PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION KEY FACTS

Programme name: MSc Nursing (RN/ Pre-registration) (Adult, Child or Mental Health)
Award: MSc
Exit Awards: PG Cert, PG Dip
School: School of Health and Psychological Sciences
Department or equivalent: Nursing
UCAS Code: MSc Adult: 3012; MSc Child: 3312; MSc Mental Health: 3112
Programme code: NUMSNRP01
Type of study: Full-time
Total UK credits: 195
Total ECTS: 97.5

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The MSc Nursing (RN/ Pre-registration) (Adult, Child or Mental Health) route is open to graduates who have demonstrated the ability to study independently at level 6.

The underpinning philosophy of your nursing programme is person-centred care, an approach where the person is at the centre of the decision-making processes and the design of their care needs, their nursing care and treatment plan (Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) (2018)).

This approach prepares you to achieve a MSc in Nursing (RN/ Pre-registration) (Adult, Child or Mental Health) and to be eligible to apply for registration as a nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). You are expected to achieve the education standards set by the NMC entitled, ‘Future nurse: Standards of proficiency for registered nurses’ (NMC 2018), which require you to be knowledgeable, skilled, reflective, adaptable, culturally sensitive and compassionate.

Your programme of study will equip you with the appropriate knowledge, skills and professional values to meet the healthcare needs of the people you care for. Your programme supports the integration of physical and mental health across health and social care. This will enable you to demonstrate the professional values expected of a registered nurse and to deliver high-quality evidence-based care to individuals, their families and their communities. You will become a critical user of evidence enabling you to develop an evidence based approach to care. This includes critical engagement with research as well as other forms of evidence, in all programme stages. The programme fosters a commitment to lifelong learning and academic excellence in teaching, facilitation, practice and leadership that is designed to support your future aspirations as a registered nurse.
The MSc in Nursing (RN/ pre-registration) programme has three pathways within it, reflecting the three fields of practice – Adult Nursing, Children’s Nursing and Mental Health Nursing. Learning outcomes for each module are mapped to ‘Future nurse: Standards of proficiency for registered nurses’ (NMC 2018) and will be assessed throughout your programme.

The programme is structured to enable you to meet your chosen field of practice embedding core concepts in relation to the law, safeguarding, consent, pharmacology and medicines management (NMC, 2023). Some of your learning activities will be shared with student nurses from other fields of practice, but most of your learning will take place in field specific groups or practice experiences. You may also participate in learning with students from other professions, so that you develop the ability to work effectively within the inter-professional team.

Aims

The MSc Nursing (RN/ Pre-registration) (Adult, Child and Mental Health) programme equips you with the knowledge, skills and professional values to lead and deliver high-quality, evidence-based person-centred care, to enhance the health and well-being of individuals, their families and their communities. This programme will enable you to become a registered nurse with the NMC.

Content

The principles outlined below inform the curriculum and are integrated throughout each of the modules of student learning.

- **Ethics, equity diversity and inclusivity**

  Inclusive models of health and well-being recognise the importance of ethical care. Developing graduates with a strong sense of moral principles, beliefs and values consistent with delivering high quality health care is core to the City Nursing programme. Further, achieving equity and diversity means ensuring that individuals or groups are not treated differently on the basis of age, race, gender, disability, religion or belief, social and economic status, sexual orientation.

  You will recognise, respect and value people’s differences to contribute and realise their full potential by promoting an inclusive culture for all. In addition, you will champion and advocate for necessary changes to maximise population health at all levels of society, and in particular for those groups who are disadvantaged or feel disconnected from the wider society.

- **Working in partnership**

  Working in partnership with patients and service users as well as families and carers is essential in providing high-quality person-centred care. Developing such partnerships enables meaningful relationships based on effective communication and shared goals. You will work in partnership to empower patients and service users to become experts in their own care. Working in partnership with inter-disciplinary and multi-agency colleagues across health and social care is essential to facilitate health service provision that draws on the unique knowledge and skills of all team members, delivers
care in the most appropriate setting, and promotes health and well-being.

