

## University of the West of Scotland

### Postgraduate Programme Specification

**Session: 2021/22**

Last modified: 02/03/2021 22:10:53

Status: Pending

<b>Named Award Title:</b>	<b>PG Dip Specialist Practitioner District Nurse</b>
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<b>Award Title for Each Award:</b>	<b>PG Dip Specialist Practitioner District Nurse PG Cert Health Studies (Community Health)</b>
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<b>Date of Validation:</b>	March 2014
<b>Details of Cohorts Applies to:</b>	

<b>Awarding Institution/Body:</b>	University of the West of Scotland
<b>Teaching Institution:</b>	University of the West of Scotland
<b>Language of Instruction &amp; Examination:</b>	English
<b>Award Accredited By:</b>	The Nursing and Midwifery Council
<b>Maximum Period of Registration:</b>	
<b>Mode of Study:</b>	Full Time Part Time
<b>Campus:</b>	Lanarkshire

<b>School:</b>	School of Health and Life Sciences
<b>Programme Board</b>	Midwifery & Specialist Nursing
<b>Programme Leader:</b>	Mrs Susie Gamble

**Admission 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 Qualification**

Applicants should normally possess a degree

**Other Required Qualifications/Experience**

Applicants must satisfy the general criteria for admission of students to the University of the West of Scotland onto taught programmes of study leading to Postgraduate Awards in line with the Regulatory Framework and must also be registered on Part 1 of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) register.

Interviews will be conducted in partnership and collaboration with key stakeholders.

Students undertaking the Postgraduate Diploma Specialist Practitioner District Nurse (PgD SPDN) programme must have the support of their manager and employing organisation.

Students will normally have at least one years' post registration experience in order to apply for entry on the programme.

Applicants must identify a Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) who can provide a minimum of 90 hours of supervision and a Nominated Practice Supervisor both of whom meet the criteria for supervising students

on the Independent and Supplementary Prescribing Level 11 Module (NMC 2018).

In addition, as a requirement for the programme, applicants must have obtained agreement from an experienced Practitioner or Advanced Nurse Practitioner to act as a clinical supervisor in order to achieve competencies associated with the Assessment and Decision Making in Advanced Practice module.

Candidates must also be in a position to declare they are of good health and character as specified by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC, 2015) and must be able to demonstrate they meet the specific criteria for entry to the programme.

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### **Further desirable skills pre-application**

Candidates must be able to demonstrate skills and experience in Information Communication Technology.

### **General Overview**

The Postgraduate Diploma Specialist Practitioner District Nurse programme (PgD SPDN) is both an academic and a professional programme of education. The aim of the programme is to prepare registered nurses for 21st Century District Nursing. 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 (2018) also highlights the requirement to respond to the changing needs of our population. The combined theory and practice programme is for experienced nurses and is designed to develop their theoretical knowledge and skills to become autonomous, safe and competent specialist practitioner district nurses, with advanced skills, who lead community nursing practice. The programme encompasses both theoretical and practice based learning experiences with an equal distribution of each, comprising 50% theory and 50% practice (United Kingdom Central Council (UKCC), 2001). The programme will also prepare students to continue onto the MSc Health Studies (Community Health) Research and Enquiry Dissertation module.

The Postgraduate Diploma Specialist Practitioner District Nurse programme has been developed commensurate with current changes in Health and Social Care where there is a drive towards reducing hospital admissions and shifting the care from acute to primary 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 recently published 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 received Royal Assent on the 1st April 2014 and legislates for the nine national health and wellbeing outcomes; all which focus on the person and the care they receive.

This programme has been designed to ensure it reflects stakeholder's needs with innovation and development in district nursing practice. The programme incorporates the Assessment and Decision Making in Advanced Practice module and the Independent and Supplementary Prescribing Level 11 module. This exceeds the standards required for specialist practice. However, this reflects the transformed way in which District Nurses are now practicing and will ensure that District Nurse's are prepared and able to meet the needs of people, with more complex health needs, at home. This is supported by the Chief Nursing Officer who is committed to maximising the contribution of the nursing, midwifery and health professions workforce and pushing the traditional boundaries of professional roles as emphasised in Paper 3, The District Nursing role in integrated community nursing teams (Scottish Government, 2017).

To respond to student circumstances and service need the programme is offered via a full-time and part-time pathway. The length of the programme when undertaken via the full time pathway is 52 weeks. The part-time pathway is delivered over 104 weeks. The programme comprises of six Scottish Credit Qualification Framework (SCQF) Level 11 modules which are underpinned by the philosophy and values of the NMC and the requirements for a recordable qualification as a Specialist Practitioner District Nurse (NMC, 2001). The programme takes cognisance of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Master's degree characteristics (QAA, 2010) and Scottish Subject Benchmark Statement for Nursing (QAA, 2009).

