

## Programme Specification

A Programme Specification provides a concise summary of the main features of a programme and its intended learning outcomes. It is intended to be used by prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers.

<b>Programme Title:</b>	
<b>MSc Community Healthcare Practice</b>	
<b>Programme (AOS) Code(s):</b>	<b>MW1CHP2</b>
<b>UCAS Code:</b>	
<b>Name of Final Award:</b>	<b>Master of Science, MSc</b>
<b>Level of Qualification:</b>	<b>Level 7</b>
<b>Regime of Delivery:</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>Mode(s) of Delivery:</b>	<b>Part time</b>
<b>Typical Length of Study (Years):</b>	<b>1 year</b>
<b>Professional Body Recognition / Accreditation (including specific requirements where applicable):</b>	<b>N/A</b>

### Brief Description of the Programme

This programme has been developed to encourage independent, life-long learning and research that will inform community healthcare practice. It will enable students who hold a Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPHN) or Specialist Practitioner Qualification (SPQ) in the UK to gain a Masters qualification. Applicants will be on the NMC Register. Though primarily designed to meet the needs of Buckinghamshire New University Graduates, the programme is also open to students who have undertaken a commensurate programme externally. Potential applicants do not need to have completed a period of additional practice following registration prior to starting the programme, though normally, they should be employed within a healthcare setting to facilitate application of the research to practice.

### Programme Aims:

1	To build student's skills in designing and undertaking research that is relevant to community healthcare practice.
2	To develop student's ability to synthesise and evaluate literature to an advanced level, through the systematic investigation of a relevant topic.
3	To enable students to consider ethical principles in designing appropriate research.
4	To allow students to develop skills in undertaking independent study that contributes to the body of community nursing knowledge.

### Programme Learning Outcomes

The Bucks Graduate Attributes focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens. The attributes are developed through the programme.

ID	Learning Outcome
<b>Graduate Attribute: Knowledge and its application (K)</b>	
K1	Identify, discuss and critically evaluate contemporary community nursing in the chosen field of practice.
K2	Demonstrate in depth critical awareness of the research process and the nature of knowledge.
K3	Show mastery in the chosen topic relating to community healthcare practice.
K4	Interpret and critique quantitative and qualitative research methods that are used to develop community healthcare practice.
<b>Graduate Attribute: Creativity (C)</b>	
C1	Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data to draw creative conclusions in relation to the chosen community nursing topic.
C3	Demonstrate critical writing skills to demonstrate creative solutions to problems.
<b>Graduate Attribute: Social and ethical awareness and responsibility (S)</b>	
S1	Show awareness of the ethical responsibilities of research within community healthcare practice
<b>Graduate Attribute: Leadership and self-development (L)</b>	
L1	Demonstrate ability in undertaking an independent research study.

### Programme Structure

Programmes are structured in stages. The number of stages will vary depending on the mode (e.g. full-time, part-time), duration and location of study which will be detailed in the Programme Handbook.

Modules are set at a specific academic level and listed as either core (compulsory) or optional. The level indicates the relative academic difficulty which will increase through the programme. Passing modules will reward you with academic credit. The amount of credits will depend on the complexity of the module and the level of effort required, which is measured in 'notional learning hours'.

Our [Academic Advice webpages](#) provide more information on the structure of taught awards offered by the University.

*Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to sector developments.*

### Level 7

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
NS720	Dissertation	60	Core	NO

### Learning and Teaching Activities

Please see the [Academic Advice pages](#) for a description of learning and teaching activities that are recognised by the University. Detailed information on this specific programme is outlined below:

Teaching and learning strategies employed within the programme reflect the nature of the learning experience at Level 7 and the target audience. Strategies adopted will encourage further student independence and learning from and through experience, using reflection, and the development of the skills required to practice. The prior experience and expertise inherent within this student population will be actively employed. Paramount to the teaching and learning strategy will be the value placed on the student's own experience of practice and theoretical underpinnings of practice.

Materials that are used to support module delivery will be made available within a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). This might include PowerPoint slides, handouts, worksheets, website links, and articles electronically scanned into PDF files.

The module will be front loaded with taught sessions in the form of key lectures/seminars to impart key information regarding research process, methodologies and expectations of the programme. Subsequently, the module will be delivered using supervision. Each student will be allocated an academic supervisor to guide them through their dissertation. Meetings between the student and supervisor will be arranged regularly and will enable:

- Generation and development of the aim and research question for the dissertation
- Identification of a search strategy and exploration of relevant literature to inform the study
- Development of an appropriate research strategy to meet the requirements of the research question
- Presentation of research findings, methodology, discussion, accurate Harvard referencing and application to practice, promoting evidence based practice
- Continuous feedback from the supervisor in an agreed format between the student and the supervisor.

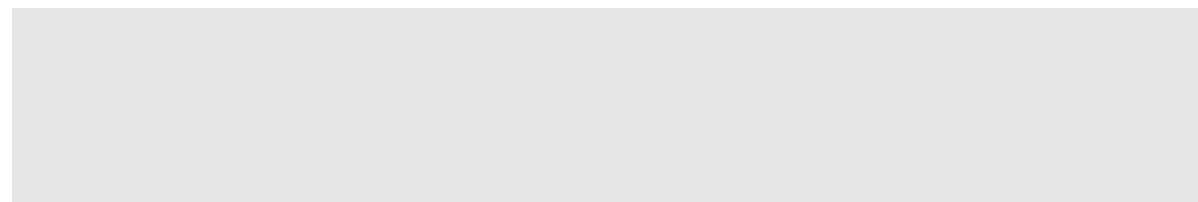
The emphasis will be on student support and facilitation enabling tailoring of support to meet individual student need. Supervision will be allocated as per normal university guidelines of 20 minutes per student per week. The Learning Development Unit and the Library are examples of additional support that may be accessed by the student where appropriate.