- **Evidence-based practice**
  
  Evidence-informed practice incorporates the integration of the best available evidence, clinician expertise with the patients’ or service users’ knowledge, wishes, values and circumstances. To achieve evidence-informed practice nurses are required to access, appraise and use evidence, and other forms of knowledge (including experiential experience), to inform their clinical decision making. You will develop skills in understanding research and applying it to clinical practice to minimise risk and provide safe, high-quality care for patients, service users, their families, carers and the community. These skills will also be the basis for ongoing development and practice as a critically thinking nurse.

- **Leadership**
  
  Nurses play a central role in health and social care therefore, leadership is essential in all roles. Leadership is the ability to influence and work with others, using effective interpersonal skills. Leadership in nursing requires an understanding of the cultural, historical and professional context to develop and articulate a shared vision to influence organisational, societal and political activities and guide the delivery of care to achieve optimal patient and service user outcomes.

- **Communication and caring**
  
  Excellent interpersonal skills can help build strong relationships with patients, service users, families and carers, and the interdisciplinary team to provide a high level of care. Effective communication is essential to understand the unique situation, beliefs and values of each patient and service user, to create shared goals of care, to identify challenges and potential risks, and to provide care throughout life. You will develop effective interpersonal skills to enable effective collaboration with inter-disciplinary and multi-agency colleagues in a manner that incorporates the perspective of all to achieve optimal solutions for individuals, families and the community.

- **Professional attributes**
  
  Professional nursing practice requires nurses to adhere to the NMC Code (2018). Integral to this is the need to prioritise people, practice effectively, preserve safety and promote professionalism and trust. As student nurse, you are responsible for your actions and are required to adhere to the legal and professional requirements of university and practice settings.

The programme is underpinned by ‘Future nurse: Standards of proficiency for registered nurses’ (NMC 2018). The NMC requires the programme to be 50% theory (minimum 2300 hours) and 50% practice (minimum 2300 hours). You will be expected to demonstrate your understanding of learning outcomes and achieve proficiencies- at the end of each stage to enable progression to the next part of the programme. Throughout the programme you will have a personal tutor who is a ‘go to’ friendly face for you to talk to about how you are getting on. They are a key point of contact providing advice and guidance about the academic aspects of your student experience.

The programme consists of 3 Stages. All programme stages will be at Higher Education
The Stages for the MSc Nursing (RN/ Pre-registration) route are as follows:
Programme Stage 1 - Foundations for Nursing
Programme Stage 2 - Person-Centred Care in Context
Programme Stage 3 - Becoming a Proficient Practitioner

On completion of Programme Stage 1, you will be able to:
- Demonstrate knowledge of underlying concepts and principles of nursing practice
- Present and interpret data, problem solve, and communicate your work accurately in relation to foundation concepts and principles associated with nursing practice
- Apply these to your chosen field of nursing practice.

On completion of Programme Stage 2, you will be able to:
- Demonstrate the above
- Show a critical understanding of principles of person-centred care and health promotion,
- Understand different methods of enquiry,
- Understand the limits of your knowledge to ensure you safe and effective practice,
- Undertake critical analysis of information
- Effectively communicate information and arguments to a range of people.

On completion of Stage 3 of the programme you will be able to:
- Demonstrate the above
- Argue critically
- Initiate and carry out your own projects
- Critically examine assumptions and concepts in preparation for becoming a registered nurse
- Consolidate your professional values and proficiencies with a focus on leadership, team working and inter-professional collaboration.

Practice
Practice modules, which consist of simulated practice and placement experience, make up the practice component for each Stage of the programme.

Simulated practice accounts for 320 hours of your total practice experience (2300 hours). During simulated practice, you will participate in clinically focused learning which will allow you to acquire and develop your clinical practice in a safe environment. The focus of simulated practice will be both hospital and community-based to allow different settings and scenarios to be explored.

