

# Programme handbook - MSc Specialist Practice: District Nursing

**Programme Lead: Cat Andrews**

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## Aims of the handbook

The handbook is designed to provide information relevant to the programme. The information in the handbook may also be provided in several other electronic or paper sources and this document provides links to the definitive data sources wherever possible.

Please note that the electronic version of the handbook will be kept up to date and you will be notified of any significant changes. If you have taken a hard copy of any information, please remember to refer to the electronic version to ensure that you are working with the most up to date information.

## Programme Team information

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Programme Team:

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Programme structure: [please see programme specification](#)

Chief external examiners from other institutions are appointed to a suite of programmes to act independently and work with the College in the management of threshold academic standards, ensuring parity of approach to assessment across all awards available.

## Key School staff

Dr James Lee, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of College

Dr Adele Drew-Hill, Dean and Head of School, Health and Social Wellbeing

## Programme specific information

You are asked to pay particular attention to assessment dates and ensure you check with your academic team if you are unsure when assessments are due. Students are expected to

be available during these periods and absence from scheduled assessments may have a significant impact on your studies. Please take care to avoid these dates when planning any holidays.

### **Programme overview, aims and learning outcomes**

**Overview:** The MSc Specialist Practice (District Nursing) is a professional practice programme for registered adult nurses working in the community who wish to achieve the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Standards of proficiency for community nursing specialist practice (SP) in District Nursing (NMC 2022).

The programme aims to equip nurses with the advanced skills, knowledge and understanding to meet the diverse and complex needs of people requiring care in their own homes and in the community. Areas of study align closely to the NMC's standards of proficiency for registered nurses, and fall under 7 Platforms (NMC 2018):

Platform 1: Being an accountable, autonomous professional and partner in care

Platform 2: Promoting health and wellbeing and preventing ill health

Platform 3: Assessing people's abilities and needs, and planning care

Platform 4: Providing and evaluating evidence-based care

Platform 5: Leading, supporting and managing teams

Platform 6: Leading improvements in safety and quality of care

Platform 7: Care co-ordination and system leadership

As students' progress through the programme, they will gain the behaviours, knowledge and critical thinking skills needed to lead and advocate for high quality person centred, holistic and compassionate care and services in community nursing.

**Features of the programme:** Students undertaking this programme will be employed in practice as District Nursing students. Students have the option of studying the full master's in specialist Practice: District Nursing (2 years full time, 3 years part time) or they may wish to claim the interim award of PGDip Specialist Practice: District Nursing (1-year full time, 2 years part time). A University Examination Board will verify students' eligibility for the interim award of PGDip Specialist Practice: District Nursing. They'll also verify that students meet all NMC requirements for annotation on the register as a Community Nurse Specialist Practice: District Nurse. The University will then notify the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

Please note: the interim exit award of PGCert Specialist Practice is not eligible for the NMC qualification of Community Nursing Specialist Practice in District Nursing (SPDN).

This is a postgraduate award; students are encouraged to complete all modules at academic level 7. Where students have covered equivalent module content at academic level 6, it may be possible to recognise this and use some academic level 6 credit towards the award.

There are limits on the amount of level 6 credit that can be used towards a postgraduate award under UWE Bristol regulations; students who have previous relevant study should discuss with the programme leader if their previous study may be used towards this MSc.

The programme includes theory and practice learning. Students need to achieve 400 hours of protected learning time in practice during this programme. Students are supported in practice-by-Practice Assessors and Practice Supervisors who supervise and assess the student's practice learning and work with Academic Assessors. Protected learning hours need to be confirmed by a Practice Assessor. Practice Assessors must have current knowledge and experience relevant to the DNSPQ proficiencies and programme outcomes (Standards for Students Supervision and Assessment (SSSA) NMC 2018).

Academic Assessors, who are part of the UWE Bristol Programme Team, collate and confirm the student's achievement of proficiencies and programme outcomes in the academic environment (NMC SSSA 2021).

