



Programme Specification

Programme Summary Information				
1	Programme Title		BSc Nursing Practice (Top-up)	
2	University of Sunderland Course Code	BNURPCCTFT / BNURPCCTPT	UCAS Code	NPT1
3	Awarding Institution		University of Sunderland in London	
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)			
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) (if applicable)		Not applicable	

6	Programme Description
	<p>The BSc (Hons) Nursing Practice (Top-up) provides students with the opportunity to explore a broad range of topics aligned with current healthcare agendas and policies, while enabling them to integrate learning that is directly relevant to their own clinical practice. Students will explore, critically debate, and incorporate theoretical and practical issues within the context of their own area/speciality of clinical practice. This will be enhanced through multi-speciality discussions with staff and students from different clinical arenas. Students will develop these skills throughout each module, culminating in assessment submissions that enable them to demonstrate their progression and achievement.</p> <p>The programme has been developed through reflecting on the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FHEQ standards. • NMC (2018) Future Nurse: Standards of Proficiency for Registered Nurses. • and the NMC (2018) Standards Framework for Nursing and Midwifery Education <p>The documents used in the programme development have ensured that the programme continues to align with the contemporary requirements of graduate development in healthcare and nursing education. Benchmarking and mapping against these documents, as well as others such as the NHS Five-Year Forward View, has been undertaken to ensure this alignment. Standards and guidance from bodies including the NMC, QAA, FHEQ, OFS, and the University of Sunderland will continue to guide curriculum development, keeping the programme current and responsive.</p> <p>The programme is not approved by the NMC and does not lead to registration with the NMC. It is an academic top up for level 1 NMC Registered nurses or Internationally Educated Nurses, who have a licence to practice in their country of qualification as a Qualified Nurse. Please note there is a separate process for overseas nurses to obtain registration from the NMC.</p> <p>The modules that form the Top-up degree in nursing practice include Keystone Learning for Health care (30-credit) which explores the essential learning competencies for nursing students in higher education, including critical thinking, academic writing, reflective practice, and evidence-based nursing practice. Emphasis will be placed on effectively managing the</p>

challenges encountered within the academic setting of higher education, fostering student confidence and proficiency as learners. The second module; **Research Methods** (30-credit) enables students to gain knowledge on the introduction to research methods and gain research skills helpful for completing a research project on a current and ongoing healthcare issue. Students are required to study one optional module, and the third module, **Health Assessment (Adult Nursing)** (30-credit optional module); is designed to help students develop nursing skills through a series of simulations, allowing them to engage in realistic scenarios and situations and gain competencies to provide evidence-based personalised patient care in the context of Adult nursing. **Health Assessment (Mental Health Nursing)** (30-credit optional module): This module is structured to enhance students' nursing skills through immersive simulations, allowing them to participate in realistic mental health scenarios. Through these experiences, students develop key competencies to deliver evidence-based, person-centered care tailored to the needs of individuals with mental health challenges. **Health Assessment (Paediatric Nursing)** (30-credit optional module): This module aims to help students with essential nursing skills through simulations, allowing them to engage in paediatric scenarios. By participating in these experiences, students develop key skills to deliver evidence-based, family-centered care that meets the unique needs of children and young people in paediatric nursing. **Health Assessment (Learning Disability Nursing)** (30-credit optional module): This module is designed to enhance students' nursing skills through simulations, enabling them to engage in scenarios relevant to learning disability nursing. Through these experiences, students develop key competencies to deliver evidence-based, person-centered care tailored to the diverse needs of individuals with learning disabilities. Please note that registering for the OSCE examination with the NMC is a separate process and must be completed independently of your programme registration. The final module is the **Research Project** (30-credit) which provides students with the opportunity to independently undertake a research project on a current and ongoing health issue using secondary data. Students will pursue an area of study of their personal interest in-depth, applying the concepts, techniques, and skills developed through the earlier stages of this programme. The combination of these modules will ensure the students achieve the University Graduate Attributes of being Professional, Adaptable and Engaged.

As part of the programme, students will receive a thorough induction, not just to the programme, but to university life in general. This induction will include the allocation of a personal academic tutor (PAT), who will be able to support students with both academic development and provide pastoral support/signposting. Students will also be introduced to the programme team and module leaders, and support teams which are available throughout the University, including international student support, wellbeing, finance and English language skills.

Students who enrolled on the BSc (Hons) Nursing Practice (Top-up) will be studying at the University of Sunderland in London. Teaching is delivered face-to-face, and the University's London campus includes a fully equipped simulation facility. This includes an immersive simulation suite which also includes mock-wards, and a mock house for community simulations. There are also several different simulation mannequins that are available for teaching use.