You will also undertake a variety of practice placements that may be virtual or project-based or set across a variety of healthcare settings in London, including NHS trusts, independent providers, voluntary organisations and the private sector. London is a large, urban centre which enables practice experiences within diverse communities with a wide range of social and cultural characteristics. These placements will provide the opportunity to work with individuals and their families and communities.

During your practice experience (simulated and placement) you will work an average of 40 hours per week. To protect student well-being, we advise against working above 48 hours per week. You will have supernumerary status when on placement. NMC define
supernumerary as students in practice or work placed learning must be supported to learn without being counted as part of the staffing required for safe and effective care in that setting (NMC, 2023).

In your second programme stage, you will be expected to negotiate a 2-week elective placement which allows you to pursue specific clinical interests. The elective placement may be negotiated in local health and social care settings or may take place elsewhere in the United Kingdom or abroad. You will be given specific information about how to negotiate this placement at the beginning of stage 2.

Both theory and practice modules are outlined in module specifications, which give you information on the learning outcomes for the modules, content and the assessment for that module.

You will have the opportunity to choose one elective module during programme stage 3. Whilst it is compulsory for you to choose an elective module, the range of modules on offer will enable you to study an area of interest which you can then use to enhance your practice and your future career prospects. More detail will be included in your programme handbook.

The programme aligns to the NMC (2023) standards for student supervision and assessment. Whilst on placement, you will be allocated a practice supervisor and a practice assessor who will support you and assess your learning and progress. An academic assessor will also be allocated to you for each programme stage and will be responsible for marking your practice assessment. Link lecturers will also be available to offer you support during placement experiences.

**Registration Period**

The normal period of registration for this programme is 2 years. The maximum period of registration for this programme is 5 years.

Upon completion of the programme, you will have five years to register your award with the NMC (2023a, p.15). If you fail to register your qualification within five years you will have to undertake additional education and training or gain such experience as specified in the NMC standards.
WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to:

Knowledge

- Critically examine relevant legal and regulatory requirements, governance requirements, policies, and ethical frameworks and guidelines to all areas of practice.

- Critically apply knowledge of biopsychosocial sciences, anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, pharmacology and human development to inform accurate person-centred nursing assessments and develop appropriate care plans.

- Critically discuss key theories, concepts and principles which underpin nursing practice.

- Critically appraise the implementation of person-centred and family-centred care within your scope of practice.

- Evaluate and critically apply theories of leadership, team-working and interprofessional collaboration.

Skills

- Acquire the fundamental practical skills associated with nursing practice.

- Develop complex nursing skills to deliver high standards of care within your scope of practice.

- Support, develop and mentor colleagues and share good practice.

Values and attitudes

- Develop values and attitudes to support the delivery of inclusive, person-centred, family-centred care in a variety of settings.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Programme Stage 1
Programme Stage 1 comprises of two core modules totalling 45 credits.

Programme stage 1 modules

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>SITS Code</th>
<th>Module Credits</th>
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<th>Compensation Yes/No</th>
<th>Level</th>
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<tr>
<td>Health Promotion and Biopsychosocial factors across the life course</td>
<td>HSM002</td>
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<td>Practice 1- Foundations in Nursing Care</td>
<td>HSM015</td>
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Programme Stage 2
Programme Stage 2 comprises of five core modules totalling 90 credits.

Programme stage 2 modules

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<th>Module Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pathophysiology and Principles of prescribing</td>
<td>HSM018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acute condition</td>
<td>HSM019</td>
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<td>Integrated care to support health and well-being for individuals with long-term conditions</td>
<td>HSM020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical use of evidence to inform decision making in practice</td>
<td>HSM005</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Practice 2: Applying knowledge and skills for person-centred care in practice</td>
<td>HSM016</td>
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Programme Stage 3
Programme Stage 3 comprises of five core modules totalling 60 credits.

