

Programme Specification for Postgraduate Programme

Leading to:

MSc Specialist Community Public Health Nursing: Health Visiting

MSc Specialist Community Public Health Nursing: Occupational Health Nursing

MSc Specialist Community Public Health Nursing: School Nursing

Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Community Public Health Nursing: Health Visiting

Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Community Public Health Nursing: Occupational Health Nursing

Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Community Public Health Nursing: School Nursing

Applicable for all postgraduate students starting on or after 1st September 2021

Version No.	Date	Notes – QA USE ONLY	QA
1	March 21	New Programme Specification created for 2021/22 with changes to subject benchmarks, professional suitability description, and requirement for 65 days in pathway placement added to section 20. Description of application and progression process to PGDip and MSc amended, and CM3702 and CM3802 no longer available on OHN pathway.	RJC
1.1	May-21	Part-time delivery of CM3602 added	RJC

Postgraduate Taught Programme	
1. Awarding institution	Brunel University London
2. Teaching institution(s)	Brunel University London
3. Home college/department/division	College of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences / Department of Health Sciences / Division of Nursing
4. Contributing college/department/division/associated institution	None
5. Programme accredited by	Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC Statutory Body)
6. Final award(s) and FHEQ Level of Award	<p>MSc Specialist Community Public Health Nursing: Health Visiting MSc Specialist Community Public Health Nursing: Occupational Health Nursing MSc Specialist Community Public Health Nursing: School Nursing</p> <p>Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Community Public Health Nursing: Health Visiting Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Community Public Health Nursing: Occupational Health Nursing Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Community Public Health Nursing: School Nursing</p> <p>All of the above awards are at FHEQ Level 7</p>
7. Programme title	<p>Specialist Community Public Health Nursing: Health Visiting Specialist Community Public Health Nursing: Occupational Health Nursing Specialist Community Public Health Nursing: School Nursing</p>
8. Programme type (single honours/joint)	N/A
9. Normal length of programme (in months) for each mode of study	<p>Postgraduate Diploma (or MSc taught part): 52 weeks full-time 104 weeks part-time This is in line with NMC requirements MSc dissertation project: 6 months full-time 12 months part-time</p>

