work Experience

As part of the student's personal development the responsibility of finding a health and social care setting to work in remains with them. Work experience is not mandatory, but students are encouraged to gain some work experience, either through paid or voluntary work. Students will have to arrange these days around their personal circumstances and there is no finite number of days that students are expected to work.

The personal tutor will advise the student as to the appropriateness of the workplace they have chosen. It must be noted that this is NOT a work-based programme, therefore the placement will not have to be audited. However, the health and social care team have a number of links where students may be able to gain work experience.

The student may already be in part time employment or be working in a voluntary capacity within a health and social care setting. In this instance the suitability of this work experience will be discussed with the Course Leader. The advantage of the student identifying their own area is that they can find a placement in their own locality in a health and social care speciality that is of particular interest to them, or in a service that they might wish to gain future employment. It is the responsibility of the chosen placement to carry out a disclosure and barring check on the student.

Assessment

The assessment strategy consists of essays and presentations with opportunities for formative assessments provided within the assessment structure.

Contact Hours

Learners can expect to receive approximately 600 hours of scheduled learning activities within core modules over the duration of the programme. There will be further number of contact hours depending on the opportunity modules chosen by the learner. A full breakdown of contact hours can be found in individual module descriptors.

7. Programme Regulations

This programme will be subject to the following assessment regulations:

- *Regulations for Taught Degree Programmes (2023)*

8. Support for learners

The following systems are in place to support you to be successful with your studies:

- The appointment of a personal tutor to support you through your programme
- A programme handbook and induction at the beginning of your studies
- Library resources, include access to books, journals and databases - many of which are available in electronic format – and support from trained library staff
- Access to Blackboard, our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which is accessible via PC, laptop, tablet or mobile device
- Access to the MyBNU portal where you can access all University systems, information and news, record your attendance at sessions, and access your personalised timetable
- Academic Registry staff providing general guidance on University regulations, exams, and other aspects of students and course administration
- Central student services, including teams supporting academic skills development, career success, student finance, accommodation, chaplaincy, disability and counselling
- Support from the Bucks Students' Union, including the Students' Union Advice Centre which offers free and confidential advice on University processes.

9. Programme monitoring and review

BNU has a number of ways for monitoring and reviewing the quality of learning and teaching on your programme. You will be able to comment on the content of their programme via the following feedback mechanisms:

- Formal feedback questionnaires and anonymous module 'check-ins'
- Participation in external surveys
- Programme Committees, via appointed student representatives
- Informal feedback to your programme leader

Quality and standards on each programme are assured via the following mechanisms:

- An initial event to approve the programme for delivery
- An annual report submitted by the External Examiner following a process of external moderation of work submitted for assessment
- The Annual Monitoring process, which is overseen by the University's Education Committee
- Review by the relevant PSRB(s)
- Periodic Subject Review events held every five years
- Other sector compliance and review mechanisms

10. Internal and external reference points

Design and development of this programme has been informed by the following internal and external reference points:

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- The QAA Subject Benchmark Statement – see detailed mapping below
- The QAA Foundation Degree Characteristics Statement
- The BNU Qualifications and Credit Framework
- The BNU Grading Descriptors
- The University Strategy

Mapping of Programme Learning Outcomes to Modules

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)					
	Module Code (Core)	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Level 4																					
HSC4001	X	X	X		X									X							
HSC4002							X			X			X	X							
HSC4003	X	X					X						X								
HSC4004		X													X						X
HSC4005				X								X									
HSC4026							X					X				X	X				
Level 5																					
HSC5001																X	X	X	X		
HSC5002											X	X				X	X	X	X		
HSC5003	X							X													
HSC5004					X					X											
HSC5014						X		X	X							X	X	X	X		
HSC5024		X	X							X			X		X			X			X