

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	MSc Primary Care (Practice Nursing) (including the MSc conversion top-up) ¹
Award	MSc
School	School of Health Sciences
Department or equivalent	Division of Health Services Research and Management
Programme code	NUMSPCP01/ NUMSPCC01
Type of study	Full time and Part Time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The MSc Primary Care (Practice Nursing) has been developed as a full and part time programme for registered nurses, who are employed as Practice Nurses.

It can be undertaken as a complete MSc programme (i.e. 180 credits) or as a MSc Conversion top-up programme for those students who already have been awarded with a Post graduate Diploma Primary Care (Practice Nursing) (PgDip). In relation to the latter, once students have successfully completed their 60 credit dissertation module, they would have to rescind their PgDip award to receive the award of MSc Primary Care (Practice Nursing).

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 enhances service associated with this contract. 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.

By 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 engagement as a Practice Nurse within the primary care setting.

Whilst undertaking the programme you must maintain 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; and you must be employed as a Practice Nurse for the duration of your programme.

¹ The MSc conversion top-up programme is aimed at those students who already have been awarded a PgDip Primary Care [Practice Nurse] award. To achieve the MSc Primary Care [Practice Nurse] award, they would have to: successfully complete the 60 credit dissertation module and rescind their PgDip Primary Care [Practice Nurse] qualification to receive the MSc Primary Care [Practice Nurse] award.

Aims

The overarching aim of this postgraduate degree is to develop you as a Practice Nurse with a systematic understanding of relevant knowledge to the general practice setting 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)²

Students undertaking the MSc Primary Care (Practice Nurse) programme will undertake 9 modules – 4 of which are core namely:

- Research Methods (15 credits) (Code – NMM700)
- Health Policy and Politics (15 credits) (Code – PHM005)
- Key Concepts of Practice Nursing (15 credits) (Code – NMM939)
- Dissertation (60 credits) (Code: - APM002)

Students undertaking the MSc Conversion top-up Primary Care (Practice Nurse) programme will undertake the Dissertation (60 credits) (Code: - APM002) module only.

The programme 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 and by prioritising clients ensure that their clients physical, social and psychological needs are assessed and responded to (NMC, 2018)³

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)

² 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 22 May 2015]

³ Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) (2018). *The Code. Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives and nursing associates*. NMC: London.

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 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).

Registration Period

The normal period of registration for full-time programme is 1 years taught programme (plus up to one year for dissertation). The maximum period of registration for the MSc is 3 years.

The normal period of registration for part time students is 2 years and the maximum period of registration for full time students is 5 years.

If you have been Awarded a Postgraduate Diploma at City, University of London and then wish to return to complete the MSc for the same Programme, you may apply to be re-admitted to complete the Higher Award provided that:

- you have not withdrawn from the Programme due to academic failure;
- the credit already awarded remains current;
- the maximum period of registration for the Programme will not be exceeded;
- your return is within a maximum of five years from the start of your original period of registration.

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
- Demonstrate with the use of in depth reflection how contemporary 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), (2018) 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
- To 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.

Your clinical practice will be enhanced by these learning and teaching strategies as above, as will your clinical practice experience gained during your employment as a Practice Nurse.

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
- Poster development and a 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 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 50%.

Resit: you will normally be offered one resit attempt. If you did not participate in the first assessment you will be offered 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.

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

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

MSc Primary Care (Practice Nursing)

The following relates to those students who already have been awarded with a PG Diploma Primary Care (Practice Nurse).

In order to obtain the MSc Primary Care (Practice Nursing) degree, you must rescind your Postgraduate Diploma Primary Care (Practice Nursing) qualification on successful completion of the 60 credit dissertation module (APM002) to be awarded with a MSc Primary Care (Practice Nursing) degree - this conversion option is only available for students who undertook the PG Diploma at City, University of London.

MSc Primary Care (Practice Nursing)

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
1	7	180	100

Class % required

With Distinction	70%
With Merit	60%
Without	50%
Classification	

Postgraduate Diploma (without dissertation)

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
1	7	120	100

Class % required

With Distinction	70%
With Merit	60%
Without	50%
classification	

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The MSc Primary Care (Practice Nursing) will consist of 3 x core modules of 15 credits, and 1 core module of 60 credits dissertation module each (Refer to Table 1) and 5 x 15 optional modules (75 credits) from the SHS CPPD portfolio.

The MSc Conversion top-up will consist of a stand-alone 60 credit dissertation module.

Table 1 - Core modules

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be compensated?	Level
Research Methods	NMM700	15	C	No	7
Health Policy and Politics	PHM005	15	C	No	7
Key Concepts in Practice Nursing	NMM939	15	C	No	7
Dissertation	APM002	60	C	No	7

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:

- Module Code (NMM011) - Diabetes Care
- Module Code (NMM048) - Asthma/COPD
- Module Code (NMM320) - Cervical Cytology
- Module Code (NMM945) - Key Concepts in Practice Nursing (2)
- Module Code (NMM084) - Clinical Assessment in Primary Care
- Module Code (NMM944) - Long Term Conditions
- Module Code (CHM002) - Education in the workplace [a mentorship module]
- Module Code (NMM119) - Innovations in healthcare leadership and management perspectives.

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

All Practice Nurses who apply for the MSc programme or the MSc Conversion top-up programme are already employed as Practice Nurses. This is a mandatory entry requirement for this programme. The completion of the MSc will enable those Practice Nurses to develop higher order critical skills, which will enhance their clinical practice underpinned by a strong evidence base. Practice Nurse may on completion of their programme choose to specialise in certain clinical areas, especially the care and management of long term conditions and in the area of triage.

Furthermore, this will enable those Practice Nurses who have completed the MSc to negotiate for a higher salary in their current post by extending their leadership and clinical skills within the general practice environment.

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 PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

N/A

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

N/A

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 in general practice throughout your programme. You do not need to remain employed with the same general practice for the duration of your programme. Any change to a new general practice must be agreed by the original sponsor/funder.
- At university students will be supported by the Programmed Director, the Primary Care Team, and will have access to student support services.
- You must have either an honours undergraduate degree with either a First or 2.1 classification or have a post graduate diploma in Primary Care (Practice Nursing)
- We will need to see evidence that you have undertaken study in the past 5 years (including assessment results).
- If you are a postgraduate student on the Primary Care (Practice Nursing) programme and you wish to proceed to Top-Up to an MSc in Primary Care (Practice Nursing), you will have to fund the Dissertation module to top-up to this MSc, unless you have other funding sources.

Recognition of Prior Learning RP(E)L Requirements**RPL HE 7 Credits**

If you have obtained relevant level HE 7 credits through CPPD study in the five years before you have registered on your programme, you can apply to use RPL to transfer a maximum of 30 credits towards the award of Post Graduate Diploma Primary Care (Practice Nursing).

There can be no transfer of credit from one awarded programme to another.

Version: 4.0
Version date: August 2021
For use from: 2021-22