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10. Maximum period of registration for each mode of study	For the Postgraduate Diploma & license to practice: Normal plus 2 years Maximum for MSc (taught part + dissertation): 5 years
11. Variation(s) to September start	January and March (for registration to complete MSc dissertation only)
12. Modes of study	Full or part-time
13. Modes of delivery	Standard
14. Intermediate awards and titles and FHEQ Level of Award	Postgraduate Certificate in Health Studies (FHEQ Level 7)
15. UCAS Code	N/A
16. HECoS Code	100295 (Health Visiting) 100281 (Community Nursing) 100293 (School Nursing)
17. Route Code	B712PSCPHNH (Health Visiting) B710PSCPHNO (Occupational Health Nursing) B713PSCPHNS (School Nursing)
18. Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points used to inform programme design	<p>QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education</p> <p>Brunel 2030</p> <p>Brunel Placement Learning Policy, as published under the 'Placements' section of the 'Managing Higher Education Provision with Others' page.</p> <p>Standards of proficiency for specialist public health nurses (NMC, 2004) should be read with current programme specific circulars accessed via the NMC Website and the following:</p> <p>Standards of proficiency for specialist public health nurses (NMC, 2004)</p> <p>Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education (NMC, 2018)</p> <p>Standards for student supervision and assessment (NMC, 2018)</p> <p>The Code: Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives (NMC, 2015, updated 2018)</p> <p>QA Handbook (September 2018 updated July 2019)</p> <p>Standards of proficiency for specialist community public health nurses (NMC, 2004) current programme specific circulars accessed via the NMC Website and Section one of the Mott MacDonald QA Handbook.</p> <p>Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education and the Standards for student supervision and assessment. These standards reflect the NMC's expectations of education institutions/AEIs and their practice learning partners for delivering NMC approved programmes for nurses, midwives and nursing associates.</p> <p>Approval of AEIs and NMC programmes is through a Gateway process. The process is outlined in more detail in the QA Handbook</p> <p>Approval of the Standards of proficiency for specialist community public health nurses (NMC, 2004) is through Gateway 3 and 4 of the QA process.</p> <p>Standards of proficiency for specialist community public health nurses (NMC, 2004)</p>
19. Admission Requirements	<p>Details of PGT entry requirements are provided on the University's and College website.</p> <p>Levels of English for non-native speakers are outlined on Brunel International's language requirements pages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified nurse/midwife with active registration on part one or two of the NMC Nursing Register. • Two satisfactory references. If possible, one should be an academic reference.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideally a first degree or a minimum of a diploma of higher education, plus evidence of recent study that demonstrates the applicant’s readiness to study at postgraduate level. • All applicants are required to be interviewed to ascertain their academic and professional readiness to undertake postgraduate study. • There will not be a requirement that all applicants to the Postgraduate Diploma/MSc route hold first degrees, but they will require a Diploma of Higher Education plus relevant professional experience. Postgraduate Diploma applicants will be required to demonstrate their readiness to work at this academic level as stated above). <p>Advanced standing: Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) / Accredited Prior Learning (APL)</p> <p>For admission with advanced standing to the PG Diploma a maximum of 30 credit exemptions is permitted at Level M where the applicant holds certificated prior learning. The NMC would allow a maximum of one-third of the programme.</p> <p>For a detailed explanation of the RPL/APL process and policy please contact the programme team or the admissions office</p>
<p>20. Other relevant information (e.g. study abroad, additional information on placements)</p>	<p>50% of the Postgraduate Diploma Programme is based in practice, which is undertaken in audited placements. Each student has one main practice placement, which is carried out in their professional discipline. It is facilitated by an appropriately educated and prepared Assessor and Supervisor. The theory and practice modules run concurrently and in total work out to an average of two days in the University and two days in practice per week. There are 45 programmed weeks of University and practice based - learning, which incorporates 15 days of alternative practice and a further 65 days in pathway practice. The programme incorporates seven weeks of annual leave and concludes with a ten week consolidated pathway practice placement.</p> <p>Applicant Screening Students placed in NHS setting for practice will have screening by the Disclosure and Barring Service undertaken by the placement organisation. However as Occupational Health Nurse students may be placed in NHS placements they will carry out the screening if required.</p> <p>Statutory Body Accreditation The programme meets the regulatory requirements for Approval and Monitoring of Specialist Community Public Health Nursing Programmes as laid down by the Nursing and Midwifery Council. The MSc and Postgraduate Diploma awards grant a licence to practice. The Postgraduate Certificate in Health does not grant licence to practice as a SCPHN.</p> <p>Career opportunities Nurses who successfully complete the programme are eligible to apply for posts as Specialist Community Public Health Nurses within their pathway specialism. Career progression as team leaders and managers frequently result following this award.</p>
<p>21. Programme regulations not specified in Senate Regulation 3. Any departure from regulations specified in Senate Regulation 3 must be stated here and approved by Senate.</p>	<p>Nurse Prescribing Module The V100 Nurse Prescribing modules provide professional development certification. It is not required to achieve a pass in these modules to receive any of the awards available under the Specialist Community Public Health Nursing programme. Students who undertake and pass the assessment will be noted at the Board of Examiners and the student’s results will be relayed to the NMC to enable the student to practise as a V100 nurse prescriber.</p> <p>Initial Registration All applicants will register, initially, for the Postgraduate Diploma, but may simultaneously make an application to the Masters programme.</p> <p>On successful completion of the Postgraduate Diploma, students gain their professional award (licence to practice as a SCPHN). Students who have already made an application to the MSc programme will then have their application processed. Students who have</p>

not already made an application can request to immediately transfer from the end of the Postgraduate Diploma programme to the MSc programme. Alternatively, students can exit with the Postgraduate Diploma and may apply to resume their studies to commence the dissertation module and gain the MSc award at a later date and in accordance with the next paragraph.

Under the University's policies on accreditation of prior learning (Senate Regulation 3.24 to 3.37), a student who has exited the programme may apply to return and complete the parts of the programme not previously attempted. Where this return is permitted an appropriate new maximum period will be set for the new period of registration. Where further award is achieved after this new period of registration, any previous award shall be rescinded prior to the conferral of that further award.

MSc Dissertation

The dissertation will be undertaken over a period of six months for full-time students and one year for part-time students. The nature of the dissertation follows the requirements laid-down by the College of Health, Medicine & Life Sciences and is outlined within the Module Syllabus. Students will not commence work on the dissertation module whilst completing taught modules.

Withdrawal from Practice Placement

All students are required to undertake specified periods of placement. Every attempt is made to match students' placement needs by our practice partners who are the student employers. Students may not unreasonably reject the offer of a placement setting nor are they permitted to unilaterally discontinue a placement setting once commenced. The University and the placement provider may terminate a placement setting only with good cause. Students who wish to discontinue a placement setting must gain the agreement of the University before they may discontinue the placement setting; relevant procedures are defined in the placement handbook.

Where, after due process as defined in the relevant placement handbook, a student's progress in a placement setting is judged as irredeemable, the placement setting may be terminated early by the University and placement provider. An 'irredeemable' judgement will be made only where the student's progress in the placement setting is such that it will not be possible for the student to meet the assessment requirements of the placement module/block within the remaining standard period of the current placement setting.