Does the programme have an associated IFY? No

7 Programme Awards			
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	BSc (Hons) Nursing Practice (Top-up)	6	120
7b	Exit Awards and Credit Awarded		
	BSc (Hons) Nursing Practice	6	60

8	Programme Specific Regulations
	No

9a		
Mode(s) of Study	Location/Campus	Duration of Study
Full time	London	12 months
Part-time	London	24 months

9b		
Is this programme delivered at a Transnational (TNE) partner?		No
Is this programme delivered at UK Further Education Colleges?		No

10	Entry Requirements
	<p>This BSc (Hons) Nursing Practice (Top-Up) programme is not approved by the NMC and does not lead to registration with the NMC. It is an academic top up for level 1 NMC Registered nurses, who are seeking to become a graduate nurse or Internationally Educated Nurses, who have a licence to practice in their country of qualification as a Qualified Nurse and looking to become a graduate nurse.</p> <p>Students who hold a Diploma in Higher Education or Diploma in Nursing qualification or equivalent (achieved within the last 5 years), are entered directly onto the programme via the University's admissions process.*</p> <p>The admission requirements for this programme as stated on the course page of the University of Sunderland website at https://www.sunderland.ac.uk/ and https://london.sunderland.ac.uk/, or found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website are correct.</p> <p>This programme is suitable for students to enter with advanced standing (e.g., APL): YES</p> <p>Where applicable use the space below to detail any specific arrangements – eg APL only permitted to a specific level Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL).</p>

11	Programme Learning Outcomes
	By the end of the programme successful students will be able to do the following:
PLO1	Development and maintenance of personal and professional skills relevant to their clinical and professional academic study in nursing practice.
PLO2	Critically analyse key theoretical issues that underpin contemporary nursing practice
PLO3	Critically analyse and apply research methodologies to appropriate research questions
PLO4	Systematically evaluate the healthcare system and its impact on care delivery.
PLO5	Be critically reflexive and analyse their own individual nursing practice.
PLO6	Identify a suitable topic area, critically analyse available evidence, synthesise and report their findings.
PLO7	Critically evaluate the implementation of evidence-based practice
PLO8	Critically evaluate clinical decision making and safe delivery of care using evidence-based practice.
PLO9	Make decisions in complex and unpredictable contexts based on the available evidence whilst considering the limits of current knowledge.

12. Programme Requirements

There are optional modules on this programme Yes

Level 6:

In order to complete this programme a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 90 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	PLO(s) assessed
UGN3008	Keystone Learning for Health Care	30	PLO1, PLO5, PLO8, PLO9
UGN3009	Research Methods	30	PLO3, PLO6
UGN3014	Research Project	30	PLO6, PLO3, PLO9

In order to complete this programme a student must successfully complete one OPTION modules totalling 30 credits: Option modules available on this programme are as below – **please note that there may be instances where not all options will be available.**

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	PLO(s) assessed
UGN3011	Health Assessment (Adult Nursing Practice)	30 (or)	PLO2, PLO7, PLO4, PLO5
UGN3010	Health Assessment (Mental Health Nursing)	30 (or)	PLO2, PLO7, PLO4, PLO5
UGN3012	Health Assessment (Learning Disability Nursing)	30 (or)	PLO2, PLO7, PLO4, PLO5
UGN3013	Health Assessment (Paediatric Nursing)	30 (or)	PLO2, PLO7, PLO4, PLO5

13. Employability

The programme contributes to the development of the following graduate attributes. Please refer to [Integrated Curriculum Design Framework](#) when completing this section.

Professional	The programme has used the NMC (2018) Standards of Proficiency for Registered Nurses and the NMC (2018) Standards Framework for Nursing and Midwifery Education in its development. This ensures that the core knowledge, skills, and attributes required at registered nurse degree level will be attained. This programme does not lead to professional registration with the NMC, but students on the programme, who are International Educated Nurses, will be signposted to appropriate available masterclasses and resources outside the course that can be used to support their application for professional registration.
Adaptable	The employability skills of students are enhanced by attaining this qualification in terms of delivering care in rapidly changing healthcare environments. The nursing workforce is characterised by the ability to respond

	<p>to the ever-changing healthcare needs of a diverse population. Nurses must be equipped to lead, delegate, supervise, support, educate, and be part of the development of new healthcare policy and research. This requires the ability to constructively challenge current methods of care using evidence-based practice, which are concepts addressed by the programme curriculum.</p> <p>The study skills and formative activities incorporated in the programme have been designed to promote independent learning, critical thinking and academic rigour, and will also enhance English language skills. This is particularly relevant for international students who want to apply through the independent NMC process for professional registration with the NMC.</p>
Engaged	<p>The programme has been strategically designed with stakeholders, including students from the current cohorts, and service users/patients and their families and carers, to ensure that students are encouraged to be active learners who are engaged and participatory in identifying and achieving their learning needs.</p> <p>Government policies and changes to visa restrictions have ensured that our graduates represent a significant and vital resource to the UK knowledge-based economy.</p> <p>Our graduating students go on to contribute to the vital need for social and economic growth in global, national and local platforms. It is anticipated that as students graduate from the programme some will enter, or indeed continue, in employment with local NHS Trusts and care providers, while some will continue to work in the national and global context of healthcare provision.</p>

14. Additional Costs: Are there any additional costs on top of the fees?

<p>Yes (essential). All students buy some study materials such as books and provide their own basic study materials. In addition, there are some essential additional costs associated with the programme (see the next column).</p>	<p>Students may need to buy additional books. Students may require access to personal laptops/computers in addition to those supplied by the University.</p>
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15. Version Control

Programme Specifications are checked annually and updated when changes are made to the programme.

Version Number		Date	Details of change	Author
V1	Document created		New updated spec	Madhini Sivasubramanian
V2	Document changed	06/03/24	Update on programme description and learning outcomes	Dr Yahaya Alhassan
V3	Document changed	05/02/2026	Update on programme modules' description	Dr Ati Omrani

Version number:	1	Template owner:	Quality
Date reviewed:		Date of next review:	