Students accessing the programme from within Bucks will have already undertaken a research module, which prepares them for academic work of this nature. Students accessing the programme having studied elsewhere will have to demonstrate that they have undertaken a research module at academic level seven and at interview demonstrate their ideas for the forthcoming dissertation. The course team can then facilitate access to additional support as required, for example the learning development unit. The dissertation presented is a unique piece of work that is assessed at regular intervals during preparation.

### Additional Course Costs

There are costs associated with all studies, additional to the tuition fee, which require consideration, when planning and budgeting for expenditure. Costs are indicative and for the total length of the course shown unless otherwise stated and will increase with inflation; depending on the programme

they may include equipment, printing, project materials, study trips, placement activities, DBS and/or other security checks.



### Contact Hours

1 unit of credit is the equivalent of 10 notional learning hours. Full time undergraduate students study 120 credits (1200 hours) and full-time postgraduate students study 180 credits (1800 hours) per year or 'stage' of the course.

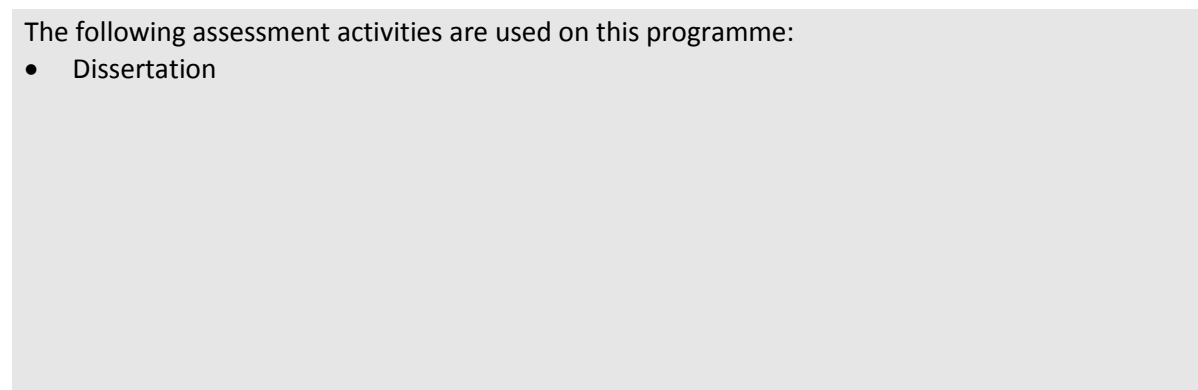
Course Stage	Scheduled Activities (Hours)	Guided Independent Study (Hours)	Placement / Study Abroad (Hours)
One Year	34	566	

### Assessment Methods

The [Assessment and Examination webpages](#) provide further information on how assignments are marked and moderated, including a description of assessment activities. These also include further information about how feedback on assessed work is provided to students, including our commitment to ensure this is provided to students within 15 working days (the 'three-week turnaround').

The following assessment activities are used on this programme:

- Dissertation



### Classification

<b>Calculation of final award:</b>	<b>100% level 7</b>
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For full details of assessment regulations for all taught programmes please refer to our [Results webpages](#). These include the criteria for degree classification.

### Admissions Requirements

Please see the [Application webpages](#) for more information on how to apply, including a statement on how we support students from a variety of backgrounds. Please also see our [general entry requirements](#) for taught programmes. Applicants who do not meet our published entry requirements are encouraged to contact our admissions team for further advice and guidance.

### Typical applicant profile and any programme-specific entry requirements

Students accessing this course will be qualified district nurses, health visitors, school nurses or community children's nurses who have attained a PG diploma in specialist practice and are recorded/registered on the NMC professional register.

**Do applicants require a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check?**

**No Applicants will already have DBS**

### Opportunities for students on successful completion of the programme

It is expected that students accessing this course are normally already working in community healthcare practice as district nurses, health visitors, school nurses or community children's nurses. Gaining a masters level qualification will enhance their opportunities for developing their careers further. This may include management, practice teaching or higher education teaching opportunities.

### Recognition of Prior Learning

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules. Please refer to our [Credit Accumulation webpages](#) for further guidance.

### Student Support

During the course of their studies, students will be supported in the following ways:

- At the start of their studies all students will receive a full **induction** to the programme which will include introduction to the staff responsible for delivering the course, and access to library and IT facilities
- The **Programme Handbook** will outline the exact nature of the course and how it is structured, including the availability of option modules
- Each student will be allocated a **Personal Tutor** who will support their academic development, be able to advise and guide them with their studies and, where necessary, give advice on study options
- Students will be able to access our full range of **support services**, including the Learning Development Unit for skills and study support, the Library, the Careers and Employability Team, Student Finance Team, Accommodation and Counselling Services

## Appendices

### Quality Assurance

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	
<b>Language of Study:</b>	English
<b>QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s):</b>	Level 7
<b>Assessment Regulations:</b>	<i>Academic Assessment Regulations</i> , accessible via the Academic Advice webpages ( <a href="https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice">https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice</a> )
<b>Does the Fitness to Practise procedure apply to this programme?</b>	Yes
<b>Date Published / Updated:</b>	

