

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### KEY FACTS

Programme name	MSc Nursing (Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care)
Award	MSc; PG Diploma
School	School of Health Sciences
Department or equivalent	Division of Nursing
Programme code	PSAHNR
Type of study	Full Time/Part Time
Total UK credits	MSc: 180; PG Diploma: 120
Total ECTS	MSc: 90, PG Diploma: 60

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The MSc Nursing (Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care) is a flexible, professionally orientated programme for nurses working across all health and social care provisions. It seeks to prepare a specialist research-focused workforce that will help revolutionize health and social care provision to better meet society's changing demographic health needs by using new technologies and more innovative and creative working practices. Compulsory modules are kept to a minimum, enabling you to choose from a wide range of optional modules, depending upon your personal and professional goals. Advice will be available to enable you to maximise the opportunities offered by this flexibility.

The aim is to prepare you for new, efficient and ethical ways of working that will offer better quality of life and quality of care by placing service users and carers at the centre of decision-making and service redesign. It will enable you to respond better to the increasing pressures on the current healthcare system.

The course offers teaching in the latest theoretical and clinical developments relating to nursing and health and social care provision. It also develops your research skills and critical thinking and provides the opportunity to conduct a research project under expert supervision, laying the foundations for independent research in the future. The aim is to provide you with the opportunity to create a challenging and rewarding Master's programme tailored to your personal development needs.

You will have the opportunity to discuss key debates in health and social care provision in multi-professional and interdisciplinary contexts. This programme also provides you with a solid foundation of research skills and applied data analysis to support and extend your role as an evidence-based practitioner.

By completing the MSc Nursing (APHSC) you will have demonstrated original application of knowledge to nursing and clinical decision making in relation to practice. You will have been engaged in research that contributes new views to nursing.

By completing the Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (APHSC) will have explored knowledge related to nursing from different perspectives to broaden your expertise and skills. You will also have critically evaluated current evidence in nursing and provided appropriate critiques of knowledge and techniques in relation to this.

If you exit the programme at Postgraduate Certificate level will be have been enabled to examine theories related to nursing and be able to synthesise and apply these to practice. You will have gained critical insight into problems that may arise in nursing and be able to consider problem solving mechanisms. You will also be able to use a range of techniques to undertake your scholarly work.

### Aims

The aim of this programme is to facilitate you to:

- Develop your nursing knowledge, and new skills which advance practice.
- Develop the ability to exercise initiative and personal responsibility, decision making in complex and unpredictable situations.
- Become effective leaders.
- Become independent learners with the ability for continuing personal and professional development.
- Demonstrate a respect for other professions, to learn and work with them.
- Think critically, be open to new ideas, and challenge outmoded ways of working.

### **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 appraise the nature of health and social care provision and further develop your role as an advanced nurse.
- Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the principles of research design and statistics.
- Demonstrate a firm appreciation of underlying pathological processes.

#### Skills:

- Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level.
- Demonstrate the ability to deal with complex issues systematically and creatively; make informed judgements in the absence of complete data, and clearly communicate their conclusions.
- Critically discuss the research process and how knowledge can be derived and

applied.

- Critically appraise, evaluate and integrate theories and perspectives and articulate implications for practice development and innovation.
- Empower colleagues and clients, through teaching, mentoring and modelling and continually monitor standards of care, and be able to respond to criticism and feedback on the service that you are providing.
- Develop research designs appropriate to research questions/hypotheses, and select and implement appropriate statistical analyses of data.
- Examine the needs and experiences of the users of health and social care services within the context of interagency and inter-professional work and place service users and carers at the centre of all decision-making.

#### Values and attitudes:

- Incorporate considerations of ethics into all that you do.
- Demonstrate insight into and respect for the experience of service users and participants in research.
- Advise colleagues, patients and their carers in a manner that is helpful, value free and non-discriminatory.
- Demonstrate effectiveness when working in a range of environments.
- Construct and manage a personal and professional development plan which reflects a commitment to lifelong learning.
- Manage your own levels of stress in a way that promotes your welfare and the quality of your work.

#### Registration Period

The normal period of registration for the MSc is one year's taught programme for full time students (plus up to one year for dissertation) or two years' taught programme for part time students (plus up to one year for dissertation).

The maximum period of registration for full time students is 3 years and for part time students is 5 years.

The normal period of registration for the PG Dip is one year for full time students or two years for part time students.

