Postgraduate Programme Specification

Session	2026/27	**Last Modified**	26/08/24
Named Award Title	PG Cert Integrated Community Nursing		
Award Title for Each Award	PG Cert Integrated Community Nursing		
Date of Approval	June 2023		
Details of Cohort Applies to	All cohorts		
Awarding Institution	University of the West of Scotland	**Teaching Institution(s)**	University of the West of Scotland
Language of Instruction & Examination		English	
Award Accredited by			
Maximum Period of Registration			
Duration of Study			
Full-time		**Part-time**	1 year
Placement (compulsory)	No		
Mode of Study	☐ Full-time ☒ Part-time		
Campus	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☐ Paisley	☒ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)
School	**Health and Life Sciences**		
Divisional Programme Board	**Adult Nursing Community Health**		
Programme Leader	Carol Russell		

Admissions Criteria
Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admission requirements of the University of the West of Scotland as specified in Chapter 2 of the University Regulatory Framework together with the following programme requirements:

Appropriate Undergraduate Qualifications:
Applicants will typically possess a degree or equivalent. In the absence of a degree, where entry requirements do not conform to the general entry requirements, other evidence can be considered on an individual basis in line with Regulations 2.13 – 2.36 (Recognition of Prior Learning – RPL / Recognition of Credit).

Other Required Qualifications/Experience
Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admission requirements of the University of the West of Scotland as specified in Chapter 2 of the University Regulatory Framework together with the following programme requirements:

Appropriate Undergraduate Qualification Candidates should normally possess a degree or equivalent. Other Required Qualifications/Experience

All students undertaking the Programme will be employed in a Community Nurse post and be supported to undertake the programme by their employer. Students must be supported with one day a week Protected Learning time for the one year duration of the programme. Candidates must have current registration as a Level one Registered Nurse on the Nursing and Midwifery Council register. Students undertaking the programme will normally have at least one years' post registration experience.

Candidates will normally apply from the following categories and there shall be a slight deviation in the modules (and requirements) depending on the stream relevant to the individual:

Stream A: Candidates will be supported by their employer to undertake the Independent and Supplementary Prescribing module. Employers will provide a minimum of 84 protected learning hours and candidates will have a Designated Prescribing Practitioner and a nominated Practice Supervisor who will support them in 90 hours of learning in practice, and meet the requirements for assessing and supervising students undertaking the Independent and Supplementary Prescribing module. Students also must have a minimum of one year post registration experience in the area they intend to prescribe.

Stream B: Candidates who are not supported by their employer to undertake the Independent and Supplementary Prescribing module or may have already completed this module. Candidates will undertake alternative modules.

Further desirable skills pre-application
A level of skills and experience in Information Communication Technology sufficient to engage positively with online material, both in teaching and assessment.

General Overview
The Postgraduate Certificate Integrated Community Nursing programme is a new one year, part-time, online programme. The aim of the programme is to equip and further develop Level six practitioners on the Post Registration Career Development Framework for NMAHPs

(Scottish Government, 2010) to develop their theoretical knowledge and skills to become autonomous, safe and competent Senior / Specialist practitioners.

Preparing nurses for future needs and roles is the focus of the 2030 Nursing Vision (Scottish Government, 2017). The National Health and Social Care Workforce Plan (Scottish Government, 2018) also highlights the requirement to respond to the changing needs of our population and sets out recommendations that will improve the primary care workforce, in order to enhance the integrated health and social care workforce.

The Postgraduate Certificate Integrated Community Nursing programme has been developed following the success of a submitted Tender to NHS Education for Scotland (NES). Programme development is commensurate with current changes in Health and Social Care. The programme supports the aim of the Health and Social Care Delivery Plan (Scottish Government, 2016) which focuses on prevention, anticipation and supported self-management. It aims to enable the people of Scotland to live longer, healthier lives at home or in a homely setting. It emphasises that care should be integrated, with the person at the centre of all decisions. The National Clinical Strategy for Scotland (Scottish Government, 2016) also highlights the need for an increased focus on primary and community care as well as stronger integration. The Scottish Government is committed to integrating health and social care in order to improve the care and support received by the people of Scotland. The legislative framework underpinning the integration of health and social services, the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 legislates for the nine national health and wellbeing outcomes; all which focus on the person and care they receive.

