PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme name</th>
<th>Primary Care [Practice Nursing]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>Postgraduate Diploma [PG Dip]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>School of Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department or equivalent</td>
<td>Division of Health Services Research &amp; Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme code</td>
<td>NUPDPCP01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of study</td>
<td>Part Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total UK credits</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ECTS</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The Post Graduate Diploma [PG Diploma] Primary Care [Practice Nursing] has been developed as a part time programme for registered nurses, who are employed as practice nurses.

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 lead to increasing educational and training needs for practice nurses.

For all of you undertaking this programme, you will develop a systematic, inquiring and in depth knowledge of your discipline. You will be able to develop competence and expertise for your practice drawing on research and contemporary sources of evidence to underpin your clinical role as a practice nurse.

Aims

The overarching aim of this postgraduate degree is to develop you as a practice nurse with a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your work as a practice nurse. The application of a more in-depth comprehensive understanding of a strong evidence base will enable you to meet the complex demands of clients within the general practice setting, taking into consideration the socio-economic and public health needs that many of these clients face, particularly when clients have existing co morbidities [Quality Assurance Agency, 2014]

The two year programme consists of 8 modules – 3 of which are core namely:
• Research Methods [15 credits]
• Philosophy and Politics of Primary Care [15 credits]
• Key Concepts of Practice Nursing [15 credits].

The remaining 75 Higher Education [HE] Level 7 credits can then be chosen from the Continuing Professional and Personal Development [CPPD] portfolio within the School of Health Sciences.

Your objectives are:

• To provide flexible and contemporary education that meets the changing, challenging and dynamic environment of general practice
• To demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the evidence base supporting their clients management [QAA, 2014]
• To develop critical 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, 2015]'
• 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 demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in practice nursing [QAA, 2014]
• To continually critically assess, appraise and review the ongoing and changing needs of clients, carers and their families through the critical evaluation of current research or advanced scholarship [QAA, 2014]
• To demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks in the general practice setting [QAA, 2014]
• 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, 2015]
• To strive to attain the highest standards of practice in order to practise effectively with the best available evidence [NMC, 2015]
• 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, 2015].

Registration Period

The normal/minimum period of registration for this programme is 2 years taught programme. The maximum period of registration for the 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 and evaluate your own professional accountability in applying skills, knowledge and attitudes in making changes to your general practice environment
- Critically examine and evaluate the outcomes of your clinical practice by reflecting on and in practice
- Critically explore, evaluate and rationalise how changes within the NHS have impacted on the care delivered within primary care, using reflective practice
- Demonstrate with the use of in depth reflection how evidence based practice can be used to underpin the delivery of your care within the general practice setting
- Critically appraise research and literature relating to practice, and identify strategies for introducing and utilising the findings in practice.

Skills:

- Critically evaluate and appraise ways in which the needs of clients, their carers and their families are recognised and met to promote and enhance physical and psychological health and prevent disease
- Analyse and critically apply models of information systems, information management and other aspects of management in primary care
- Critically identify and assess the needs of clients, their carers and their families using a holistic approach. Critically analyse and evaluate the outcomes of this approach
- Draw on relevant knowledge to 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], (2015) The Code. Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and
midwives

- Contribute to, critically evaluate and appraise strategies designed to promote and improve health and prevent disease in clients and groups
- Utilising appropriate assessment 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 appraise 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 and demonstrate understanding of the major ethical issues facing today's primary health care organisations and practices
- Critically evaluate and understand the principles of reflective practice and use these to develop and enhance personal and professional practice
- promote, develop and enhance concordant relationships with clients and their carers with the aim of positively influencing their health choices and decisions

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Primary Care Nursing practice encompasses a diverse range of knowledge and skills. The emphasis of many of the learning and teaching elements of this 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 primary care 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/or tutorial support.

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

- Essays
- Skills schedule, including a multiple choice questionnaire and problem based scenario
- Exams
- Objective Structured Clinical Examination [OSCE]
- Audit and supporting paper
- Protocol development and a supporting paper
- A research proposal

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 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 50%.

Resit: you will normally be offered one resit attempt. If you do not participate 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.

If you do not satisfy your resit by the date specified you will not progress to the next Programme Stage and the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Programme Stage, but satisfy the requirements for the previous programme stage, then a lower qualification may be awarded as per the table below. If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Programme Stage and are not eligible for the award of a lower level qualification, the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

The PG Diploma Primary Care [Practice Nursing] programme uses the following criteria on which to base the use of discretion by an Assessment Board to consider offering a third and final attempt at an assessment to students on an individual basis (see Senate Assessment Regulations S19).