In addition to meeting the NMC (2001) Standards, the Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI) and The Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland (QNIS) Voluntary Standards for District Nurse Education and Practice have been adopted as best practice (QNI/QNIS, 2015). The Voluntary Standards have been mapped against the programme. Although this is not mandatory it is considered best practice and demonstrates that the programme is preparing practitioners who are equipped to lead and manage current and future district nursing services.

Practitioners who undertake the programme will be highly motivated practitioners who demonstrate a strong commitment to developing district nursing practice based on the integration of critical appraisal, evidence

based practice and professional expertise. It is expected that students will have a wealth of previous professional experience and transferable skills which will be utilised, accepted practice will be challenged and built upon. The shared learning with Public Health Nurses (Health Visitors, School Nurses and Occupational Health Nurses), and other students from a variety of disciplines and professions provides a highly effective interprofessional learning experience and contributes to the overall strength of the programme.

Student progression to the MSc will depend on student achievement and the exit route taken. Academically, the programme has two exit awards. Students who are unable, for any reason to complete all 6 core modules (130 credits) can, on completion of 3 out of the 6 modules (minimum 60 credits) exit with a Postgraduate Certificate in Health Studies (Community Health). This programme is not recruited to directly. The Postgraduate Diploma Specialist Practitioner District Nurse programme requires successful completion of all 6 core modules (130 credits), completion of the practice based learning hours aligned to the modules and the additional Advanced Assessment Competency portfolio. On successful completion of the Postgraduate Diploma and in line with the Regulatory Framework all students will be encouraged, as part of their continuous professional development, to proceed to the MSc Health Studies (Community Health) Research and Enquiry Dissertation module. The MSc will be completed within 5 years of commencing the programme. On full completion of MSc, students are able to enter one of the schools Doctoral studies programmes.

A range of innovative teaching, learning and assessment methods are utilised within the PgD to enable inspirational and transformative learning as directed by the Education Enabling Plan (UWS, 2018). The innovative teaching practices within the programme align with our Strategy 2025 (UWS, 2025). The theory for the modules will be delivered through a blend of online lectures and distance learning which will include provision of support through interactive materials using the UWS Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) Moodle. The emphasis on the Postgraduate Diploma is on the development and application of both academic and clinical skills. Teaching strategies will reflect the blend of distance and supported learning. A range of strategies will be used which will include interactive online lectures, electronic teaching materials, interactive asynchronous discussion forums, on-going practice eportfolio, group work and enquiry case studies, problem solving and the use of interactive quizzes. All assessment strategies will be underpinned by the Education Enabling Plan (UWS, 2018) and will utilise both formative and summative assignments. There will be innovative approaches taken to assessment with the nature of assessment varying depending on which module is being assessed and the learning and teaching strategies used. The range of assessments include preparing literature reviews, poster presentation, presenting a research proposal, OSCE practice assessment, written reports, pharmacology and numeracy tests, presenting case-studies and analysis of practice based problems.

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 to all students to ensure they are fully informed of the requirements of the programme, this includes Programme Handbooks, Module Descriptors and timetables. All students will receive a virtual practice placement visit throughout the duration of the programme.

On commencement of the programme students will be aligned to a Practice Assessor, Practice Supervisor and Academic Assessor who will fulfil the requirement of the Standards for student supervision and assessment (NMC, 2018). The Practice Assessor will assess the practical learning and development of competence with regard to the NMC Standards for specialist education and practice and in relation to the students individual learning needs. Students will use the portfolio to actively plan experiences to meet their learning outcomes and collate evidence of learning. A major strength of the programme is collaboration with the Practice Assessors, Practice Supervisors, Academic Assessors, students and the teaching team to facilitate the links between theory and practice. There is a designated Moodle (Virtual Learning Environment) Open Space specifically designated for Practice Assessors and Practice Supervisors where discussion forums are used to communicate with other Practice Assessors and Practice Supervisors. Practice Assessors and Practice Supervisors also have the opportunity to meet with the Academic Assessor and Programme Team at Practice Assessor and Practice Supervisor online events at the University.

To be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma qualification with the NMC recordable professional qualification of Specialist Practitioner District Nurse, students must successfully complete;

- the six core modules
- the practice based learning hours aligned to modules
- the additional Advanced Assessment Competency portfolio.

### Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning

Our aim is to provide students at UWS 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. Our '**I AM UWS**' graduate attributes have

been developed to reflect that vision where UWS graduates are work-ready and able to successfully contribute both locally and globally.