Programme stage 3 modules

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<td>Leading and Managing Across Health and Social Care</td>
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<td>Practice 3: Developing</td>
<td>HSM021</td>
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HOW WILL I LEARN?

The programme uses face-to-face and online learning and teaching strategies. Time is also allocated within the programme for you to complete your assessments. The learning strategies integrate theory and practice at increasing levels of complexity as the programme progresses including:

- Lectures may be in ‘real-time’ (synchronous) and/or pre-recorded (asynchronous).
- Seminars are smaller groups which enable you to explore concepts in more detail. They will usually be field-specific however in some modules you will participate in combined field seminars to support interprofessional collaboration.
- You will be involved in practical laboratory sessions within the biology modules, which build upon core concepts taught in lectures.
- Enquiry Based Learning (EBL) is a questioning problem-solving approach used to explore core concepts within module content.
- Practice Experiences will allow you to observe and participate in a variety of learning environments.
- Reflection will enable you to reflexively consider your actions or decisions and learn from them (NMC, 2018). There are a variety of opportunities in theory and practice for you to develop your reflective skills.
- Simulated Practice (SimPrac) enables you to practise skills within a safe environment and assists with the transfer of these skills into practice. A range of technologies are used to facilitate learning.
- Inter-professional education (IPE) will develop your collaboration skills.
- During the programme you will have guided independent study time allocated to undertake prescribed activities individually or in study groups.
- You will be allocated student directed learning time within modules to explore areas of interest, practice skills and prepare for assessments.
- You will use online learning (computer and internet-based technologies and resources) to facilitate and enhance learning.

You will also have access to university student support services.

Learning and teaching hours

To meet NMC requirements, the programme hours are 2300 hours of theory and 2300 hours of practice experience, including 1800 hours accrued via assessed placements and simulated practice and an additional 500 hours of valid clinical experience.

You will be expected to pursue guided independent study, complete pre-session work to enable facilitated discussion and self-directed study, some of which may be online and may require the use of learning tools such as Moodle. Time is also allocated within the programme for you to complete your assessments.
During your practice experience (simulated and placement) you will work an average of 40 hours per week. To protect student well-being, we advise against working above 48 hours per week.

**WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**

**Assessment and Assessment Criteria**
A range of assessment strategies will be used throughout the programme to test your knowledge, attitudes, skills and standards of competency. These enable you to explore and demonstrate the links between theory and practice.

**Formative assessment**
Formative assessment and feedback are an opportunity to undertake a formative assessment (e.g., academic workshop, presentations, group discussions, discussion forums) which will prepare you for your summative assessment. Opportunities for feedback may include peer or lecturer feedback or completion of online activities.

**Summative assessment**
Summative assessment is the primary assessment method for each module. The grade achieved contributes to your degree classification. Modules will consist of two assessment components. The weighting for each assessment component is outlined clearly within the module specification.

The assessment strategies used within the programme may include:
- Electronic Practice Assessment Document (ePAD).
- Written assignments, which may include for example essays, reports, presentations or posters.
- Examinations: which may include short answer questions, multiple choice questions, calculations, scenario-based questions and oral examination.
- Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCEs), which are practical skills assessments.
- Dissertation: this final project will enable you to choose and explore a relevant topic of interest to you.

Assessment criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate to complete an assessment successfully. Rubrics are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate to pass your assessment. Assessment criteria and rubrics will be made available to you in the virtual learning environment (e.g., Moodle).

**Feedback on assessment**
Feedback for your summative assessment will be provided in line with the University’s Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be
provided within four weeks. You will be awarded a provisional grade or mark until ratification by the assessment board.

The full policy can be found at: Assessment and Feedback Policy

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your programme, you should successfully complete all modules and assessments to acquire the required number of credits. You also need to pass each programme stage of your programme in order to progress.

