

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

MSc Nursing Studies

1.	Awarding Institution / Body	University of Worcester
2.	Teaching Institution	University of Worcester
3.	Programme accredited by	N/A
4.	Final award	MSc
5.	Programme Title	MSc Nursing Studies
6.	Pathways Available	N/A
7.	Mode and / or site of delivery	Taught sessions at UW supported by blended learning
8.	Mode of Attendance	Full time
9.	UCAS Code	N/A
10.	Subject Benchmark Statement and / or Professional Body Statement	QAA (2010) Masters Degree Characteristics (Whole Course)
11.	Date of Programme Specification preparation / revision	Approved by Audit and Review Committee July 2012, IQC changes May 2015, amendments to RPL and regs Sept 2015, correction to regulations May 2016, August 2016 (Regulations amended - Section 20)

12. Educational Aims of the Programme

The MSc Nursing Studies is a bespoke programme for practising nurses registered overseas that will develop their study skills and knowledge base with the flexibility and support needed by these students. The MSc Nursing Studies programme, provides nurses from outside the UK with an opportunity to study nursing as a practice-focused, academic and professional discipline.

The programme aims to:

- develop the ability to evaluate current skills and knowledge to ensure continuing self-development within a framework of life-long learning in order to keep pace with change and operate effectively as a nurse;
- develop skills of critical reflection, analysis and synthesis to inform evidence based practice
- encourage nurses from outside the UK to develop the skills of intellectual challenge and critical reflection thus enabling them to identify personal and professional development needs;
- design and conduct, with tutor support, a substantive, independent research project, with the potential to innovate new practices and influence change;
- demonstrate transferable, interpersonal, communication and team-working skills required for working effectively as a reflective nurse within a multidisciplinary environment;
- facilitate the acquisition of skills and knowledge to enable nurses to develop their leadership and management skills;
- provide opportunities for students to further enhance their international perspective on nursing and health policy to evaluate the unique contribution of nursing to existing and future global healthcare provision.

13. Intended Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods

At the end of the programme, students will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Demonstrate comprehensive and advanced understanding of the core issues and knowledge bases of nursing practice such as epidemiology, physiology, demography, social, political, legal, ethical and professional trends and developments as they relate to their own discipline and country of origin.
2. Provide critical and reflective analysis of complex aspects of nursing, using relevant and established theoretical frameworks.

Cognitive and intellectual skills:

3. Critically evaluate research and enquiry methodologies relevant to the field of nursing.
4. Independently design and conduct a research project using theory and techniques from nursing.

Practical skills for employment:

5. Synthesise evidence at the forefront of nursing, from empirical research, theory, practice, reflection and critical evaluation to make appropriate practice and professional decisions which improve and innovate practices.
6. Demonstrate commitment to the development of self and others, the ability to work independently with autonomy and self-management while collaboratively exercising leadership.
7. Communicate complex ideas verbally and in writing, with a high level of fluency and scholarly expertise.

Generic and transferrable skills:

8. Demonstrate a high level of critical appraisal, self reflection, competence and judgment in retrieving, evaluating and communication information.
9. Work collaboratively, with professionalism, self-awareness and compassion towards group goals.
10. Work independently, making decisions in complex situations, with self direction and self-management to achieve own personal and professional goals.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods

The aim throughout the programme is to provide a range of learning opportunities as students gain knowledge and understanding through the use of a variety of teaching and learning strategies. They may include:

- Discussion and analysis of cases, policies and examples from nursing.
- Self-directed autonomous learning with students applying learning outcomes and content to their own practice, with subsequent discussion to compare and contrast experiences with their peers.
- Group discussion and debate: participation is encouraged and required throughout.
- Tutorials are a key aspect of the learning strategy with students being encouraged to share their assessment plans with tutors and peers. MSAP4001 and MSAP4002 include sessions where students share their assessment plan in groups with peers and receive structured questions and feedback.
- Each module is linked to its own VLE on Blackboard.
- Modules utilise a blended learning approach, utilising face-to-face teaching with e-learning activities.

In the student handbook is a grid showing how the programme learning outcomes are mapped to the modules and within each module descriptor is detail of the learning and teaching time spent either attending study days, undertaking self-directed study and/or e-learning.

