



**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**

**SCHOOL OF  
NURSING AND  
MIDWIFERY**

## **Information sheet for new students**

### **BSc Hons Professional Nursing – key points**

This is a 3 year Academic/ Professional programme offering all four Fields of Nursing

- Adult
- Children & Young people
- Learning Disability
- Mental Health

### **The course is full-time.**

50% of the programme is in University and 50% on placement.

Placements can be anywhere in N. Ireland and nursing students are rostered 37.5 hours a week 24/7

### **Registration with NMC**

At the end of the programme students will register with the NMC in the Field they chose to study.

The numbers of students selected each year are dependent on the number of places commissioned by the Department of health.

### **September 2022 – Places**

- Adult
- Learning Disability
- Children's & Young people

### **February 2023 – Places**

- Adult
- Children's & Young People
- Mental Health

## Adult Nursing

Adult nurses plan and provide nursing care to adults who have been diagnosed with a wide range of conditions that impact on their physical, psychological, social, emotional and spiritual well-being. Adult nurses are often the main point of contact for adult patients, their families and carers. They play a vital role as part of the wider multidisciplinary team, and are skilled in holistically delivering the fundamentals of nursing care. The role of the adult nurse is wide and varied, it includes:

- Assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating nursing care
- Record keeping and documentation
- Providing perioperative care carrying out routine investigations and care procedures, such as administering medication, injections and intravenous infusions, and taking patient samples, pulses, temperatures and blood pressures
- Caring for patients with chronic, long-term conditions e.g. diabetes, asthma
- Cancer Care
- Palliative and End of Life Care
- Emergency and Intensive Care
- Providing information, emotional support and reassurance to patients and relatives

Adult nurses often provide 24- hour care 7 days a week, which means shift work is a common part of the job. When qualified, you can choose a speciality such as Oncology, Emergency Nursing, Public Health and many more. As an adult nurse, you will strive to provide compassionate care that makes a difference.

## Mental Health Nursing

Mental health nurses work in vast array of inpatient and community settings with individuals across the lifespan from specialist perinatal services, child and adolescent, working age individuals, older adults and later life dementia.

Mental health nurses have advanced knowledge of the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental health conditions and the legal and ethical framework which regulate mental health practice. Using progressive communication skills, mental health nurses occupy a critical role within multidisciplinary teams delivering a range of psychological interventions to support individual need, helping individuals to understand their experiences and build coping mechanisms to prevent future ill health. There is a strong emphasis on recovery, positive mental health, values -based practice, collaboration with users and carers and health promotion.

## Children's & Young People's Nursing

Children and Young people's (CYP) Nurses work in partnership with infants, children and young people and their families to improve and support their health and wellbeing. You will find CYP nurses working in a wide variety of health and social care settings; planning and providing care for children and young people from birth to their 18th birthday. CYP Nurses are creative and innovative

practitioners who can respond to the individual needs of the children, young people and families in their care. They have the knowledge and skills to empower, support, care for, educate and advocate for all children and young people, including those with learning disabilities and work closely with families and other health and social care professionals to achieve this.

Over the course of Year One of the BSc (Hons) Professional Nursing programme, you will explore the fundamental underpinnings of CYP nursing, including the principles of child and family centred care and health assessment appropriate to the chronological age and development stage of the infant,

child or young person. This will include an introduction to the ethical and legal foundations of CYP nursing and incorporate the relationship with other professionals involved with the care of the infant, child or young person. The safeguarding of infants, children and young people will underpin every aspect of the module. You will begin to develop the clinical knowledge and skills to equip you to work safely and effectively in practice

### Learning Disability Nursing

Throughout this year you will explore what it means to be a registered nurse for people with learning disabilities. You will develop an awareness and understanding of the needs of people with learning disabilities across their lifespan. You will identify patterns of health and wellness, factors affecting quality of care and support and inclusion and the impact on families and carers. You will develop awareness of the role of other professionals involved in the provision of care and support to this vulnerable population. You will develop knowledge and skills to help support the person with a learning disability to live a fulfilling life by helping improve and maintain the person's physical and mental health, by reducing barriers to healthcare and by encouraging individuals to be as independent as possible. You will learn the clinical skills essential for practice as a registered nurse, understanding the complexities of carrying out these skills with people with learning disabilities.