The pass mark for each module is 50%. Details will be found in individual module specifications and assessment guidelines. If you fail an assessment component or a module you will be offered one resit attempt. If you are successful in the resit, you shall be awarded the credit for that module, however, the mark obtained will be capped at the minimum pass mark (50%). If you do not pass your resit by the specified date, your case will be presented to the assessment board with a potential programme withdrawal.

In your practice modules, you will have summative assessments focused on your clinical placement. The ePAD is a pass/fail assessment and will not be counted when calculating the average grade over the programme or stage. However, the e-pad is a must pass assessment component of the programme.

The Assessment Board may permit at its discretion a second resit subject to the following criteria:

- An overall average of at least 50% in the taught elements of the Programme Stages 1 and 2 or 3 excluding one failed module must have been achieved.
- A second resit cannot be offered for any clinical failed module (consisting of clinical placements, OSCEs or in-hour clinical assessments).

If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Stage, but satisfy the requirements for the previous Stage, then a lower qualification may be awarded as per the table in the next section. If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Stage and are not eligible for the award of a lower-level qualification, the Assessment Board will require you to withdraw from the Programme.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at: Senate Regulation 19

Safe Practice and Raising Concerns

The nursing programme is regulated by the professional, statutory and regulatory body, the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). Robust processes are in place to manage non-academic concerns relating to student performance in the clinical placement area. The university and placement partners work in close collaboration to ensure your learning in both theory and practice is facilitated.

The School of Health & Psychological Sciences is required to monitor your progress and take appropriate action if any issues related to good health or good character arise. In the event of poor or unsafe performance being identified in practice, the school has a Reflection and Development Plan Process and Fitness to Practise Policy. This process enables robust actions
to be put in place to support and monitor your development. If it becomes necessary for a formal investigation to be undertaken, this is underpinned by the School’s Fitness to Practise Policy.

The full School of Health & Psychological Sciences’ Fitness to Practise Policy can be found: https://www.city.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/583602/SHPS-Fitness-to-Practise-Train-Policy-and-Procedure-23-24.pdf

Declaration of Good Health and Good Character
It is an NMC requirement that nursing students confirm good health and good character at the end of each stage of the programme, before progressing into the subsequent stage of the programme. The Fitness to Practise process will be initiated if you do not complete the self-declaration.

On successful completion of both theory and practice elements of the programme, and following ratification of results by the Assessment Board the Programme Director (or nominee) is required to sign a Declaration confirming your good health and good character. This is a Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) requirement which must take place prior to application for registration on the NMC Professional Register.

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Master’s Degree Nursing (RN/ Pre-registration) (with eligibility to apply for NMC registration):
On successful completion of all theory and practice elements of the programme, you will receive an MSc in your relevant field of nursing, with the eligibility to apply for registration with the NMC.

Programme stage level, credits and weighting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Stage</th>
<th>HE Level</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tr>
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Classification requirements

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Master’s Degree Health Studies (without NMC registration):
If you fail to meet the practice requirements for the MSc Nursing (RN/ Pre-registration) in the final stage and have exhausted all permitted resit opportunities, but have passed the theory elements of the programme, you may be awarded a MSc Health Studies. This award does not allow you to register with the NMC and therefore you cannot practice as a registered nurse.

Programme stage level, credits and weighting
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Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing (with eligibility to apply for NMC registration):

If you achieve the practice requirements for the MSc Nursing (RN/ Pre-registration) but fail to meet the academic requirements for the MSc Nursing (RN, Pre-registration) and have exhausted all permitted resit opportunities, but have achieved 150 credits at level 7 (excluding the Dissertation module) you may be awarded a Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing. This award allows you to apply for registration with the NMC.

Programme stage level, credits and weighting

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Post Graduate Diploma in Health Studies (without NMC registration):

If you fail to meet the requirements for the MSc Nursing (RN/ Pre-registration) and have exhausted all permitted resit opportunities, but have achieved 120 credits at level 7 you may be awarded a Post Graduate Diploma in Health Studies. This award does not allow you to register with the NMC and therefore you cannot practice as a registered nurse.

