

Programme Specification

Nursing Studies (2020-21)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Part-time
Duration in years	2
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Master of Science (MSc)
Name of award	Nursing Studies
Interim Exit awards	
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	8334
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Master's Degree Characteristics 2016
Programme Lead	Lyn Wilson

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

As a University of Southampton student when you complete your PGDip you have the option to return to 'top-up' the diploma to MSc. The Master of Science Top-up Award aims to enhance your knowledge base and skills to be a critically aware practitioner able to appraise and, if necessary, challenge practice. You will be enabled to use effectively a philosophy of care that is based on evidence, to develop and lead service provision that meets the needs of a 21st century health and social care service. This is a part time programme which commences each September. You need to commence the programme within three years of completing your Postgraduate Diploma.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

The University of Southampton is committed to developing learners who are able to develop a reflective and problem-solving approach to their practice by acquiring knowledge and skills in a contextual, integrated manner. We promote student-centred approaches and recognise the value of learning from past and current experiences

as well as the introduction of new knowledge. We aim to support you to be an independent life-long learner able to plan and manage your own learning. Learning and teaching methods are designed to integrate theory with practice, to foster a spirit of enquiry and to encourage new ways of thinking.

Learning will be facilitated by a variety of teaching methods which may include: formal lectures, seminars, enquiry and work based learning, case studies, workshops, group work, web-based learning and self-directed study.

Assessment

The assessment methods encountered in the Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing (pre-registration) have enabled you to demonstrate achievement of the programme learning outcomes as you progressed through each module. You encountered a variety of approaches to assessment that helped you demonstrate your knowledge and understanding through utilisation of a range of study skills. The programme assessment methods are designed to help you integrate theory with practice, develop your skills of critical thinking and analysis and achieve mastery in your field of nursing. In the dissertation module formative and summative assessment methods will be used to help you meet the learning outcomes of the module and award.

Special Features of the programme

N/A

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's [programme validation process](#) which is described in the University's [Quality handbook](#).

Educational Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to: The MSc Nursing Studies is a modular postgraduate programme open only to students who have successfully completed the University of Southampton Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing (pre-registration), all fields and as validated in July 2013.

In order to achieve the award of MSc Nursing Studies you must successfully complete the compulsory 30 ECTS dissertation module: HLTH 6059. On successful completion of the module, you will surrender your PG Diploma credits to receive the MSc Nursing Studies.

The academic module requires attendance at Action Learning Groups, the submission of a formative research proposal and the undertaking of a substantial piece of independent study. You will be supported by an academic supervisor.

The Master of Science Nursing Studies award aims to enable you to enhance your knowledge base and skills to be a critically aware practitioner able to appraise and, if necessary, challenge practice. You will be enabled to use effectively a philosophy of care that is based on evidence, to develop and lead service provision that meets the needs of a 21st century health and social care service. On successful completion of the programme you will have achieved the aims of the Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing (pre-registration) AND achieve these aims:

- a) Develop mastery in nursing practice through advancing your analytical skills, nursing knowledge and

communication skills.

- b) Use and evaluate research utilising sound methodological principles which are appropriate to nursing.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. The philosophical foundations and theoretical perspectives of nursing practice;
- A2. Anatomical, physiological, neurological, biomechanical, psycho-sociological and pathological principles related to human health and wellbeing;
- A3. The bio-psychosocial model of disability and the impact on the individual's participation in society;
- A4. Clinical governance and evidenced based practice in your chosen field of nursing based on a systematic appraisal of established research findings;
- A5. Systematic and critical evaluation of research findings to generate new knowledge within your chosen field of nursing practice;
- A6. Ethical, moral and legal issues in relation to your chosen field of nursing practice to make sound judgements in both simple and complex clinical situations while exercising critical non-discriminatory decisions;
- A7. The changing and diverse nature of health and social care provision in private, public and third sector organisations including structure, political and policy drivers.
- A8. The evidence that underpins effective nursing interventions and services.
- A9. The interpretation and critique of quantitative and qualitative research methods used to develop the nursing practice evidence base.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- B1. Work autonomously and with accountability in relation to complex clinical decision making while recognising your own limitations and your relationship/responsibility within health care provision;
- B2. Demonstrate the skills of independent reflection necessary to continuously learn and meet the challenge of pursuing excellence in the delivery of values-based health care;
- B3. Engage intellectually with the subject underpinned by a curiosity and openness to new ideas, methods

and ways of thinking such that you are able to reflect critically and systematically on your and other professionals' practice;

- B4. Undertake critical recognition and creative reflection upon fiscal dilemmas concerning the funding and ethics of modern health & social care;
- B5. Make holistic assessment and identification of the needs of individuals, their families and carers from a physical, psychological, environmental, social, emotional and spiritual perspective to understand and value the diversity and complexity of human behaviour and interaction;
- B6. Adopt a creative approach to problem resolution and to make critical judgements supported by an ability to locate effectively, analyse and evaluate information.
- B7. Undertake an independent research project relevant to your field of practice.
- B8. Critically analyse and interpret a range of data and evidence for effective nursing practice.
- B9. Reflect critically on the ethical and legal issues related to nursing research and practice, including the importance of data confidentiality, disclosure, ethical dilemmas and data sharing protocols.
- B10. Demonstrate proficiency and creativity in the planning and delivery of services which reflect modern complex health and social care needs based on sound rationale, ethical and professional principles and the best available evidence.