If you registered for and successfully completed the PG-Dip Nursing (APHSC) at City, University of London and wish to convert that award to a MSc you will be required to undertake, and successfully complete, the 60 credit dissertation module. This must be completed within 5 years from starting the PG-Diploma. You will be required to rescind your PG-Dip Award.

#### **HOW WILL I LEARN?**

Time commitments

Full-time: one year (two days a week) for taught modules, plus four months for dissertation. It is recognised that some students who attend the taught part of the programme full time may undertake the dissertation on a part time basis; such students may be allowed up to a year to complete their dissertation.

Part-time: Up to four years (one day a week) for taught modules, plus up to one year for dissertation.

A blended approach to learning and teaching is adopted including university-based taught modules; e-learning and work-based learning. Modules are run by experienced practitioners and leading researchers, using a variety of direct and interactive teaching methods. You will learn in a variety of multi-disciplinary groups and will be supported and encouraged to participate in independent learning.

You will experience a range of teaching, learning and assessment strategies throughout the programme aimed at developing and assessing different knowledge, skills and attitudes. Lectures are used to provide knowledge about topics. Students undertaking this programme will be encouraged to learn knowledge and skills to enable them to work inter-professionally. The range of teaching methods include: lectures; self-directed study; tutorials; action learning sets, class-based seminars; reflective study; enquiry based learning; workshops; individual and collaborative activity and presentations.

There will be extensive use of City's Virtual Learning Platform – Moodle - for a more interactive learning experience.

At Masters level these strategies are aimed at developing your ability to challenge current limits of theory and research and creatively use solutions to solve problems. You will engage in full professional and academic communication critically debating and evaluating personal performance and that of others.

The university provides a rich and varied learning environment, and as a Masters student you are expected to fully avail yourself of all the opportunities, and to work in a manner conducive to your own learning style and professional ambitions.

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

### Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Assessments are varied to meet the practice and academic challenges of a Masters level course, while recognising the need for motivating, realistic and relevant activity. The means of assessment will be influenced by the focus and learning outcomes of the modules. Assessment strategies include coursework, examinations, portfolios,

minilabs, case studies, reports, seminar presentations, skills schedules and objective structured clinical examinations (OSCEs). You may be expected to take part in formative assessment activities during the modules in addition to the summative assessments for each module.

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 work 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. Both will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments, 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. Feedback will normally be provided within four weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date for end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task, and within three weeks for a smaller piece of work. This will normally include a provisional grade or mark and written feedback. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at:

[https://www.city.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/68921/assessment\\_and\\_feedback\\_policy.pdf](https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68921/assessment_and_feedback_policy.pdf)

### 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 50%. Where the module requires more than one assessment, the contribution of each to the final mark is stated in the module specification.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

Resit: You will normally be offered one resit attempt.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you withdraw from the programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award, as per the table below.  
 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?

### Master's Degree:

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
Taught	7	120	66.5	With Distinction	70
Dissertation	7	60	33.5	With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

### Postgraduate Diploma (Exit Awards):

To exit with a Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (APHSC) you will be required to complete the two core modules, two discipline-specific core modules and three elective modules.

To exit with a Post Graduate Diploma in Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care you will be required to complete the 30-credit 'Introduction to Research Methods and Data Analysis' module (HRM001) and the 15-credit 'Critical Approaches to Advanced Practice' module (APM001) together with other modules from the range available.

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
Taught	7	120	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

### Postgraduate Diploma Programme

If you are undertaking the Postgraduate Diploma Nursing (APHSC) you will be required to complete the two core modules, two discipline-specific core modules and three elective modules.

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
Taught	7	120	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

### Postgraduate Certificate (Exit Awards):

To exit with a Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care, you will be required to complete the 30-credit 'Introduction to Research Methods and Data

Analysis' module (HRM001) and the 15-credit 'Critical Approaches to Advanced Practice' module (APM001) together with one other 15-credit module.

To exit with a Postgraduate Certificate in Nursing, you will be required to complete one of the two core nursing modules and the two discipline specific 15-credit modules, and an additional module if required from the range available.

