

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION PRO-FORMA (PSP)

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Programme Title:	MSc Pre-Registration Nursing Studies (adult)
2. Final Award:	Master of Science Nursing Studies Registered Nurse – Adult Nursing (RN1)
3. Exit Awards:	Postgraduate Diploma in Health and Social Care Postgraduate Certificate in Health and Social Care
4. Awarding Body:	Glasgow Caledonian University
5. Approval Date:	19 th November 2019
6. School:	Health and Life Sciences
7. Host Department:	Nursing and Community Health
8. UCAS Code:	N/A – applicants do not apply through UCAS
9. PSB Involvement:	Nursing and Midwifery Council through Mott MacDonald
10. Place of Delivery:	Glasgow Caledonian University, Public and Independent Health Care Providers
11. Subject Benchmark Statement:	Nursing
12. Dates of PSP Preparation/Revision	September 2019, minor revisions - April 2021, February 2022

2. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE MSC NURSING STUDIES PATHWAY

The MSc Pre-Registration Nursing Studies programme aims to develop graduate nurses who are able to deliver person-centred, safe and effective care, working with other professions and agencies to address peoples' needs in an ever-changing and complex health care environment. The MSc Pre-Registration Nursing Studies pathway will equip graduate nurses with the necessary critical thinking skills, theoretical knowledge & understanding, together with the practical skills and competencies to

deliver high quality evidence-based care that is compassionate, competent and person-centred. Successful completion will facilitate their ability to meet the current and emerging health needs of individuals, families and communities within a local, national and global context.

Achievement of this overall aim will require students to:

- Demonstrate caring that is compassionate, creative, culturally sensitive, competent and confident;
- Practise in a way that respects, promotes and supports individuals' rights, interests, preferences, beliefs and cultures, and maintains confidentiality of information;
- Support the creation and maintenance of environments that promote dignity, health, safety and wellbeing of people while contributing to enhancing the health and social wellbeing of individuals and their communities;
- Exercise critical judgement in the evaluation, assimilation, integration, synthesis and application of knowledge, research and evidence from a range of sources and fields of study to assess, plan, implement and evaluate safe and effective high quality, person-centred care;
- Exercise rigorous and independent thinking to demonstrate critical understanding of nursing and professional concepts;
- Apply critical thinking, problem-solving, evaluative, psychomotor and interpersonal skills to deliver care along a spectrum of complexity and in a range of settings;
- Exhibit the professional values, interpersonal skills and ethical comportment commensurate with a registered nurse;
- Take personal responsibility for learning while being committed to the principles of interprofessional learning where learning occurs with, by and from each other;
- Develop reflection, self-evaluation and self-improvement skills for lifelong learning;
- Develop enhanced cognitive skills and attributes to facilitate employability and advancement along an accelerated career pathway;
- Demonstrate leadership, team-working and effective oral and written communication skills to develop practice within a local and global context;
- Demonstrate the political aptitude to proactively advocate on behalf of individuals, families and communities within the healthcare policy agendas of local, national and global healthcare contexts.

4. PROGRAMME STRUCTURES AND REQUIREMENTS, LEVELS, MODULES, CREDITS AND AWARDS

The MSc Nursing Studies represents a pathway to registration within the pre-registration nursing programme at GCU. Intended for graduate entry to pre-registration nurse education, its accelerated framework complies with the NMC Standards for pre-registration nursing programmes (NMC, 2018). The modular construction reflects the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) and follows the standard Glasgow Caledonian University structure for postgraduate programmes, which normally comprise 180 credits for a Masters award. However, to achieve the practice competencies and hours required for registration as an adult nurse (RN1), on sub part 1 of the NMC register, the pathway to registration attracts an extra 60 credits at undergraduate level (20 at levels, 7, 8 & 9), resulting in a Masters exit award equating to 240 credits.

The educational framework comprises a balance of approximately 50% theory and 50% practice, reflecting the advanced standing of students entering the course. It will be delivered across two extended academic sessions of 46 weeks and one academic session of 16 weeks.

Modules are organised using the standard postgraduate units of 15 SCQF level 11 credits. In addition, there are three practice only 20 credit modules, one each at SCQF levels 7, 8 & 9 respectively. All level 11 modules comprise either theory or a combination of theory and practice. Where practice is integrated into a theory and practice module, it will be assessed using pass/fail criteria, with the overall module mark being awarded for the academic assessment that takes place. However, both elements will still require successful achievement to gain an overall pass in the module.

One IPE module is included to capitalise fully on the interprofessional learning opportunities within the School of Health and Life Sciences, and also to encourage students to become more involved in interprofessional team-working, interprofessional communication, experience leadership of interprofessional teams, and to provide opportunities to reflect on their leadership and subsequent team success.