Attendance

Each module is considered separately for attendance purposes and 100% attendance is expected in each module. Attendance on campus will be recorded by the use of registers in each session. These will be monitored regularly by the module leader and when poor attendance is noted which might lead to a student falling below 80%, action will be taken. Attendance will be discussed with the student and noted on a tutorial record sheet. If attendance does not improve and there are no known mitigating circumstances then the student will be issued with a brief written reminder of the attendance requirement, and the practice sponsor/OH manager will be notified.

Sponsoring/employing organisations are informed of attendance records on a termly basis.

The attendance level requirements in the practice placement are reviewed as part of the formative assessment.

Professional Suitability

Certain behaviours may indicate that a student is professionally unsuitable. Where the professional suitability of a student is questioned, for example through a health issue, the suitability procedures of Senate Regulation 14 will be followed.

22. Further information about the programme is available from the College website.

Further programme information is available on the College website <http://www.brunel.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/specialist-community-public-health-nursing-msc-and-pgdip>

23. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

This programme aims to provide registered nurses and midwives demonstrating readiness to study at postgraduate level with the knowledge and skills to enable them to become specialist community public health nurses who are fit for practise, purpose, award and professional standing.

The overall aim of the proposed programme is to develop Specialist Community Public Health Nurses who are 'fit for purpose' with competent research skills and capable of demonstrating higher levels of clinical decision making, professional leadership and management skills as expected of a candidate studying at postgraduate level. They should 'be able to monitor and improve standards of public health practice' and facilitate the development of practice through research, teaching and supporting colleagues. Practitioners must be able to work both collaboratively within a multi-disciplinary team and autonomously, ensuring high quality health care for individuals, families, groups and communities based on critically appraised theoretical and practical evidence. The need for practitioners to further develop research skills and experience is of prime importance.

The aims and learning outcomes for the programme have been taken from SCPHN Standards document (NMC 2004) and adapted to reflect Masters Level study:

- To provide the foundation for the standards of proficiency for entry to the NMC register as a SCPHN in Health Visiting, Occupational Health Nursing, and School Nursing.
- To ensure that students are prepared to practice safely and effectively to such an extent that the protection of the public is assured at all times following The Code: *Standards of conduct, performance and ethics* (NMC, 2018).
- To prepare practitioners to be practice-centered and proficient and to work in a rapidly changing environment by adapting innovatively to new systems of service delivery and public health.
- To enhance continuing personal and professional expertise for extending the scope of future practice roles and responsibilities, that will enable further development through lifelong learning, in order to challenge appropriately and creatively respond to emerging priorities in the defined area of practice.
- To further develop a critical, challenging and innovative approach to contemporary public health issues that can influence service provision and take a lead role in the development of advanced strategies in population-based approaches to healthcare delivery.
- To build on existing research skills to propose and progress new ideas for advancing the evidence base for SCPHN.

24. PROGRAMME AND INTERMEDIATE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding (K), cognitive (thinking) behaviour skills (C), and other skills and attributes (S) in the following areas:

FHEQ Level	Category (K = knowledge and understanding, C = cognitive (thinking) behaviour skills, S = other skills and attributes)	Learning Outcome	Masters Award Only	Associated Assessment Blocks Code(s)	Associated Study Blocks Code(s)	Associated Modular Blocks Code(s)
7						
7	K	To meet the required NMC standards of proficiency which requires the practitioner to search for health needs, stimulate awareness of health needs, influence policies affecting		CM5808	CM5708	CM5602 CM5603 CM5604 CM5600 CM5601

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		health and facilitate health enhancing activities in the relevant settings.				
7	K	A critical awareness of Research methodologies, methods and ethics of research participation (MSc).	Y			HH5619
7	K	Deep understanding of policy, strategy development and implementation to improve health and wellbeing and capacity building.		CM5808	CM5708	CM5602 CM5603 CM5604 CM5600 CM5601
7	C	Synthesise original knowledge into practice, critically analysing the currency of the evidence base and applying it innovatively to improve service provision and evaluating outcomes.		CM5808	CM5708	PN5604 CM5602 CM5603 CM5604 CM5600 CM5601
7	C	Work independently, design and conduct an original research study using appropriate methods (MSc).	Y			HH5619
7	C	Utilise critical thinking, problem-solving and reflective capacities essential for challenging professional practice.		CM5808	CM5708	CM5602 CM5603 CM5604 CM5600 CM5601
7	C	Work flexibly and collaboratively with other services in a range of settings; to deal with conflicting priorities and complex situations in managing public health provision. Justifying sometimes contradictory theories and perspectives in the management of public health provision.		CM5808	CM5708	PN5604 CM5602 CM5603 CM5604 CM5600 CM5601
7	S	Demonstrate overall competence in specialist community public health practice, taking responsibility and being accountable for assessing risk in complex situations, while developing effective relationships with colleagues, service users/clients and other professionals based on trust and openness.		CM5808 CM3802	CM5708 CM3702	CM5602 CM5603 CM5604 CM5600 CM5601
7	S	Critically appraise skills of effective leadership in the management and evaluation of public health programmes for defined populations. Taking responsibility for critical decision making in safeguarding vulnerable individuals.		CM5808	CM5708	CM5602 CM5603 CM5604 CM5600 CM5601

Learning/teaching strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be achieved, including formative assessments

Work-based practice, lectures, seminars, discussion, debates, small group work, study, problem-focused learning, team based learning and tutorial supervision.