The programme requires students to undertake a period of consolidated practice in an alternative place of work (NMC Standards for Post Registration Programmes 2022), allowing them to enrich and broaden their experience of professional practice.

The programme includes the Independent and/or Supplementary Prescribing module (V300). **Please note:** students will need to successfully complete the course to PGDip level, to claim the independent / supplementary prescriber qualification with the NMC. Students may only prescribe once their prescribing qualification has been annotated on the NMC register and they may only prescribe from the formulary they are qualified to prescribe from and within their competence and scope of practice.

**Educational aims:** Students undertaking the programme will develop the knowledge and skills required to achieve the standards of proficiency for Community Nursing Specialist Practice - District Nursing, as set out by the NMC (2022).

The programme will support registered nurses who wish to become District Nurses to advance their clinical, leadership, research and educative practice within District Nursing. Students will develop the higher-level skills and knowledge to enable greater clinical autonomy, independent decision making and leadership in complex and high-risk situations for the benefit of people and services in the community (NMC 2022).

### **Programme learning outcomes**

1. Practice autonomously as a District Nurse demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of complex and specialist knowledge and skills which align to the NMC Standards of Proficiency.

2. Demonstrate a systematic understanding and critical evaluation of current issues within community nursing, using and sharing new knowledge in innovative, appropriate, and professional ways.
3. Critically apply advanced knowledge and skills required for autonomous and independent decision making, demonstrating creativity and originality in tackling and solving problems in complex and dynamic situations.
4. Critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship to effectively and efficiently lead, manage, plan and evaluate care delivery in a variety of complex and unpredictable contexts
5. Be independent, reflective, self-aware, and emotionally intelligent practitioners, who can question and challenge policy, practice and evidence, with confidence and courage.
6. Work in partnership with service users, carers and their families to promote health and wellbeing and develop high quality person and family centred holistic care.
7. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding and evaluation of quality improvement and research methodologies, displaying originality of thought related to service improvement and development.
8. Apply leadership skills and strategies to establish and nurture positive and collaborative relationships with team members and other colleagues, disciplines and agencies across a range of organisations and settings.

## Additional information

Compulsory modules:

- Evidence Based Practice in District Nursing
  - Leadership and Innovation
  - Physical Assessment and Clinical Reasoning
  - Independent/Supplementary Prescribing (V300)
  - Professional Practice in District Nursing
  - Health and Social Care Research and Methodologies\*
  - Dissertation\* or Evidencing Work Based Learning (EWBL) Module\*
- \*To achieve the MSc, you must take the Health and Social Care Research and Methodologies and either the Dissertation or EWBL module.

### Programme structure

**Full time: MSc / PGDip Specialist Practice: District Nursing**

Sept - January	January – March	April-July
<b>Evidenced Based Practice in District Nursing</b> 20 credit	<b>Independent Prescribing (V300)</b> 40 credit	
<b>Physical Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (PACR)</b> 20 credit		<b>Professional Practice in District Nursing</b> 20 credit  Period of consolidated Practice (12 weeks)
<b>Leadership and Innovation</b> 20 credit		
<b>Once completed can claim interim award of PGDip Specialist Practice: District Nursing and eligible to claim the NMC SPQ in District Nursing and Independent Prescribing Qualification</b>		
<b>Health and Social Care Research Methods and Methodologies</b> 20 credit	<b>Masters Dissertation or Evidencing work Based Learning module</b> 40 credit  Provisional start March	
<b>Once completed can claim target award of MSc Specialist Practice: District Nursing</b>		

**Part time PGDip / MSc Specialist Practice: District Nursing**

Year 1	September - Jan	January - March	April - July
<b>Evidenced Based Practice in District Nursing</b> 20 credit	<b>Physical Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (PACR)</b> 20 credit	<b>Leadership and Innovation</b> 20 credit	

Year 2	September – Jan	January - March	April - July
<b>Independent Prescribing (V300) (at level 3 or M)</b> 40 credit			<b>Professional Practice in District Nursing</b> 20 credit Period of consolidated Practice (12 weeks)
<b>Once completed can claim interim award of PGDip Specialist Practice: District Nursing and eligible to the NMC SPQ in District Nursing and the Independent Prescribing Qualification</b>			
Year 3	September - Jan	January – July	
<b>Health and Social Care Research Methods and Methodologies</b> 20 credit		<b>Masters Dissertation or Evidencing Work Based Learning module</b> 40 credit	
<b>Once completed can claim the target award of MSc Specialist Practice: District Nursing</b>			

[The academic year dates](#) are published on the University website.