Furthermore, building on the global focus and IPE opportunities, this pathway to registration seeks to offer students the potential to undertake an international practice learning experience.

Assessments are completed in each trimester with the exception of the Masters' Dissertation where the assessment will straddle both Trimester B and A. Progression is dependent on students satisfying GCU Assessment Guidelines, programme specific requirements and the professional requirements from the NMC (2018).

MSc Pre-Registration Nursing Studies Modules

SCQF LEVEL 11		
Module Code	Module Title	Credits
MMB726125	The Art and Science of Nursing	15
MMB726126	Developing Nursing Skills	15
M1B726171	Practice Learning Experience Part 1 MSc (SCQF Level 7)	20
MMB525799	Inter-professional Working: Context, Organisations and Practice	15
MMB726128	Promoting Values Based Nursing in Contemporary Practice	15
MMB726129	Person Centred Adult Nursing	15
MMB726130	Global Health	15
MMB726131	Enhancing Nursing Skills	15
M2B726172	Practice Learning Experience Part 2 MSc (SCQF Level 8)	20
	Exit Award – Postgraduate Certificate in Health and Social Care (60 credits, 40 credits must be at SCQF Level 11)	
	Exit Award – Postgraduate Diploma in Health and Social Care (120 credits, 90 credits must be at SCQF Level 11)	
MMB726133	Leading and Managing Complex Care in Adult Nursing	15
MMB025802	Dissertation	60
M3B726173	Practice Learning Experience Part 3 MSc (SCQF Level 9)	20
	Final award – MSc Nursing Studies	240

8. ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Programme Specific Assessment Regulations

The Glasgow Caledonian University Assessment Regulations which apply to this programme, dependent on the year of entry and with the following approved exceptions can be found at: [GCU Assessment Regulations](#)

To receive their professional award and associated unclassified degree of MSc Nursing Studies, the student must achieve:

- 20 points at SCQF 7
- 20 points at SCQF 8
- 20 points at SCQF 9
- 180 points at SCQF 11

The Programme Board will address any new regulations issued by the University as they emerge.

Programme Exceptions

The Glasgow Caledonian University Assessment Regulations apply to this programme with the following exceptions:

Exception: Section 13.1 – Module pass criteria

For modules assessed by coursework and examination in the MSc Pre-Registration Nursing Studies programme, the overall pass mark for the module will be 50%. The University regulations are that, in cases where the coursework comprises of two or more separate pieces of work, a 45% minimum attainment applies to every piece of coursework. However, in response to the NMC (2018) standard regarding no compensations, the nursing programme has asked for an exception to this regulation and students will have to achieve a minimum of 50% in both pieces of work.

Rationale - this Programme Specific Assessment Regulation is as a consequence of students on the programme exiting with an academic and professional qualification with the latter reflecting fitness to practice.

Exception: Section 13.2 – Compensation

GCU regulations allow for compensation. This is to make provision for allowing, within specific limits, the overall performance of a student to compensate for failure in up to and including 20 credit points of module(s) at each level of the programme. No compensation will be allowable for students on the MSc Pre-Registration Nursing programme. To be eligible for these awards the student must pass all specified modules.

Rationale - this is again due to the NMC Standard which states that there is to be “no compensation in assessments across theory and practice learning”. This is as a consequence of students on the programme exiting with an academic and professional qualification with the latter reflecting fitness to practice.

Exception: Section 22 - Aegrotat Award

The Assessment Board shall act in accordance with provisions set out in Sections 8.1, 23.3 and Consideration of Mitigating Circumstances Policy. However, where an Aegrotat award is recommended, this will not include the recommendation for Professional Registration with the NMC, normally associated with the achievement of the MSc Nursing Studies academic award.

Rationale - the award of MSc Nursing Studies programme attracts a professional qualification, which cannot be conferred unless all programme outcomes (theory and practice) are achieved.

Exception: Section 7.1 Maximum period of registration

GCU regulations state that the maximum period of study in the case of an award for which the period of study is specified as 2 years or less, is an extension of 1-year maximum and, in the case of awards for which the period of study is over 2 years, an extension of 2 years maximum. The MSc pathway is 2 and a half years and a 2-year maximum extension will be granted to students on this programme.

Rationale – students on the BSc/BSc (Hons) pathway can have a 2-year maximum extension and so this exception allows equity with these students.