All modules have some form of formative assessment which helps students prepare for the summative assessment, presented in the module outline. This enables module leaders to identify issues with students' academic development at an early stage and also enables students to self-assess and ensure they are preparing appropriately for the assessed piece of work. Feedback is directly linked to learning outcomes and assessment criteria. The modules are assessed using a range of methods. A grid demonstrating this can be found in the student handbook.

14. Assessment Strategy

The assessment of the programme is based on 4 key principles:

Adaptability: all the assessment items allow the student to align their area of study with their professional interests and needs.

Utility: students are encouraged to use topics which will enable them to explore issues and questions from their own speciality with a view to innovating and enhancing nursing practice. e.g. MSAP4001, MSAP4002, MSNS4004 and MSNS4005.

Learning: the assessments are seen as powerful opportunities for personal, focused learning and developing self management and self direction; they are a central aspect of the learning process. In MSAP4071, the assignment helps students to develop interpersonal and leadership skills.

Practice focused: many practising nurses registered overseas want practice focused modules and MSNS 4007 and MSNS4008 enable the students to critically reflect on cases from their practice. Students are able to utilise practice situations as a context or contribution for any of their assignments.

Support is given to help the student to apply the module learning outcomes to their assignment through written guidance in the module outline and in tutorials. Summative assessments are generally at the end of modules or are based on work fulfilled over the length of the module. Additional tutorial support is provided for MSc Nursing Studies students when studying on MSNS4004 and MSNS4005 as these are taught alongside the BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies students. This additional tutorial support is to emphasise the critical assessment and analysis necessary to develop thinking at Masters level.

The course uses M level descriptors for assessment of assignments which are benchmarked to the University M level Assessment Criteria.

15. Programme structures and requirements

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Module Code	Module Title	Credits at Level 7	Status Mandatory (M) Optional (O)
MSAP4001	Challenging and enhancing services	20	M
MSAP4002	Research methods in healthcare	20	M
MSAP4071	Leading and managing people	20	M
MSNS 4007	Person centred assessment in clinical practice	20	O

MSNS4008	The care and management of people with non-communicable diseases	20	O
MSPH4007	Climate change and public health	20	O
MSPH4005	Global health	20	O
MSNS4000	Dissertation	60	M

The MSc programme comprises 7 modules which total 180 credits at Level 7.

To achieve the MSc award, students must successfully complete the mandatory modules MSAP4001, MSAP4002, and MSAP4071. They must also take three optional modules from MSNS4007, MSNS4008, MSPH4007 and MSPH 4005. To complete the award students must successfully complete the 60 credit dissertation module MSNS4000.

16. QAA and Professional Academic Standards and Quality

This award is located at level 7 of the FHEQ. The following sources have been used throughout the course planning:

- [QAA \(2010\) Masters Degree Characteristics](#) (Whole course)
- [QAA \(2008\) The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland](#) (Whole course) the programme is set at level 7 of the FHEQ.

In addition, the programme has taken account of national, professional and quality drivers including NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement (2009) High Impact Actions for Nurses and Midwives.

17. Support for students

A full range of pastoral and academic support services are available for students which can be accessed via the [Student Homepage](#).

Specific to the programme:

- Students are interviewed whenever possible although it is recognised that this is not always possible with international students.
- There is extensive course information on Webpages, in module flyers, in the MSNS course handbook.
- Module leaders and personal academic tutors provide an exceptional level of individual academic support and encouragement to students. The team are always aware of the competing pressures on international students and the difficulties of studying in another country and in another language.
- Prior to commencing the course, students are invited to attend an international induction programme that will familiarise them with the University, the IHS and the course. They can meet representatives from Student Services, Registry and ILS and hear more about their services as well as meeting the course team.
- All students are allocated an personal academic tutor for the duration of the course.
- There is a full range of support provided for international students. They are also allocated a dedicated specialist International Personal Tutor (IPT) who offers extensive pastoral and personal support in adjusting to academic life and life in the UK. The IPT also undertakes formative assessment and academic development support in semester one to identify academic problems which might affect progress and to address them with the help of the other module leaders.
- All MSNS modules will have additional tutorial support to emphasise the critical assessment and analysis necessary to develop Masters level thinking.
- Each module has a module outline and webpages linked to the module.