Programme stage level, credits and weighting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Stage</th>
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Class requirements

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<td>With Distinction</td>
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Post Graduate Certificate in Health Studies (without NMC registration):

If you fail to meet the requirements for the MSc Nursing (RN/ Pre-registration) and have exhausted all permitted resit opportunities, but have achieved 60 credits at level 7, you may be awarded a Post Graduate Certificate in Health Studies. This award does not allow you to register with the NMC.

Programme stage level, credits and weighting

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<th>HE Level</th>
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EMPLOYABILITY AT CITY: WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON TO?

As a registered nurse you will have a variety of employment opportunities available to you. For example, you may choose a career within a hospital or community-based setting. Your focus could be working directly with patients/clients and families within a general setting or more specialised aligned to your field of practice. For example, you may choose to work as Practice Nurse within a GP surgery or work within a setting which cares for patients/clients with specific conditions. You may choose to explore roles within healthcare leadership, education, or research. As a registered nurse you may also wish to pursue international opportunities of employment.

To support you we have a careers and employability which provide student development activities, including careers resources and appointments, skills sessions, employer events, community volunteering, professional mentoring, the Micro-Placement Programme and the City Buddies scheme. We also take opportunities to build in employment events into your nursing programme.

As a City University graduate you will also become part of our alumni community, which gives you the opportunity to get involved in activities, community events and access many exclusive perks. Once a part of City, your connection with the University is for life.

Information on possible career paths, alumni destinations etc. This does not need to be comprehensive or detailed but should be written in a way that is likely to engage students and give them some thoughts about career options.
For more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: https://www.city.ac.uk/careers/your-career

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

Please also refer to the Practice section (above).

As 50% of the programme is made up of practice, focused, and much of this will be spent on placement with our practice learning partners. Prior to attending placement, you must have completed the necessary mandatory training, have occupational health clearance and Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) clearance. Failure to do so will mean you cannot attend placement. This may affect your position on the nursing programme and will be managed by the Programme Director in conjunction with the Course Officer team.

You will have supernumerary status when on placement. The NMC requires a minimum of 2300 hours of practice for registration and Practice this time will be spent in a variety of health and social care settings depending on the specific field of nursing. These can be across Central, East and North-East London and may be in: NHS Trusts, the independent sector, care homes, schools, nurseries, forensic mental health setting and community setting. Allocating placements is a complex task as it considers student specific factors such as any reasonable adjustments, as well as availability of placements. You will be expected to travel to placements up to a maximum of 90 minutes from your term time address. Therefore, you must keep your information up to date on the University electronic system e-Vision.

Placements will be released via InPlace. This is a placement management information system where you can log in to view placement allocations, dates and the number of planned hours and view key contacts details for allocations.

Whilst in placement you are expected to comply with several policies and processes in line with the practice learning partner and University. These will be outlined to you prior to placement, however key policies exist around absence reporting, uniform and reporting concerns about unsafe practice. Failure to comply with these may affect your ability to demonstrate the professional values assessment in placement.

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

Accrediting Body: This course is validated by the Nursing and Midwifery Council. On successful completion of this programme, you will be eligible to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council to join the NMC Professional Register. You have 5 years from completion of the programme to be eligible to register your qualification with the NMC. If you do not register within the five-year period, you will be required to undertake additional education and training or appropriate experience in line with the NMC Standards.

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

An elective placement is scheduled in Programme Stage 2. You may use this opportunity to negotiate a practice experience in a health or social care environment, locally, nationally or internationally. This is a two-week placement. Specific guidance on the process for negotiating your elective placement will be given at the beginning of Stage 2.
Information is provided subject to Terms and Conditions for study at City, University of London.

**References**

Accessed: 23/02/24

Accessed: 26/02/2024