All modules include elements of formative assessment throughout the programme

Summative assessment strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be demonstrated.

A variety of assessment methods are used throughout the programme to assess knowledge and understanding, and provide feedback both formative and summative. For example through examination, project work, assignments, and evidence from practice experience.

The assessment of cognitive (behaviour) skills is achieved through evidence based presentations, reflections, assignments, portfolio and the dissertation

Practical and professional skills are assessed in practice, project work, public health intervention, report writing/care planning, nurse prescribing.

Transferable skills are assessed in presentations, viva, practice, assessed group work.

Dissertation research study.

25. Programme Structure, progression and award requirements

Programme structures and features: levels, assessment blocks, credit and progression and award requirements

- **Compulsory block:** one which all students registered for the award are required to take as part of their programme of study. These will be listed in the left hand column;
- **Optional block:** one which students choose from an 'option range'. These will be listed in the right hand column;
- A **core assessment** is an assessment identified within an assessment block or modular block (either compulsory or optional) which must be passed (at grade C- or better) in order to be eligible to progress and to be eligible for the final award. All core assessments must be specified on the programme specification next to the appropriate assessment or modular block:

Where students are expected to pass the block at C- or better, but not necessarily all elements, then the block itself is core.

e.g. AB5500 Project (40)

Core: Block

Where only some elements of assessments are required to be passed at C- or better, these will be identified by listing each element that is core

e.g. ABXXX1 Title (XX credits)

Core: 1 & 4

Where students are expected to pass all assessments in a block then this will be identified. By setting the assessment this way, students are also required to pass the block by default. This will be identified thus:

e.g. ABXXXX Title (XX credits)

Core: All, Block

- A **non-core assessment** does not have to be passed at grade C- or better, but must D- or better in order to be eligible for the final award.

<p>Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credit</p> <p>All Pathways:</p> <p>CM5808 Presenting Mental Health and Well-being (15 credits)</p> <p><u>Part time</u> Year 2: CM5808</p>	<p>Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>Health visiting and School Nursing Pathways only:</p> <p>CM3802 Nurse Prescribing Assessment (0 credits) Core: None</p> <p><u>Part time</u> Year 1/2: CM3802</p>
<p>Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume</p> <p>All Pathways:</p> <p>CM5708 Mental Health and Well-being (15 credits)</p> <p><u>Part time</u> Year 2: CM5708</p>	<p>Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume</p> <p>Health visiting and School Nursing Pathways only:</p> <p>CM3702 Nurse Prescribing (0 credits)</p> <p><u>Part time</u> Year 1: CM3702</p>
<p>Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>All Pathways:</p> <p>CM5600 Developing Specialist Community Public Health Nursing Practice (30 credits)</p> <p>CM5601 Health Promotion and Public Health Leadership (30 credits)</p> <p>PN5604 Applied Research in Health and Social Care (15 credits)</p> <p>CM3602 Consolidated Practice (0 credits) Core: Block</p> <p>Occupational Health Nursing Programmes: CM5602 Managing Professional Perspectives in SCPHN-OHN (30 credits)</p> <p>School Nursing Programmes: CM5603 Managing professional Perspectives in SCPHN-SN (30 credits)</p> <p>Health Visiting Programmes: CM5604 Managing Professional Perspectives in SCPHN-HV (30 credits)</p> <p>All MSc Programmes: HH5619 The Dissertation (60 credits) Core: Block</p> <p>Part time Structure: Year 1: CM5600; PN5604; CM5602*/CM5603*/CM5604* *Dependent on pathway</p> <p>Year 2: CM5600; CM5601; CM3602</p> <p>Year 3: HH5619 (MSc)</p>	<p>Optional modular block codes, titles and credits</p>

FHEQ Level 7 Progression and Award Requirements**As per [Senate Regulation 3](#)**

Students must pass the Consolidated Practice Module (CM3602), which is graded on a pass/fail basis.

Nurse Prescribing Assessment (CM3802) is a professional development assessment. Failure of this assessment does not affect the degree programme outcome.

PGDip may not be awarded by substitution of the dissertation (HH5619) for modular/assessment blocks in the taught part of the programme.

Please note: this specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods can be found in the modular block, assessment and study block outlines and other programme and block information. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University from time to time and whenever a modification occurs.