- Most modules have a visit from the ILS link librarian on the first day.
- All dissertation students have a supervisor allocated from first contact and throughout the proposal writing and dissertation process.
- All module leaders provide individual academic support through assessment-specific tutorials in addition to personal academic tutor support.

18. Admissions Policy

Entry requirements for MSc Nursing Studies:

- Recognised nursing qualification in home country
- Students who enter the programme must normally hold a qualification equivalent to a UK first or second class honours degree
- If English is not their first language, students will be expected to have reached a sufficient standard on admission to the course (IELTS 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 in each element, or equivalent).
- Appropriate entry visa to study in the UK.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Students with relevant previous study at postgraduate level or with extensive experience may be considered eligible for recognition of prior learning. Please contact the Registry Admissions Office for further information or guidance on 0044 (0) 1905 855111.

Further information on Recognition of Prior Learning can be found at <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/registryservices/941.htm>

The course has a specialist RPL/RPEL advisor who will assist with applications.

Admissions/Selection Criteria

Students are offered a place on the MSc Nursing Studies when:

- They meet the course entry criteria, or
- They can demonstrate aptitude to study at Masters level by providing evidence of academic ability commensurate with the course entry criteria.

19. Methods for Evaluating and Improving the Quality and Standards of Teaching and Learning

- Students evaluate modules at the end and midway in the classroom. Collated evaluations are placed online with the module leaders' response and action plan and uploaded onto Blackboard. Evaluations are reviewed by the programme leader and in course management committees by the whole team.
- Annual Evaluation Reports
- External Examiner Reports
- Peer Learning Through Observation
- Course Management Committees
- Post exam board moderation
- Staff appraisal and development leading to scholarly activities such as research, publication and conference presentations.
- Overall course evaluation takes place via classroom evaluations.

20. Regulation of assessment

The course operates under the University's Taught Courses Regulatory Framework

Requirements to pass modules

- Modules are assessed using a variety of assessment activities which are detailed in the module specifications.

- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.
- Students are required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required.
- Some modules have attendance requirements.
- Full details of the assessment requirements for a module, including the assessment criteria, are published in the module outline.

Submission of assessment items

- Students who submit course work late but within 5 days of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at D- unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- Students who submit work later than 5 days but within 14 days of the due date will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations please see the Taught Courses Regulatory Framework.

Retrieval of failure

- Students are entitled to resit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade, unless the failure was due to non-attendance.
- Reassessment items that are passed are graded at D-.
- If a student is unsuccessful in the reassessment, they have the right to retake the module (or, in some circumstances, take an alternative module); the module grade for a re-taken module is capped at D-.
- A student who fails 60 credits or more after exhausting all reassessment opportunities may be required to withdraw from the University.

Requirements for Awards

<i>Award</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
PG Cert Nursing Studies	Pass a minimum of 60 credits at Level 7 Must include MSAP4001
PG Dip Nursing Studies	Pass a minimum of 120 credits at Level 7 Must include MSAP4001 and MSAP4002
Masters (MSc) Nursing Studies	Pass a minimum of 180 credits at Level 7 including dissertation module MSNS4000

PG Cert and PG Dip awards are unclassified. The awards of Masters may be made with Pass, Merit or Distinction.

21. Indicators of Quality and Standards

- Mott Macdonald, on behalf of the NMC, reviews the Pre-registration Nursing programmes including the Mentor, Practice Teacher and Teacher programmes at the University on an annual basis. Each year the reviewing team have expressed confidence in the University's NMC accredited provision.
- The University underwent a QAA Institutional Audit in March 2011. The audit confirmed that confidence can be placed in the soundness of the institution's current and likely future management of the academic standards of its awards and the quality of the learning opportunities available to students. The audit team highlighted several aspects of good practice, including the student academic representative (StARs) initiative, the proactive approach which supports the student experience for disabled students, the comprehensiveness of the student online environment (SOLE), the wide range of opportunities afforded to students to enhance their employability, the institution's commitment to enhancement, and the inclusive approach to working with its collaborative partners.

22. Graduate destinations, employability and links with employers

The MSc Nursing Studies will equip the student with research and project management skills that will be invaluable for their future career. It will prepare students for leading on innovative service development projects and it will enable them to demonstrate that they are independent, skilled researchers who are able to think critically about practice and change management. These skills are crucial for improving patient care and health services, but they are also transferable to other occupational settings (research, education, management).

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. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module outlines.