The criteria to be used to allow an Assessment Board to exercise this discretion should be made on the basis that a student must have achieved an overall average of at least 60%. Also, only one assessment should have been failed.

When making a decision on whether an Assessment Board should exercise discretion in awarding a third and final attempt the average across all previous programme stages will be considered but the failed module will not be taken into account when looking at the average.

All modules will be weighted equally in this process so a 15 credit module would be given equal consideration as a 30 credit module.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, but satisfy the requirements for a lower-level Award, then a lower qualification may be awarded as per the table below. If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme and are not eligible for the award of a lower level qualification, the Assessment Board shall require that you 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: [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?

### Post Graduate Diploma

To obtain the Postgraduate Diploma in Primary Care (Practice Nursing) you need to complete three core modules (15 credits each) as listed in Table 1, “What Will I Study” section, and five optional modules from the SHS CPPD portfolio. You can discuss the options available with your Programme Director.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Stage</th>
<th>HE Level</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>% required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>With Distinction</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With Merit</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Without</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Classification</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Post Graduate Certificate

To obtain the Postgraduate Certificate in Primary Care (Practice Nursing) you need to complete one core module (15 credits) as listed in Table 2, “What Will I Study” section, and three optional modules from the SHS CPPD portfolio. You can discuss the options available with your Programme Director.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Stage</th>
<th>HE Level</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>% required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>With Distinction</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With Merit</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Without</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Classification</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The Postgraduate Diploma Primary Care (Practice Nursing) will consist of 3 x core modules of 15 credits each (Refer to Table 1) and 5 x 15 credit optional modules from the SHS CPPD portfolio. Students who decide to complete a Post graduate Certificate [PG Cert] Primary Care [Practice Nursing] undertake 1 x core modules and 3 x optional modules to receive their award (Refer Table 2). Students in Year 2 of the PgDip can if they so wish undertake either 2 x 15 credit modules or 1 x 30 credit module.

### Table 1 – Core modules PG Diploma

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>SITS Code</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Core/</th>
<th>Can be</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

7
## Table 2 – Core module PG Certificate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>SITS Code</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Elective</th>
<th>Can be compensated?</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Key Concepts in Practice Nursing</td>
<td>NMM939</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Optional modules

Students have a number of options to obtain their 75 credits for those students wishing to complete their PG Dip or the 45 credits for those students wishing to complete their PG Cert. The availability of optional modules will be determined on the demand and whether it is financially viable for the School of Health Sciences to run these optional modules.

A sample of the optional modules popular with practice nurses are as follows:

- NMM011 - Diabetes Care [Module leader – Anne Claydon]
- NMM048 - Asthma/Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease [Module leader - Duncan Smith]
- NMM320 – Cervical Cytology [Module leaders – Marie Hill and Alison Coutts]
- CHM002 Education in the workplace [Module leader and lead for the mentorship programme [Module Leader - Michelle Carter]
- APM024 Advanced Physical Assessment; Critical thinking; Diagnostic reasoning across the lifespan (30 credits) [Module Leader – Daniel Apau]

If you wish to achieve a Masters you will need to register on the MSc Primary Care [Practice Nursing] and complete a dissertation module (60 academic credits) in addition to the content of the Postgraduate Diploma.

---

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?
All practice nurses who apply for the PG Diploma are already employed as practice nurses. This is a mandatory entry requirement for this programme. The completion of the PG Diploma [or for those practice nurses who exit with a PG Certificate award] will enable those practice nurses to begin to develop higher order critical skills, which will enhance their clinical practice underpinned by a strong evidence base.

Furthermore, this will enable those practice nurses who have completed the PG Diploma to command a higher salary in their current post by extending their leadership and clinical skills.

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](http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates).

**WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?**

N/A

**WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?**

N/A

**HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?**

- You must be registered and current on Part 1 or Part 2 of the NMC register
- Be employed as a Practice Nurse
- You must have an undergraduate degree with either a First or 2.1 classification
- We will need to see evidence that you have undertaken study in the past 5 years (including assessment results)

**Recognition of Prior Learning RPL/RP(E)L Requirements**

In line with Senate Regulation 19, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will be considered if you have pursued appropriate studies in this or another institution or you possess 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 your 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 volume of credit permissible via RPL will normally be no more than one quarter of the total credit for the programme.

Version: 4.0
Version date: August 2016
For use from: 2016-17