## Year One Structure

### Academic Modules & three phases of Placement

Approx 6 weeks in University, followed by 6 weeks' placement, alternating throughout year one.

#### **Academic modules:**

##### **Caring communication in Nursing**

This module focuses on understanding how caring is a fundamental component of nursing and the range of effective communication skills that are integral to providing person-centred care. The focus will be on developing students understanding of the range of caring communication skills in each field of practice by looking at the evidence and then practicing their caring skills in a workshop setting using typical clinical scenarios. In the workshops, students will be encouraged to reflect on their caring communication skills and also provide feedback to their peers to support them in the development of their skills

##### **Public Health**

This module will explore how we understand and promote health at a population based level. Through lectures and workshops, students will develop a comprehensive understanding of the role of nursing in the promotion of health and wellbeing and the techniques, procedures and policies that are used to monitor and improve health both locally and globally. Specific focus will be given on understanding the role of public health in maintaining the health of individuals and communities including vulnerable populations with specific health needs. The following themes will be covered: Sociological and psychological theories: social determinants of health and lifestyle factors; behaviour/ attitude change; lifecourse perspective. Levels of prevention: health screening, vaccinations, health checks for specific populations. Equality and diversity: health literacy; impact of culture and ethnicity; resilience of individuals, families and communities

##### **Life Sciences & Introduction to pharmacology**

The aim of this module is to enable students to acquire knowledge and understanding of the relevant foundational concepts within the Biological Sciences and to introduce students to Pharmacology. The module highlights their relevance to an understanding of health and healthcare and specifically the delivery of nursing care to adults, children, those with learning disabilities and/ or

mental health needs. Students will be introduced to Life Science principles with recognition that development and changes across the lifespan, cognitive impairments/learning disabilities and mental health leads to every human being a unique individual. The topics covered are:

- Principles of biological Science and terminology
- Introduction to tissue, cell and fluid homeostasis
- Introduction to human life sciences from biochemical mechanisms to whole body systems including development and changes across the lifespan
- Cardiovascular system in homeostasis and role of environment
- Renal system and fluid homeostasis
- Respiratory system
- Gastrointestinal system
- Musculoskeletal system
- Nervous system/ Pain
- Immune system
- Integumentary system
- Endocrine system
- Reproductive system
- Introduction to pharmacology

### **Evidence Based Nursing**

Evidence-based nursing is an approach to making quality decisions and providing optimum nursing care based upon the best available evidence, clinical expertise and patient preference. This module will provide you with an introduction of what evidence-based nursing is, why it is important and how it can be applied to your nursing practice. The module will also support you to develop your skills in searching the evidence and how to understand different kinds of evidence you may find.

The evidence-based nursing module is taught using a blended approach which includes live and recorded lectures, online workshops, audio podcasts, and other modes of self-directed learning. The combination of these approaches will support the development your knowledge in the area.

### **Professionalism in Nursing**

This module will introduce you to the professional issues which underpin nursing practice. Core academic skills will be introduced which will facilitate your personal and professional development. You will be introduced to the frameworks that will

guide your practice as both a student and registered nurse, including the professional legal and ethical aspects of

practice. You will learn the key principles of values-based healthcare. In addition, you will identify your own needs and explore self-care to ensure professionalism can be maintained.

Delivered as a mix of lectures and workshops the module will explore ways in which an individual can validate and support the development of professionalism, by means of creating a professional environment in healthcare settings and role modelling of professional values and behaviours, recognising how these can contribute to a good patient experience and sharing of best practice.

### **Foundations in Nursing**

This is your first step on the career ladder of Nursing and this module will help to prepare you for clinical practice. With this in mind, the module has been designed to increase your knowledge and understanding of the role of the nurse and to introduce you to some of the essential skills for nursing. The range of patients and clients who come into contact with nursing services will be explored as will the variety of settings where this contact can occur. Through individual learning about the topics in the module and through the development of team working, fostered within workshops and practical classes, you will have the opportunity to start to develop the knowledge and skills required for professional practice.