The programme has also been informed by the Chief Nursing Officer's (CNO) Transforming Nursing Roles (TNR) programme (Scottish Government, 2018). The TNR programme aims to provide strategic oversight, direction and governance to develop and transform Nurse's roles to meet the current and future needs of Scotland's integrated health and care system. The programme has been designed to ensure it reflects stakeholder's needs with innovation and development in community nursing practice. Candidates will normally apply from the following categories and there shall be a slight deviation in the modules depending on the stream relevant to the individual:
Stream A: Candidates will be supported by their employer to undertake the Independent and Supplementary Prescribing module. Employers will provide a minimum of 84 protected learning hours and candidates will have a Designated Prescribing Practitioner and a nominated Practice Supervisor who will support them in 90 hours of learning in practice.
Stream B: Candidates who are not supported by their employer to undertake the Independent and Supplementary Prescribing module or may have already completed this module. Students will undertake alternative modules

The programme will be offered on a part time basis and will be delivered online. Candidates must ensure they have sufficient IT facilities and infrastructure to undertake modules online. The proposed online, flexible, modular programme is aligned to the UWS Curriculum Framework and is designed to further develop practitioners to a higher level required for Senior / Specialist roles for effective nursing practice across a range of community settings while ensuring equity of access for nurses in all geographical areas. The online learner-centred design would enable flexibility and support students to learn at a time and place that suits them.

The proposed programme incorporates and combines theory and practice based learning opportunities. The modules within the programme will build on existing knowledge and develop a higher degree of autonomy and responsibility. The first module is the ‘Assessing in the Community’ module. It will enable a critical understanding of detailed theoretical and

practical knowledge to develop clinical practice. The 'Leading and Transforming Together' module will build on students' existing leadership knowledge and skills in order for them to critically examine the constructs and contexts of leadership within person-centred integrated care. This module is included within the programme not only for its content, which is aligned to the Leadership, Teamwork and Development pillar within the NES Career Framework but also for the inter-professional and cross-sectoral learning opportunities it ensures for all students. Students enrolled on this module represent a wide range of professions from all areas of Health and Social Care including Statutory and Independent Sectors and the benefits of inter professional and cross-sectoral learning are vast and prepare practitioners for working within the integrated environment.

Stream A students will undertake the Independent and Supplementary Prescribing module. This module is delivered throughout Term 2 and Term 3. It is a 30 credit module at SCQF Level 11. It provides an opportunity for the students to gain an NMC recordable Nurse Independent / Supplementary Prescribing qualification that will enable practitioners to meet the needs of people within their scope of practice in their community setting. Students must have a minimum of one year post-registration experience in the area in which they intend to prescribe. Students must also be supported by their employer who will provide a minimum of 84 protected learning hours and have a Designated Prescribing Practitioner and a nominated Practice Supervisor who will support them in 90 hours of learning in practice. Students undertaking the programme who already hold the Nurse Independent / Supplementary Prescribing NMC Recordable qualification will have the choice to import prior credit via UWS Recognition for Credit (UWS Regulatory Framework (UWS, 22/23, Chapter two) or to undertake

Stream B. Stream B students will undertake a 10 credit Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning module (APEL) (UWS Regulatory Framework Chapter2, 22/23; Recognition of Prior Learning Handbook, UWS; School of Health and Life Sciences, 2021). It is important to stress that credit is not given for experience alone but rather for the learning gained through that experience. This module provides students with an authentic real-world learning activity and assessment. Students undertaking this module will not be undertaking the Independent and Supplementary Prescribing module but they will still be required to deliver a positive outcome for the person in their care and the Learning Outcome for this 10 Credit, SCQF Level 11 APEL module will demonstrate this learning. This aligns to the Curriculum Framework through embracing the concept of 'students as partners' in their learning and also embedding work-related learning and assessment opportunities in academic programmes. Stream B students will choose one of two option modules in term 3, 'Frailty in Later Life' and 'People and Communities'. Completion of modules in Stream A or Stream B will meet the Programme outcomes and develop students' theoretical knowledge and skills to become autonomous, safe and competent Senior / Specialist practitioners.

The programme team recognise that students will bring with them a variety of important personal and professional experiences. To capitalise on these strengths, the programme takes a constructivist approach and assumes that students have a level of knowledge and skills. The learning, teaching and assessment approaches employed throughout the programme will use the student's previous learning experience as a foundation to promote confident, autonomous community nurses within integrated health and social care. The flexible approach to learning, teaching and assessment is commensurate with the Strategy 2025 (UWS, 2020) and the Curriculum Framework (UWS, 2022) which promotes a student centred, personalised and distinctive Learning and Teaching environment underpinned by research and knowledge. Central to the learning, teaching and assessment approach is the digital learning and technology driven pedagogy. The digitally-innovative programme will utilise digitally enabled learning tools within the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

Students are fully supported throughout the duration of the programme and will be assigned a Personal Tutor. The Personal Tutor will seek to enhance the student journey through maximising student support and engagement. Programme documentation is available online, to all students, to ensure they are fully informed of the requirements for the programme, this includes Programme Handbook and Module Handbooks.

