

Postgraduate Diploma Community Nursing Specialist* (District Nursing) or (General Practice Nursing)

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For registered adult nurses with a minimum of one year's post-registration experience who wish to develop their knowledge, skills, and practice to perform in the role of Community Nursing Specialist Practitioner awarded by the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Overview

This exciting new course comes with some NHSE funding support towards course and clinical supervision costs and salary backfill of £38,287. It should appeal to those experienced nurses, leading teams or working at enhanced level in their treatment of patients, such as in long-term condition management.

For more information on;

- The specialist course at Plymouth University [LINK](#)
- The NMC standards of proficiency for community nursing specialist practice qualifications [LINK](#)
- On enhanced level practice, see RCN defines levels of nursing beyond registration. [LINK](#)

This full-time Postgraduate Diploma programme will be delivered over two years. Students will undertake timetabled blended learning approximately 1 day per week (apart from modules APP 770 and NMP 703 which will be 2 days a week every two weeks) and the remaining time will be undertaken in the work-based learning setting. There are several routes of entry including;

1. Modular - employer/commissioner sponsored - Course fee £6,600 per year NHSE support course fee with grant of £9,256.
2. Modular - self-funded, you would need to be employed and allowed to complete the work-based element of the course..

All applicants will be interviewed by lead practice nurse and university module leader.

There is no suggestion that students on this pathway just apply for discrete modules. The student will need to identify a clinical assessor and a designated prescribing practitioner for relevant modules.

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) up to 50% will be available to students who have already completed elements such as Non-Medical Prescribing (NMP).

We have 6 of these places on offer, they will be allocated by a selection process. If you have any questions please contact pauljeffrey@nhs.net .

To register an expression of interest with Cornwall training hub please complete this form <https://forms.office.com/e/fM6nS3XKDL>

The course content

Overview of curriculum structure

	AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM	
Year 1 (60 credits)	CSN701 The Principles of Advanced Community Nursing Specialist Practice Core Module (20 credits)	Field Specific Module CSN703 District Nursing Developing Specialist Practice (20 credits)	APP770 <u>Advanced Assessment</u> for Clinical Practice (20 credits) OR
		CSN704 General Practice Nursing Developing Specialist Practice (20 credits)	APP717 Fundamentals of Health Assessment (20 credits)
	AUTUMN / SPRING TERM		SPRING TERM
Year 2 (120 credits)	NMP703 Independent and Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing Core module (40 credits)		CSN702 Community Nursing Specialist Practice, Leadership, Management, and Innovation Core Module (20 credits)

Post course

At present UoP are proposing a named award for the MSc Community Nursing Specialist, so it will be a specialised award in its own right.

Some of the modules overlap and could be RPL's to the ACCP pathway if that's the direction wanted.

Students could go in four directions

- MSc Community Nursing Specialist (this could be mapped to portfolio for ACP accreditation)
- ACCP – Advanced Clinical Practice , need to do additional modules, APP710, then research methods and professional project or dissertation
- Professional Practice – research modules year 3
- Or go through mapping to ACCP which our university provide.

Admissions Criteria

To commence this programme, the applicant must be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and must meet the University's entry requirements for study at postgraduate level. Professional body registration must be maintained throughout the duration of the programme.

- Applicants must be registered nurse (Level 1) and have a minimum of one year's post registration experience.
- Applicants must be in salaried employment, working a minimum of 30 hours a week in a community nursing role demanding advanced specialist practice skills and knowledge and have the full agreement from their employer.
- Applicants will normally have a relevant first degree, BSc (Hons) at 2:1 or above.
- Applicants will be assessed individually for their ability to study at master's level and an interview will be necessary.
- Applicants without a first degree, BSc (Hons) at 2:2 or above may be eligible to apply, if combined with appropriate practice related experience relevant to the programme and following submission of a written critical evaluation of specialist study or practice marked against the Level 6 criteria.
- Applicants where English is not their first language must also provide 18 Programme Specification (degree apprenticeship)

evidence of competence in written and spoken English in accordance with the NMC criteria of an overall score of 7.0, with at least 6.5 in the writing section and at least 7 in the reading, listening, and speaking sections
- It is a university requirement that applicants should hold at least a Level 2 qualification in English and Maths. Candidates that do not hold these qualifications will be required to complete them prior to starting the programme.
- Due to the blended learning delivery model of the programme, it is an

expectation that apprentices will have access to wi-fi and relevant electronic devices that allow them to engage fully with all aspects of programme delivery, teaching, learning and assessment.

- Applicants are required to identify a Practice Assessor and Practice Supervisor who meet the criteria (NMC, 2022 and 2023) and have undertaken preparation for the role. In addition a Designated Prescribing Practitioner or Practice Assessor who holds the V300 qualification and meets the criteria.
- Short-listed applicants will attend an interview with representatives from practice partners and the programme academic team.

Frequently asked questions

- What will undertaking the course in terms of release from work and work-based learning look like for my employers? **Students will undertake a timetabled blended learning approximately 1 day per week and the remaining time will be undertaken in the work-based learning setting.**
- What does the remaining time will be spent in work-based learning mean? How many hours are required in work-based learning? **Students will need to evidence/ complete 675 hours of practice learning in their specific field over the two-year programme.**
- Is there a minimum number of hours worked per week required? **Students on the standard route **do not** need to be working a minimum of 30 hours, as this is applied to the apprenticeship route only. However, all students will need to be able to evidence / complete 675 hours of practice learning in their specific field over the two-year programme.**
- I have already completed my NMP can recognition of prior learning (RPL) for this? **Yes, this will be able to be RPL if this was completed at L7. Those who have completed at level 6 would need to complete a mapping document to the Royal Pharmaceutical Framework.**
- If I can RPL a module what happens during this time; do I not have to attend university but still continue with work-based learning? **You would continue with work-based learning.**
- How much of the course can be RPL'd if I have some of the modules already? **You will only be able to RPL up to 50% of the programme.**
- How many hours study will I have to put into each term? **Each module (excluding the NMP module) will consist of 7 taught days (combination of face-to-face and online). Please be mindful of the credits attached to each module (1 credit =10 hours of study).**

- How many hours will I need to attend university? *As above*
- What is the cost of the course? £6,600 per year (24/25). Government support for course fee if apprenticeship route used £14000.
- When do I have to decide between [APP 717](#) and [APP 770](#), what are main differences in these modules? *More information of these modules, including their differences, can be accessed by the UoP website. You will need to decide which module you would like to undertake on application.*
- Can I still apply if I don't have a BSc 2:1? *Applicants without a first degree, BSc (Hons) at 2:2 or above may be eligible to apply, if combined with appropriate practice related experience relevant to the programme and following submission of a written critical evaluation of specialist study or practice marked against the Level 6 criteria.*
- What qualifications, experience and preparation will my practice assessor and supervisor require? *The NMC standards state that; 'Practice Assessors can evidence prior learning and relevant practice assessor experience that enables them to engage in fair, reliable and valid assessment processes in the context of community nursing SPQ (where they don't hold the SPQ)'. As there are few GPN's in the southwest who hold the SPQ, we will be looking for experienced GPN's to undergo the PA / PS preparation with the UoP to take on the role.*