Recurring themes within the module will be:

- Person-centred care
- Professionalism
- Communication
- Promoting Dignity
- Holistic Nursing Care
- Application of evidence-based practice

A number of teaching and learning methods will be employed throughout the module and there will be an expectation that all students will engage with any directed learning opportunities; especially when this involves preparation before class. Nursing attracts students from very varied backgrounds and often people with considerable life experience. Therefore, everyone's contribution in class will be encouraged and, where possible, further developed. Respect should be shown at all times to lecturers, visiting speakers and fellow students.

## School Structure

- Head of School
- Director of Education
- Year Leads
- Module Leads
- Lecturers
- Personal Teachers
- Link Lecturers

## Preparing for the programme

Congratulations on securing a place on the BSc Professional Nursing programme!

The start date for the September 2022 cohort is 11<sup>th</sup> September and for the February 2023 cohort the 13<sup>th</sup> February. The timetable for the Induction week will be sent to you one month prior to the commencement date. You will be allocated to a group following enrolment. Other information from Registry and Occupational health will be sent accordingly. It is important you respond appropriately

The programme in Phase 1 one will be delivered via a connected learning approach, with some lecturers taking place online with all clinical skills and professional classes delivered face to face. You are required by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) to attend all planned classes both online and face to face as scheduled in the timetable. Classes are timetabled Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.

In preparation for the programme you will need internet access, a computer or laptop (with Microsoft office 365) and a tablet to allow you to access your course. Please ensure you have a functioning microphone and camera for all classes. During the induction week we will introduce the web-based resources and additional support will be provided by Information Services.

As you are aware this is a 50% theory / 50% practice programme and the first clinical placement is planned for 24<sup>th</sup> October if you start in September or 27<sup>th</sup> March if starting in February

## Some FAQs

- When will I get my timetable?

The Induction week timetable will be sent to you approximately 4 weeks prior to commencement with the timetable for phase 1 available on day one of the Induction week

- When do we get uniforms?

You'll be sent information regarding ordering uniform. There is a minimum requirement to ensure you have enough for placements.

- How do I apply for a Bursary?

All Home students on a fees-paid place will be entitled to a bursary. You don't have to do anything at this stage; near the start of the programme we pass a list of new students to the Bursaries Office and they get in touch to arrange payments. Fee-paying students are not entitled to a Bursary.

- What's an Access NI check for?

All successful applicants who secure a place on the BSc (Hons) Professional Nursing/BSc (Hons) Midwifery Sciences programmes are required to undergo a criminal history check. In Northern Ireland this is undertaken by Access NI (ANI). Please note any previous Access NI Check completed is not acceptable, a new application must be made. Further information will follow.

- Why do I need an Occupational health check?

All successful applicants are required to complete an Occupational Health Declaration. If you have a health condition you may be invited to an appointment to talk about it. Further information regarding this will be issued around the end of June 2022. Please be aware that you will also have to attend a compulsory Occupational Health Vaccination appointment – this will be organised during the week of Enrolment.

- If I start in one field can I change to another after the first year?

No - once you have chosen and confirmed your offer, there will be no possibility of changing fields. Please choose carefully!

- Can I have all my placements close to home?

No – placements on all of our programmes can be anywhere in Northern Ireland and you should expect to travel. During placement you will work a shift pattern that can include long days, evenings, weekends and night shifts.

- How will the programme be delivered when we are in University?

At this stage we are planning for most large group lectures to be online, all other teaching will be on campus and face to face.

- What do I need to purchase before we start?

You will need an electronic device to access classes, online resources, and the new e-portfolio. It is recommended that, if possible, you have a laptop or similar at home with a webcam. If you can, a tablet that you can bring with you to placements is very handy for

accessing and updating your e-portfolio. You will be given a reading list when you begin the programme; there's no need to start reading in advance.

- I need accommodation how do I find out about this?

Contact Queen's Accommodation on [accommodation@qub.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@qub.ac.uk). There's more information on their website here: [www.qub.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.qub.ac.uk/accommodation)