The award of Postgraduate Certificate is dependent on the completion of the criteria provided below. Completion of this Postgraduate Certificate will equip and further develop Level six practitioners on the Post Registration Career Development Framework for NMAHPs (Scottish Government, 2010) to 6 develop their theoretical knowledge and skills to become autonomous, safe and competent Senior / Specialist practitioners. This would greatly enhance the employability of the student and also enable students to progress onto the MSc Leading People-Centred Integrated Care programme.

Typical Delivery Method
Online synchronous and asynchronous

Any additional costs
None

Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning
Graduate Attributes Graduate attributes are the skills, personal qualities and understanding to be developed through university experience that will prepare for life and work in the 21st century. Students at UWS will be provided with opportunities to develop academically, professionally and personally: to broaden their ambitions, extend their attitudes, challenge their assumptions, and assist towards unlocking their potential to succeed in their postgraduate studies.

The 'I AM UWS' graduate attributes have been developed to reflect that vision where UWS graduates are:
• Universal - globally relevant with comprehensively applicable abilities, skills and behaviours
• Work-ready - dynamic and prepared for employment in complex, ever-changing environments
• Successful - as a UWS graduate with a solid foundation on which to continue succeeding

It is expected that graduates of this programme will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to enable them to be work-ready and lead and influence others. It is anticipated that this will make them desirable to employers due to the unique contribution to change and development they can make in the work place.

In addition to these attributes students will become:
• critical thinkers with the ability to think reflectively and logically and take actions based on relevant information
• collaborative with the ability to work wih a range of people
• effective communicators and possess skills to communicate verbally and non-verbally in an engaging manner
• autonomous, resilient and transformational.

Employability Inherent within the process of programme delivery are mechanisms which facilitate the development of transferable skills which will enhance employability prospects for students. Personal and professional experiences will enhance and enrich the programme

and will provide the opportunity to continue to develop academically, personally and professionally utilising active learning strategies. This supports the concept of lifelong and career-long learning recognising that gaining a postgraduate qualification can lead to a variety of career opportunities within the evolving health and social care landscape. Personal Development Planning Throughout the duration of their programme at the University of the West of Scotland, students will be encouraged to plan for the achievement of their personal development goals and reflect on how these are linked to their employability skills. Personal Development Planning is embedded in the programme. It will be introduced at the beginning of the programme and will be supported with regular activities throughout the programme.

Work Based Learning/Placement Details

It is anticipated that the teaching, learning and assessment strategy will allow students to contextualise learning to their current work based environment and / or future professional employment within the field of health and social care.

Stream A students will undertake Practice based learning in the Independent and Supplementary Prescribing module. They will be within their own clinical area allowing theory to be contextualised to their intended area of prescribing practice. A Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) (and nominated Practice Supervisor for NMC registrants) will support and facilitate 90 hours of supervised learning in practice and assess clinical prescribing competence. All practice areas are subject to Educational Audit and monitored for use by the University.

Attendance and Engagement

In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are attending and participating in all timetabled programme activities including on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, placement, work-based elements, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this programme, academic engagement equates to the following:

It is expected that students will participate in all delivered elements as part of their engagement with their programme of study.

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.

Equality and diversity is at the heart of the Postgraduate Certificate Integrated Community Nursing programme - recognising this is key to the student experience. In line with current legislation (Equality Act, 2010) and the UWS Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights Code, our modules are accessible and inclusive, with reasonable adjustment for different needs where appropriate. Module materials comply with University guidance on inclusive learning and teaching, and specialist assistive equipment, support, and adjustment to assessment practice will be provided in accordance with UWS policy and regulations. Where modules require practical learning or assessment, alternative formats and/or roles will be provided for students with physical disabilities which impact participation.