Exception Case 227: Early retrievals (added February 2024)

Programme	When early retrievals should be used	Rationale/ risks if not allowed	Criteria of student eligibility
<p>MSc Nursing Studies – pre-registration</p> <p>P02885</p> <p>(Programme only has a Jan start)</p>	<p>An early retrieval should be offered at an early reassessment diet to final year students who have a resit in one of the final two modules undertaken on the programme which they complete in Trimester A to allow them to register as nurses.</p>	<p>Without early retrieval, students would be delayed in gaining employment and registration, and contributing to the registered nurse workforce.</p> <p>This also has financial implications for these students who cannot take up posts that they have often already been offered through the NHS Scotland newly qualified nurse scheme.</p> <p>If registration takes place a long time after their last practice placement students may lose confidence in their ability and may develop skill atrophy (see NMC Code requirements in the exceptions form).</p>	<p>Only for students who have no more than one outstanding academic assessment. Students who are still completing practice placements are still eligible.</p> <p>Students are required to have evidence of engagement in the module.</p> <p>There will be no opportunity for early retrieval for students who have failed due to academic misconduct.</p>
<p>BSc/BSc(Hons)/MSc Nursing Studies Programmes</p>	<p>Students who do not pass the first diet of a clinical placement should resit this placement instead of their next placement i.e. we move the placements along by one. This may mean resitting a Trimester A placement in Trimester B (instead of the Trimester B placement) and then sitting the Trimester B placement in Trimester C (during their holiday weeks) so that they complete these in the order in which the Practice Assessment Document is laid out.</p>	<p>Students may be asked to complete competencies at a higher level prior to them meeting those at a lower level.</p> <p>If we do not fit placements in over their holidays they would need to take a full year out of the programme in order to resit.</p>	<p>For students who have failed/not completed a placement.</p> <p>Students are required to have evidence of engagement in the module.</p> <p>There will be no opportunity for early retrieval for students who have failed due to academic misconduct.</p>

Withdrawal on Grounds of Fitness to Practice

Over and above the programme specific regulations, a student may be required to withdraw from the programme if he/she is deemed by the Fitness to Practice board and ratified by the Assessment Board to be professionally unsuitable or guilty of professional misconduct. A student, who fails to demonstrate appropriate standards of professionalism either at university or in the practice environment, may be considered to be professionally unsuitable. A student who is considered to have demonstrated professional misconduct will be one who:

- Has failed to abide by the Fitness to Practice Policy and the NMC Code
- And/or has failed to meet the standards, policy, code of conduct laid down by partner organisations which provide practice education experience for the programmes hosted by the School and/or is unable to make the programme requirements despite reasonable adjustments.

Students will be required to declare at the commencement of each session, and prior to registration, his/her fitness to practice and Good Health and Good character through self-disclosure. In addition, prior to registration, the Programme Leader will be required to verify the student's Good Health and Good Character for recommendation for entry to the register. Students will be informed that they have five years in which to register or record their professional qualification on programme completion. The Programme Leader will confirm with the NMC that requirements for Good Health and Good Character have been met at completion of the programme.

Progression and Awards

Decisions on academic progression and awards will be made by the BSc/BSc (Hons) and MSc Nursing Studies Progression and Awards Board in September each year.

NMC Progression

The Standards for pre-registration nurse education (NMC, 2018) identify skills and professional behaviours that a student must demonstrate in order to register as a nurse. Students must achieve all proficiencies and skills and procedures as documented in the NMC (2018) Future nurses: Standards of Proficiency for Registered Nurses. Adult field students must also have achieved all criteria in Annexe 1 of the NMC Standards for pre-registration nurse education as per EU Directive 2005/36/EC. The NMC do not specify at what point progression should take place and so as an HEI, along with our practice partners, the following decision has been made. Taking cognisance of the accelerated nature of the programme, in the MSc pathway the first progression point will be inserted in September of Year One while the second will be inserted in September of Year Two coinciding with the Programme Assessment Boards.

The Scottish PAD has mapped all platform, proficiencies, skills, procedures and EU Directives and demonstrates to the student, and the Supervisor/Practice Assessor/Academic Assessor, which of these proficiencies, skills and procedures have to be achieved, and at what level, in each part of the programme in order to progress to the next. The recommendation for progression is completed by the student's nominated Academic Assessor with the student's nominated Practice Assessor.

NMC Standards at point of registration

Prior to registration the Programme Leader will be required to confirm the student's Good Health and Good Character prior to recommendation for entry to the register. The Programme Leader will confirm to the Assessment Board that all NMC requirements have been met for each individual student by the end of the programme. This will include evidence of a sign-off in practice from a Practice Assessor and Academic Assessor in the final placement.

When students complete the programme, will be informed within the Programme Handbook, final year practice Module Handbook and via electronic mediums, that they have five years in which to register or record a qualification leading to a mark on the NMC register.

DATE: September 2019

Updated: April 2021

Minor Formatting Changes: September 2021

Updated: February 2022 – wording of English language requirements updated, minor formatting changes

Updated: February 2024 – Exception 227 – early retrieval - added