## Communication

The main communication channel used by the University is the UWE Bristol student portal, myUWE. The myUWE link appears at the top of the University staff and student intranet home page alongside that of the library and gives you access to the portal, where much of the information relevant to you will appear, including important announcements. MyUWE gives you access to a wide range of course information, including links to Blackboard for modules you are currently studying. Blackboard provides the main communication channel for module specific information and should be checked regularly for new content and announcements.

Also, from myUWE you can access your UWE student email account, which you are expected to check regularly (at least twice a week) as this is the email address that the University will use to contact you. If you do not activate this account, or choose to automatically forward emails to a different email account, then the University will not be responsible if you miss important information such as details about classes, assessments, examinations, fees, registration etc. You can find more [information on all aspects of your myUWE portal](#) on the website.



## Changes to your programme

We strive, and are expected, to continually enhance our Programmes by responding to feedback from students and other Stakeholders, ensuring the curriculum is kept up to date and our graduates are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need. We may make any such changes to our Programmes without consulting you if the changes will not involve a Material Change.

There may be circumstances where we have to make a Material Change to the Material Information. In these circumstances, we will give you advance notice of the change and inform you about how this change will impact on your Programme and work with you to ensure you understand the reasons for, and the effect of, the change.

A Material change would be a change to the programme from the information we provided to you when we made you an offer of a place on your Programme, which includes:

- the published details of your Programme, including Programme title; entry requirements; what you will study (for example core modules).
- method of study (for example, lectures, seminars, work placements); expected workload including number of contact hours and expected self-study.
- the overall assessment strategy for your Programme (not a change to the balance of assessment within individual modules).
- the award you will receive on successful completion of your Programme.
- location of study or possible locations.
- length of your Programme.
- whether your Programme is accredited by a professional, statutory or regulatory body (PSRB).

Examples of reasons for making a Material Change to your Programme may include:

- a commissioning or accrediting body requires us to add new course content to your Programme;
- in response to feedback from stakeholders or our students.
- where there is an insufficient number of students applying to the Programme/module of a Programme to make running the Programme or module impractical to provide a suitable student experience and/or financially viable.
- to reflect the introduction of new technologies.
- where staff have taken extended leave or left the University.
- following changes to the funding we receive or that students may be eligible for.
- Government legislation.

Where we wish to make a material change your rights are defined within the University's [Terms and Conditions](#).

## Regulations/Policies

### Assessment Offences

To ensure that all students are assessed fairly and equitably, it is important that markers can be sure it is your own work which is being assessed and that all your assessed work is done within the University rules and regulations. If a marker or invigilator believes that you have committed an assessment offence this will be reported, and the allegation will have to be investigated. The University takes the committing of assessment offences very seriously. Action is always taken to investigate and follow through any such cases that are reported. Further information, including the Assessment Offences Policy, can be found on the [Academic integrity](#) webpages.

An assessment offence is defined by the University as 'any action which has the potential to give a student an unfair advantage in an assessment.' Plagiarism, collusion, and contract cheating are examples of the use of unfair means of presenting work for assessment.

Plagiarism – Demonstrating that you have read a wide range of material (books, journals or other sources) in writing a piece of coursework is essential but so is ensuring that you acknowledge that work properly through correct referencing i.e. the naming of authors/sources and the use of paraphrasing, quotation marks or indented paragraphs.

