

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

### KEY FACTS

Programme name	Primary Care (Practice Nursing)
Award	Graduate Diploma
School	School of Health & Psychological Sciences
Department or equivalent	Health Services Research & Management
Programme code	NUGDPPC01
Type of study	Full time or Part time
Total UK credits	120
Total ECTS	60

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The Graduate Diploma Primary Care (Practice Nursing) has been developed as a part-time conversion programme for registered nurses, who are employed as practice nurses.

This programme is aimed at Practice Nurses with an undergraduate degree who wish to complete a programme tailored to meet their clinical and professional needs in the general practice setting.

Primary care is experiencing an unprecedented cycle of change. Developments in structure, administration and roles all have implications for practitioners employed within this sector. Health policies have led to the need for increasing numbers of practice nurses to meet the service need of clients, their carers and families. The increasing range of services that a practice nurse can provide has changed since the introduction of the new General Medical Services contract in April, 2004. The diversity of services that the practice nurse can provide can range from essential; additional and enhanced services. It is the diversity of services now available within the primary care sector that has led to increasing educational and training needs for practice nurses.

For all of you undertaking this programme, you will develop a coherent, systematic and in depth knowledge of your discipline related to the modular content of the programme. You will be able to develop competence in your practice drawing on research and contemporary sources of evidence to underpin your role as a practice nurse.

#### Aim

The aim of the Graduate Diploma is to develop you as a practice nurse with a systematic understanding of key aspects of your field of study, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge that informs and develops safe and evidence based practice.

The programme consists of 7 modules – 4 of which are core modules namely:

- NM3209 - Research Methods (15 credits)
- PH3001 – Health Policy and Politics (15 credits)
- NM3146 - Introduction to General Practice Nursing (15 credits)

- NM3189 - Practice Portfolio (Practice Nurse extended essay) (30 credits).

### **Optional modules**

Your choice of optional modules will be determined by either the funder for your programme or your employing organisation.

A sample of the optional modules are as follows:

- NM 3059 - Diabetes Care
- NM 3041 - Asthma/COPD
- NM 3320 – Cervical Cytology
- NM 3204 - Clinical Assessment in Primary Care

### **Objectives**

- To provide flexible and contemporary education that meets the changing, challenging and dynamic environment of general practice
- To apply methods and techniques you have learned to review, consolidate and extend your knowledge and understanding in the management and care of clients with long term conditions (QAA, 2014)<sup>i</sup>
- To develop competence and expertise for your practice drawing on research and contemporary sources of evidence to underpin your clinical engagement as a practice nurse
- To develop awareness of how psychosocial and public health issues can impact on the health status of clients, their carers and families by prioritising clients to ensure that their physical, social and psychological needs are assessed and responded to (NMC, 2018)<sup>ii</sup>
- To develop and foster a concordant approach to the nurse/client relationship
- To communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist (professional and social care) and non-specialist audiences (clients, carers and their communities) (QAA, 2014)
- To develop and foster an approach to lifelong learning and enquiry, so that practice is founded on contemporary and evidence based practice.
- To act as an advocate for the client, their carers and families and always preserve the safety of the client by working within the limits of your competence (NMC, 2018)
- To strive to attain the highest standards of practice in order to practise effectively with the best available evidence (NMC, 2018)
- To promote professionalism and trust by respecting the dignity of every client, regardless of age, gender, religion, socio-economic class sexual orientation and ethnic or cultural group to ensure (NMC, 2018)
- To act as an advocate for the client, their carers and families
- To assume accountability for practice and strive to attain the highest standards of practice.

### **Registration Period**

#### Full Time

The normal/minimum period of registration for the programme is 1 year. The maximum period of registration for this programme is 3 years.

#### Part Time

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

### **WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?**

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

#### Knowledge and understanding:

- Critically analyse your own professional accountability in applying skills, knowledge and attitudes in changing practice environments (QAA, 2014)
- Critically evaluate the outcomes of your practice within the general practice setting
- Critically explore and evaluate how changes within the NHS have impacted on the care delivered within your general practice setting
- Critically demonstrate how evidence based practice can be used to underpin the delivery of care within the general practice setting
- Critically appraise research and literature relating to practice, and outline strategies for introducing and utilising the findings in practice.

#### Skills:

- Analyse and apply models of information systems, information management and other aspects of management in primary care
- Critically evaluate and analyse how to achieve solutions based on an informed evidence base
- Identify the social, political and economic influences on the health of clients, their carers and families and how these impact on an individual's health beliefs
- Work co-operatively within a multidisciplinary team, whilst always adhering to the guidelines of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) (2018) The Code. Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives.
- Contribute to and critically evaluate strategies designed to promote and improve health and prevent disease in clients and groups
- Utilising acquired skills and knowledge, effectively manage and support the practice's immunisation clinics, including the use of Patient Group Directives and reflective evaluation to enhance your practice
- Critically discuss key philosophical and political concepts and critiques in primary health care

- Evaluate programmes of care, including those for patients with long term conditions.

Values and attitudes:

- Critically examine the major ethical issues facing today's primary health care organisations and general practices
- Outline the principles of reflective practice and use these to develop and enhance personal and professional practice
- To promote and develop concordant relationships with clients and their carers with the aim of positively influencing their health choices and decisions.