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- C1. Autonomous and team working practice utilising leadership skills;
- C2. Selecting and applying verbal, written, numerical and visual literacy skills so as to communicate in a variety of forms to a multiplicity of audiences;
- C3. Using technology to work, research, learn, present ideas or data so as to influence others in an increasingly digital world;
- C4. Critical analysis and evaluation of academic, clinical and professional performance;
- C5. Effective time management and prioritisation of workload to sustain efficient and effective practice;
- C6. Promoting the safety, rights, dignity and diversity of clients, their families and your colleagues;
- C7. Safe practice - ensuring the safety of yourself as a practitioner, your client and others who utilise your service through need/ risk assessment and appropriate and timely management;
- C8. Creative and innovative problem-solving by applying theoretical concepts to practical situations;
- C9. Utilising and responsibly applying information management/technologies to support learning, evidenced based practice and research activities;
- C10. Managing change effectively and responding with ethical appropriateness to changing service demands;
- C11. Advocating for and empowering individuals and families to take responsibility for their own health;
- C12. Critically evaluating your own personal, academic, clinical and professional performance through reflective practice;
- C13. Insightful reflective learning in order to facilitate personal and professional development.
- C14. Practise autonomously, professionally and be responsible and accountable for safe, compassionate,

person-centred, evidence-based practice appropriate to your chosen field of nursing;

- C15. Work in partnership with other health and social care professionals and agencies, ensuring decisions about care are informed and shared;
- C16. Apply current legislation paying special attention to the protection of vulnerable individuals and groups, including those with complex needs arising from the life course, including cognitive impairment, long-term conditions and end of life care;
- C17. Respond warmly and positively to individuals their families and carers who may be anxious, distressed, or facing problems with their health and wellbeing;
- C18. Assess and meet the full range of essential physical and mental health needs, including making reasonable adjustments, of individuals of all ages who come into your care, taking account of how behaviour, culture, socioeconomic and other factors, in the care environment and its location, can affect health, illness, health outcomes and public health priorities;
- C19. Promote the concept, knowledge and practice of self and family centred care for individuals with acute and long-term conditions, using a range of communication strategies and skills;
- C20. Meet complex and co-existing needs of individuals their families and carers within your chosen field of nursing practice, in any setting including home, community and hospital;
- C21. Use appropriate diagnostic and decision-making skills and safely use invasive and non-invasive procedures, medical devices, and current technological and pharmacological interventions, where relevant, in medical and surgical nursing practice, recognise and respond to the changing needs of individuals their families and carers during end of life care;
- C22. Use clinical governance processes to maintain and improve Nursing practice and standards of healthcare;
- C23. Provide ethical leadership in managing nursing care appropriate to your field of practice and initiate and coordinate inter-professional care when needed;
- C24. Recognise your leadership role in emergency management, major incident provision and public health emergencies, and respond appropriately according to your level of competence.
- C25. Communicate nursing practice evidence using a range of communication methods and showing sensitivity to the specific needs of the potential audience.

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Part I

To achieve the MSc Nursing Studies award you must complete the compulsory 30 ECTS (level 7) MSc Dissertation

module: HLTH6213 This module should normally be completed within two years.

The MSc Nursing Studies is a modular postgraduate programme open only to students who have successfully completed the University of Southampton Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing (pre-registration), all fields and as validated in July 2013. The Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing (pre-registration) programme is delivered in modules of learning and is normally completed in 2 years of study.

The dissertation module, and hence the MSc award programme, must be commenced within three years of completing the PG Diploma and can only be entered after successful completion of the Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing (pre-registration).

Calculation of the MSc classification is calculated from the marks in the Level 7 PGDip modules (totalling 45 ECTS), plus the 30 ECTS from the Dissertation. The final placement contributes from the PGDip to the 90 ECTS required for the MSc, but is not included in the classification calculation. This means that the final classification for the MSc may be lower than that awarded for the Post Graduate Diploma.

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
HLTH6213	MSc Dissertation 18 month 2020-21	30	Core

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes*](#) and [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes*](#) Any exemptions or variations to the University regulations, approved by AQSC are located in [*section VI of the University Calendar*](#).

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards

- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

At the programme level you will be able to access:

- An induction programme to support your transition to undertaking a research module
- Student handbooks to support your studies and to explain assessment regulations
- An introduction to the library and Information Technology (IT)
- Computer workstations
- A student representative system and staff/student liaison committee so that your views on the programme can be heard both during the teaching periods and after the modules are completed
- The Programme Lead, who will be responsible for overseeing your progress throughout your programme and will be responsible for the overall management of the Programme and for any student issues outside the remit of or referred by the module leaders, personal tutors or dissertation supervisors
- In consultation with the Programme Lead you will identify, or you will be allocated, a supervisor for your Dissertation.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme.
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff/Student Liaison Committees, School Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation.
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality Handbook](#).

Career Opportunities

N/A

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff:

Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Printing and Photocopying Costs	It may be possible to submit coursework on line. However, where it is not possible to submit on line students will be asked to provide a printed copy.
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationary items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc. Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	<p>Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source.</p> <p>Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.</p>

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.