Collusion – You may be asked to work with other students on a project, in class or analysing data, it is essential that any work you hand in for assessment purposes is written up by you on an individual basis. The text and diagrams / pictures etc. you use must be your own. You must be particularly careful if you are sharing a computer with another student or passing information between yourself and others in an electronic format such as email that you do not use someone else's words – or that they use your words.

Non-compliance – it is important that you follow the instructions given to you by staff and adhere to the regulations of the University. For example, non-compliance could include taking unauthorised papers or items into an examination room.

## Regulations

[The University regulations](#) are designed to ensure consistency and equity for students and to provide clarity in how they will be treated by the University in any given situation.

Please see the UWE Bristol website for more information about [how your degree will be calculated](#).

In addition to the academic regulations, students should pay particular attention to the [IT Acceptable Use Policy](#) as this defines what you can or cannot do for the protection of systems and of individual users.

Details of the [Assessment Content Limit Policy](#) can be found on the website.

## Referencing guide

Referencing is the technique used to direct readers of a piece of written work to the sources of information that have been used in the preparation of the written work.

If you wish to refer to something you have read you **must** give a reference for this material. [The University Library provides advice on managing references](#).

## Advice and support

Academic Support is provided through a number of roles and students should seek advice from academic staff on specific matters relating to teaching and learning.

**Programme Leader** programme related issues, issues impacting on a number of modules within the programme, programme specific activities happening outside modules

**Module Leader** module related issues, issues that affect that module only

**Academic Personal Tutor** broader issues relating to teaching and learning at the University. See the website for further information about the [Academic Personal Tutor](#).

[Online resources and learning support, together with advice from Library Services](#) on managing references and improving your learning, writing and research skills are available.

If you need help with a particular mathematical or statistical problem, then just pop along to an [espressoMaths session](#), sit down at the espressoMaths table, and have a chat with one of the staff on duty; this person will be able to provide you with free user-friendly advice concerning your problem.

The University also provides **support to students** relating to a range of matters through the Information Points and Student Support Advisers.

[There is advice available relating to study-related issues](#) including assessments, and if [there are circumstances affecting your ability to study](#).

Advice is available on [transferring courses](#), taking time out or withdrawing from study.

Information to help you in [preparing for your final year](#) can be found on the website.

[Prepare for life after university](#) with Careers advice and guidance before, during and after your studies.

Preparing to go on **placement** whilst at UWE Bristol. [Advice on opportunities for placements or finding placements](#).

[Explore and practice faith and spirituality at UWE Bristol](#).

[Tuition fees and information on bursaries and scholarships](#).

[Residents' guides and accommodation options](#).

[Wellbeing advice, from staying healthy to counselling](#).

[Advice and guidance for international students at UWE Bristol](#).

[Information on student feedback and surveys](#).

Link for information for the [Students Union](#) and how to become a student representative.

[Information on Equality and Diversity](#)

## Insurance guidelines

The University has a range of insurance policies which provide cover to both the University, its employees and to students. The following guidelines provide summary information on the operation of key policies in the context of University activities. Please see the [Insurance Guide](#) for further information.

### **Students on University premises**

#### **Indemnification of the University**

The University has arranged insurance which provides indemnity in respect of the University's legal liabilities, which it may incur as a result of injury to students on its premises. There is no cover for accidents that are nobody's fault.

## **Personal accident**

Although an element of Personal Accident insurance is included in the University's Overseas Travel policy the University does not provide general Personal Accident Insurance for students. It is the student's responsibility to arrange their own cover should they wish to do so. However, Personal Accident Insurance is available for students belonging to the various Students' Union sports clubs. For further details please contact the Students' Unions Finance Manager.

## **General**

The University has automatic travel insurance cover for employees and students. This policy provides cover for employees travelling overseas on official University business and students who travel overseas as part of their UWE Bristol course. Employees are defined as persons with a contract of employment with the University. Our Insurers have confirmed that the cover will also apply to external examiners if travelling on university business and being paid by the University for their services. However, it will not apply to other persons who are sub-contracting their services to the University.

## **Claims**

Please see the [Insurance Guide](#) for further information and contact details.