To exit with a Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences you will be required to achieve 60 credits by successfully completing any combination of modules from the range of core and optional elective modules

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
Taught	7	60	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

If you are working towards the PG-Diploma and the MSc you will study two core modules, two discipline-specific core modules and three elective modules at level 7. You can choose options to enable you to gain a specialist focus related to your individual nursing practice. If you are part-time, you can take two modules per term over two years. If you are full-time, you can take four modules per term over one year. Students on the MSc programme are required to undertake the 60 credit Dissertation module

You will find your core and discipline-specific modules listed in the table below. You can see a full list of possible elective modules from the range of MSc programmes offered in the School of Health Sciences at [www.city.ac.uk/health/courses](http://www.city.ac.uk/health/courses). Some modules are only run every second year so it is important to make your module choice in advance and in close consultation with your programme director. If an elective module has less than a certain number of registered students (typically around 10) it may not run, or may only be offered every second year so please check with your programme director.

### Sequence of modules

The exact sequence will vary depending upon whether you started in September or January; however you will be expected to complete 'Critical Approaches to Advanced Practice' and 'Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis' within one year of commencing the programme, and you should have normally completed 'Pathophysiological Principles for Advanced Practice' and 'Medicines Management' by the end of the second year. Once you have completed all your taught modules you will be ready to commence your dissertation.

### Taught Component

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Discipline specific Elective	Can be compensated?	Level
Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis	HRM001	30	Core	No	7
Critical Approaches to Advanced Practice	APM001	15	Core	No	7
Medicines Management	NMM024	15	Discipline specific	No	7
Pathophysiological Principles for Advanced Practice	APM022	15	Discipline specific	No	7

### Dissertation Component

If you studying for the MSc you may begin carrying out your dissertation during the year but you are only able to submit it once you have successfully completed all the taught modules



The dissertation is a core module for completion of the MSc. See the dissertation module and dissertation handbook for more information.

<b>Module Title</b>	<b>SITS Code</b>	<b>Module Credits</b>	<b>Core/ Elective</b>	<b>Compensation Yes/No</b>	<b>Level</b>
MSc Dissertation	APM002	60	Core	No	7

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

This programme will enhance your skills in practice, teaching and research and can lead to posts in nurse management, health research, student support and as clinical nurse specialists in a variety of different settings (public and private). The flexible nature of the course makes it particularly suitable for nurses with highly specific requirements in professional development. Advice will be available on the course options open to you, so that you can maximise the opportunities open to you.

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>.

### **WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?**

This programme does not currently offer the opportunity to study overseas.

### **WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?**

This programme does not require clinical placements. Part time students usually continue in their nursing post whilst studying at City.

### **WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?**

No professional recognition is obtained for this programme.

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

All entrants to the Programme must be in possession of a relevant first degree.

The normal entry requirements are:

- A first degree (2:2 class or above) or equivalent, in a relevant subject from an approved institution of higher education.  
Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the programme director; Such candidates may demonstrate their readiness to study at Masters level by working autonomously at an advanced level, or by previous publications. Additionally may be required to successfully undertake a module at level 6 or 7, which is agreed with the programme director as suitable preparation for M level study and demonstrates your ability to study at this level A current professional registration with a nursing or statutory body or equivalent (e.g. NMC).
- At least six months relevant clinical experience as a registered nurse.
- Some candidates may be invited for interview and/or asked to provide a satisfactory academic reference or clinical reference.

For students whose first language is not English, the following qualifications will meet the English language requirement for entry to a post graduate course of study:

- A first degree from a UK university.

- A first degree from an overseas institution recognised by City as providing adequate evidence of proficiency in the English language, for example, from institutions in Australia, Canada or the USA.
- International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) a score of 7.0 is required with no subtest scoring below 6.5.
- Pearson Test of English (Academic) score 72 required.
- Other evidence of proficiency in the English language, which satisfies the board of studies concerned.

### **RPL Requirements**

In line with Senate Regulation 19, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will be considered for any student who has pursued appropriate studies in this or another institution or who possesses appropriate qualifications. RPL may be claimed for core and elective modules, subject to the following City Assessment Regulations:

9(c)(ii): RPL will be permitted where the Programme Committee has assessed the claim in terms of acceptability, sufficiency, authenticity, currency and level and can demonstrate that the student's previously assessed or experiential learning meets all the learning outcomes stated in the Module Specification for the module for which they are to be awarded credit.

9(e)(iii): The limit to the volume of credit that can be permitted through RPL will be up to one third of the total credits for the Programme where the prior learning relates to credit previously awarded by City as CPD.

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