UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

Programme Specification

Master of Science in Nursing Studies: Academic Year 2017-18

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	Full time and part time
Duration in years	One year following standard progression for a FT student
	Two years following standard progression for a PT student
Accreditation details	Currently accredited by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
Final award	Master of Science
Name of award	Master of Science in Nursing Studies
Interim Exit awards	Not applicable
FHEQ level of final award	7
UCAS code	Not applicable
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	QAA Masters Degree Characteristics (2010)
Programme Leader	Lyn Wilson
Date specification was written	October 2012
Date Programme was validated	February 2013
Date specification last updated	April 2017

Programme Overview

Learning and Teaching Methods

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.

Our educational philosophy is based upon recognition of values and we adopt a "Values Based Model" which is designed to develop the habits of mind which will ensure that you are able to develop into a caring and compassionate practitioner with confidence and self-belief and with well-developed critical thinking skills. These three attributes taken together characterise the Southampton nurse.

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

Assessment Methods

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. The methods include a research proposal, a presentation to your learning group and submission of a substantial independent research project.

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 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.

Learning Outcomes

Our programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate your knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate achievement of the PG diploma outcomes A1 – A7 and, in addition, demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

1. The evidence that underpins effective nursing interventions and services.
2. The interpretation and critique of quantitative and qualitative research methods used to develop the nursing practice evidence base.
3.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate achievement of the PG diploma outcomes B1 – B6 and, in addition:

1. Undertake an independent research project relevant to your field of practice.
2. Critically analyse and interpret a range of data and evidence for effective nursing practice.
3. 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.
4. 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

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate achievement of the PG diploma outcomes C1 – C13 and D1 – D11 and, in addition:

1. Communicate nursing practice evidence using a range of communication methods and showing sensitivity to the specific needs of the potential audience.

Programme Structure

To achieve the MSc Nursing Studies award you must complete the compulsory 30 ECTS (level 7) dissertation module: HLTH 6059. 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 full time 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). Completion of the compulsory 30 ECTS (level 7) dissertation module: HLTH 6059 will enable students to accumulate at least 90 ECTS credits (or equivalent in HE credits) of which no less than 75 are at level 7 and of which 30 level 7 ECTS are assigned to an independent piece of work (see University of Southampton Calendar).

The MSc may be awarded at Pass with Merit or Distinction. If you are registered for the MSc you will be awarded the qualification with Merit or Distinction if you achieve a final weighted mark of 60% to 69% (Merit) or 70% and over (Distinction). Calculation of the MSc classification is calculated from the marks in the Level 7 PGDip modules (totalling 45 ETCS), 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.

Additional Costs

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. Costs that students registerted for this programme typically also have to pay for are included in Appendix 1.

Support for student learning

There are systems available both to support your learning in participating Faculties and from the central University.

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.

In the University you will be able to access:

- A student e-mail account
- Libraries with specialist collections that are staffed by helpful and skilled librarians and are open at convenient times for students
- IT facilities with generous ratios of machines to students
- Web-based learning & communication resources
- University health service
- Student counselling and mentoring services
- Chaplains on all main campuses
- Disability officers to assist any student with special needs related to physical, sensory or mental health impairment
- Learning differences support service for students with, for instance, dyslexia

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

We consider it extremely important that your comments and those of your student colleagues influence changes and developments that may be made to the programme. We intend that the programme is 'student centred' and to achieve that we aim to encourage you to have your say on the teaching and the learning experience at Southampton. We will seek your views and opinions in the following ways:

- Student representative(s) on the Postgraduate Education Management Committee
- Module reviews (based on feedback evaluations from students and staff report)
- End of programme evaluation
- Year-end University evaluation.

Committees that have responsibility for monitoring and evaluating quality and standards are:

- Boards of Examiners that meet at least twice a year to consider marks, progression and awards. Standards will be monitored for the Boards of Examiners by the Programme Director to ensure uniformity between different modules.

The quality of the programme is assured and enhanced in the following ways:

- Annual module and programme report undertaken by the Programme Lead in conjunction with the module leader
- Annual external examiner report
- University led quinquennial review and re-approval of programme
- On-going review of subject and professional benchmarking standards
- Faculty Taught Programme Board
- University Committee responsible for Academic Quality Standards.

Criteria for admission

The University's Admission's Policy applies equally to all programmes of study. The following are the typical entry criteria to be used for selecting candidates for admission. The University's approved equivalences for the requirements listed below will also be acceptable.

Candidates for admission to the course must satisfy the general entry requirements of the University and must hold:

- The University of Southampton Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing (pre-registration), all fields and as validated in July 2013
- Current registration on part 1 of the Nursing and Midwifery Council register.

Students should normally register to commence this award within 5 years of the start of the Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing detailed above

Qualification	Grade/GPA	Subjects requirements	Specific requirements
Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing	Pass	Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Adult, Mental Health, Child)	Students should normally register to commence this award within 5 years of the start of the PG Dip in Nursing. Applicants must also hold a current registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Mature applicants

The University of Southampton admits students on individual merit and does not discriminate on the grounds of age. The University encourages applications from mature students and is keen to support students through the application process and the transition to studying at University.

Applicants must provide evidence of recent formal study. Successful applicants must satisfy the Programme Leader that they are competent to pursue the programme. The right to refuse permission shall be reserved to the Programme Leader.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

The University has a **Recognition of Prior Learning Policy.** Applications for recognition of prior learning will be considered on a case by case basis.

English Language Proficiency

Overall	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Listening
6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0

Regulation of Assessment

The academic module will be assessed by an assignment based on the learning outcomes. The module pass mark is 50% or above.

Failure to submit an assignment at the first attempt within the allocated time and without prior arrangement with the module or award leader is considered to be a referral at the first attempt. You will normally be offered the option to resubmit a referred assessment on one occasion. The pass mark awarded for all successful re-submissions is 50%.

Any further opportunity to satisfy the examiners in the module, after the second attempt shall be at the discretion of the Examination Board and shall only be accorded in exceptional circumstances.

You will receive constructive feedback for the assignment from the assignment marker(s) Comprehensive information about the process for completing and submitting assignments is available in your student handbook, which is updated annually.

Indicators of Quality and Standards

All programme development is in accordance with Subject Benchmark Statements and the National Qualification Framework, published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Programme approval and validation is strictly in accordance with University Procedures and is subject to external scrutiny.

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 he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the study module guide and programme handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

External Examiners(s) for the programme

Name Gibson D'Cruz
Institution. University of East Anglia

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 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 s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Appendix 1

Additional Costs

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 typically also have to pay for the items listed in the table below.

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.

Main Item	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
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	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. 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.
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.