**HOW WILL I LEARN?**

Practice nursing encompasses a diverse range of knowledge and skills. The emphasis of many of the learning and teaching elements of this full or part time programme will be aimed at encouraging the analysis and evaluation of various theoretical and practice orientated dimensions of primary care, and promoting collaborative working through multidisciplinary learning. To ensure that you are given the opportunity to deal with complex issues systematically and creatively, and demonstrate originality in solving problems, the learning and teaching strategies you will be exposed to will include:

- Formal lectures followed by practice-orientated seminars
- Student-led seminars around specific primary care topics and disciplines
- Peer appraisal; group projects
- Educational visits and practice based seminars involving people working in different areas, and at different levels of primary care policy and practice development and implementation.

Practice, assessment, supervision and specialist nursing tutorial support will be essential elements of the programme and in addition to the provision of practice-orientated core modules.

A proactive emphasis will be placed at encouraging you to critically reflect; explore and analyse contemporary evidence based research and importantly how this is applied in the general practice sector. The learning and teaching strategies will include a mixture of the following: lectures; group work; clinical workshops; educational visits and the completion of a practice based portfolio.

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

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Both formative and summative assessments will be transparent throughout the practice nursing programme. Formative feedback will be available on group/individual presentations and tutorial support.

Summative assessment will integrate a variety of assessments, **which will be dependent on the choice of optional modules including:**

- Essays
- Skills schedule and multiple choice questionnaire
- Audit and supporting paper
- Protocol development and a supporting paper
- A research proposal
- A Practice Nurse Portfolio: extended essay.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

#### Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our 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. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer.

#### Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore, acquire the required number of credits.

The pass mark for each module is 40%.

Resit: you will normally be offered one resit attempt. If you have not participated in the first assessment you will be offered a resit, whether or not you have extenuating circumstances.

If you are successful in the resit, you shall be awarded the credit for that module. The mark used for the purpose of calculation towards your Award shall be calculated from

the original marks for the component(s) that you passed at first attempt and the minimum pass mark for the component(s) for which you took a resit.

A student who has not met the pass requirements for a Module due to failure in a resit may, at the discretion of the Assessment Board, be offered a second resit subject to the following criteria:

- The student has failed no more than one assessment.
- An overall average of at least 50% in Programme Stages 2 and 3 excluding the failed assessment must have been achieved.
- A second resit cannot be offered for any practical failed assessment (either placement or in-house clinical).

All modules will be weighted equally in this process so a 15 credit module would be given equal consideration as a 45 credit module.

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: [http://www.city.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/word\\_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc](http://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc)

## WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

### Graduate Diploma

To obtain the Graduate Diploma in Primary Care (Practice Nursing) you need to complete 4 core modules, as listed in Table 1, "What Will I Study" section, and 3 optional modules from the SHS CPPD portfolio.

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
1	6	120	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without	50
				Classification	

### Graduate Certificate

To obtain the Postgraduate Certificate in Primary Care (Practice Nursing) you need to complete the core module – NM 3146 Introduction to General Practice Nursing, as listed in Table 1, "What Will I Study" section, and 3 optional modules from the SHS CPPD portfolio.

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
1	6	60	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without	50
				Classification	

Students who choose to undertake this programme have already obtained a Pre-registration Diploma/BSc (Hons) in Nursing (generally in Adult Nursing) and are therefore, already registered nurses on the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) register. Completion of the BSc (Hons)/Graduate Diploma Primary Care (Practice Nursing) would lead to an academic qualification only and not a registerable qualification.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

### Programme Stage 1

To pass you must have acquired 120 credits as specified in the Programme Scheme.

The Graduate Diploma Primary Care (Practice Nursing) will consist of 3 x core modules of 15 credits each and 1 x core module of 30 credits (Refer to Table 1) and 3 x 15 optional modules from the SHS CPPD portfolio (Refer to Programme Summary on pages 1 – 2).

Table 1 – Core modules.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core	Can be compensated?	Level
Research Methods	NM3209	15	C	No	6
Health Policy and Politics	PH3001	15	C	No	6
Introduction to General Practice Nursing	NM3146	15	C	No	6
Practice Portfolio (Practice nurse extended essay)	NM3189	30	C	No	6

## TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

You must be employed as a practice nurse to apply for the Graduate Diploma Primary Care (Practice Nursing) full or part time programme. This is a mandatory entry requirement for this programme. The completion of the programme will enable you to enhance and develop your career as a practice nurse by having a strong and robust evidence base underpinning your role.

The acquisition of greater knowledge and clinical skills – the latter dependent on the choice of optional modules you undertake will strengthen your profile to strive in extending your role as a practice nurse and where applicable commanding a higher salary.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

### **HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?**

- You must have current registration on Part 1 or Part 2 of the NMC register and have no restrictions placed on your registration at the point of application and/or during the tenure of your programme
- You must be employed as a Practice Nurse and this must be continuous for the duration of your programme
- You must have an undergraduate diploma in Nursing or a 2.2 classification in an undergraduate nursing degree or a non-honours undergraduate degree in Nursing
- We will need to see evidence that you have undertaken study in the past 5 years (including assessment results).

### **Recognition of Prior Learning RP(E)L Requirements**

#### **RPL HE 6 Credits**

Students who have obtained relevant level HE 6 credits through CPPD study in the five years before registering on the programme can apply to use RPL to transfer a maximum of 30 credits towards the award of Graduate Diploma Primary Care (Practice Nursing).

There can be no transfer of credit from a module or modules from a programme already awarded to another programme.

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<sup>i</sup> Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) (2014). *UK Quality Code for Higher Education. Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards*. Available from: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications-frameworks.pdf> (Accessed 4 June 2015)

<sup>ii</sup> Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) (2018). *The Code. Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses, midwives and nursing associates*. NMC: London.