Programme structures and requirements, SCQF level, term, module name and code, credits and awards (Chapter 1, Regulatory Framework)

Learning Outcomes

SCQF LEVEL 11 - Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate a broad and critical understanding of the integrated contemporary health and social care context.
A2	Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and understanding of the role of the Senior / Specialist community nurse practitioner within the wider integrated health and social care context.
A3	Demonstrate critical knowledge and understanding of the role leadership plays in managing change and transformation within integrated care.
A4	Demonstrate the specialist knowledge required for safe and effective practice within one's own area of practice.
A5	Demonstrate a critical understanding of evidence-based approaches to deliver positive person centred health outcome.
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Develop a range of professional skills in assessing, planning and implementing evidence based practice in relation to nursing within one's own area own area of practice.
B2	Demonstrate an applied knowledge of the context in which one's own role is relevant to integrated health and social care provision to individuals, families, and communities across the partnership.
B3	Critically reflect on the practice of self and others to enhance professional self-judgement and the development of enhanced leadership and team working skills.
B4	Explore and demonstrate qualities to lead change and do things differently within integrated health and social care services through compassion, creativity, and courage focusing on a personal outcomes approach and team working.
B5	Demonstrate an applied knowledge of a range of approaches to provide a person-centred positive health outcome.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Use a wide range of skills to communicate with people, families and communities who have different levels of knowledge and expertise.
C2	Demonstrate an ability to use a range of information communication and digital technologies required for the wider integrated health and social care context.
C3	Demonstrate the required level of numerical skills for safe and effective practice.
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Compiles and collates information allowing for the identification of the level of vulnerability in individuals, families, groups and communities.

D2	Deal with complex issues and problems as they arise and make informed judgement in the absence of incomplete data.
D3	Develop creative responses to problems and contribute to strategies to promote health and well-being in people, families and communities.
D4	
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Demonstrate professionalism, accountability and compassion to people, families and communities, respecting equality and diversity across the integrated health and social care context.
E2	Critically review one's own knowledge of professional autonomy, accountability, and regulation issues in relation to working in the role of Senior / Specialist Nurse.
E3	Demonstrate the ability to make autonomous decisions and be able to function confidently as a Senior / Specialist Nurse within one's own area of practice.
E4	Utilise leadership skills to engage and influence others and contribute to the transformation of change when necessary.
E5	

Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credit**	**Term**			**Footnotes**
				1	**2**	**3**	
11	NURS11164	Assessing in the Community	10	☒	☐	☐	*
11	NURS11144	Leading and Transforming Together	20	☐	☒	☐	*
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules * Must be taken by Stream A & B students.							

Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credit**	**Term**			**Footnotes**
				1	**2**	**3**	
11	NURS11153	Independent and Supplementary Prescribing L11	30	☐	☒	☒	*1
11	NURS11094	Frailty in Later Life	20	☐	☐	☒	*2
11	NURS11146	People and Communities	20	☐	☐	☒	*2
				☐	☐	☐	

				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	

Footnotes for Option Modules

*1 Taken only by Stream A students.

*2 Taken only by Stream B students.

Level 11- Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert)
Criteria for Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

Students obtaining 60 credit points (including all core module credits) of which 60 are credits at SCQF11, or above, are eligible for the exit award of PG Cert Integrated Community Nursing.

SCQF LEVEL 11 - Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	
A2	
A3	
A4	
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	
B2	
B3	
B4	
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	
C2	
C3	
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	
D2	
D3	
D4	
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	
E2	
E3	
E4	
E5	

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	

				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credit**	**Term**			**Footnotes**
				1	**2**	**3**	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 11- Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) **Criteria for Award** *Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations*

SCQF LEVEL 11 – Masters Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	
A2	
A3	
A4	
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	
B2	
B3	
B4	
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	
C2	
C3	
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	
D2	
D3	
D4	
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	
E2	
E3	
E4	
E5	

Masters Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	

				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Masters Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credit**	**Term**			**Footnotes**
				1	**2**	**3**	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 11- Masters **Criteria for Award** ***Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations***

Regulations of Assessment
Candidates will be bound by the general assessment regulations of the University as specified in the University Regulatory Framework. An overview of the assessment details is provided in the Student Handbook and the assessment criteria for each module is provided in the module descriptor which forms part of the module pack issued to students. For further details on assessment please refer to Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework. To qualify for an award of the University, students must complete all the programme requirements and must meet the credit minima detailed in Chapter 1 of the Regulatory Framework.

Combined Studies
There may be instances where a student has been unsuccessful in meeting the award criteria for the named award and for other more generic named awards existing within the School. Provided that they have met the credit requirements in line with the SCQF credit minima (please see Regulation 1.21), they will be eligible for a Combined Studies award (please see Regulation 1.61). For students studying at Level 11, they will normally be eligible for an exit award of PgCert / PgDip / Masters in Combined Studies.

Version no: 1

Change/Version Control

What	**When**	**Who**