It is expected that graduates of this programme will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to enable them to 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. The programme is designed to ensure that students exit with a detailed and critical understanding of a range of specialised theories, principles and concepts influencing contemporary district nursing practice.

In particular incorporating both the Independent and Supplementary Level 11 module and the Assessment and Decision Making in Advanced Practice module will be attractive to managers as these modules are deemed by NHS Education for Scotland as essential to the refocused role of the District Nurse.

Inherent within the process of programme delivery are mechanisms which facilitate the development of transferable skills. Gaining a postgraduate qualification can lead to a variety of career opportunities and destinations, the programme will offer enhanced employability prospects for students.

Throughout the duration of their studies 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.

### Work Based Learning/Placement Details

Practice based learning experiences comprise 50% of the total programme hours and equates to 22.5 weeks (over 104 weeks part-time or 52 weeks full-time). Each practice placement is aligned to a module of theoretical learning, assisting students to integrate theory with practice and supporting the development of the students' knowledge base and competence. Twelve weeks of practice will be completed during the pre-consolidation phase of the programme, with 10.5 weeks undertaken during the final 'Consolidation of Practice' module.

In accordance with professional standards for student supervision and assessment, all practice learning is facilitated and supervised by a Practice Supervisor. Under this guidance and supervision, the student will work towards achieving all the NMC proficiencies in order to meet the Standards for specialist education and practice. The Practice Assessor will conduct assessments to confirm student achievement of proficiencies.

All practice placement areas are subject to Educational Audit and monitored for use by the University.

Part-time programme placement:

Year 1: Term 1: 4 Weeks, Term 2: 4 Weeks. Year 2: Term 2: 4 Weeks, Term 3: 10.5 weeks

Full-time programme placement:

Term 1: 6 Weeks, Term 2: 6 weeks, Term 3: 10.5 weeks

### Engagement and Attendance

In line with the Academic Engagement and Attendance Procedure, Students are defined as academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with timetabled teaching sessions, course-related learning resources including those in the Library and on Moodle, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

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

On the Postgraduate Diploma Specialist Practitioner District Nurse programme, attendance requirements are set by the Nursing and Midwifery Council. Attendance at all online classes and practice placements is mandatory. Non-attendance must be discussed with the Programme Leader and missed online class time and practice placement time must be accounted for before the programme is complete.

In clinical practice attendance is recorded in the student's portfolio and must be signed by the student's Practice Assessor.

### Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: [UWS Equality and Diversity Policy](#)

The University's equality and diversity policies apply.

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

#### A. PG Cert

Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)

<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
A1	
<b>Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
B1	
<b>Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills</b>	
C1	
<b>Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation</b>	
D1	
<b>Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others</b>	
E1	

#### Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	

\* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

#### Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	

\* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

#### Criteria for Progression and Award

#### B. PG Dip

Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)

<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
<b>A1</b>	Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the social, political and economic factors which influence service delivery to clients, carers and families
<b>A2</b>	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the theories, concepts and principle of District Nursing
<b>A3</b>	Demonstrate an extensive, detailed and critical knowledge and understanding of the role of the District Nurse within the context of the public health agenda
<b>A4</b>	Have a critical awareness of the evidence base and current issues in District Nursing

<b>A5</b>	Demonstrate extensive detailed knowledge and understanding of the theory underpinning Nurse Prescribing
<b>Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
<b>B1</b>	Develop the use of a significant range of professional skills in assessing, planning, implementing evidence based practice in relation to District Nursing
<b>B2</b>	Apply a range of specialist research and techniques of enquiry to construct profiles of the health needs of individuals, families, groups and communities
<b>B3</b>	Lead and develop District Nursing in light of forefront developments within the field
<b>B4</b>	Demonstrate the use of a range of knowledge and skills required for project management which may include research, investigation or development
<b>B5</b>	Demonstrate the ability to respond appropriately in challenging and unpredictable situations
<b>Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills</b>	
<b>C1</b>	Use effective communication skills to communicate to a range of audiences with different levels of knowledge and expertise using appropriate methods
<b>C2</b>	Critically evaluate a range of data to improve population health
<b>C3</b>	Demonstrate an ability to use a range of ICT applications required for Specialist Community Nursing Practice
<b>C4</b>	Demonstrate the required level of numerical skills for safe and effective prescribing
<b>Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation</b>	
<b>D1</b>	Deal with complex issues and problems as they arise and make informed judgement in the absence of incomplete data
<b>D2</b>	Using problem solving, analytical and evaluative skills; identify and reflect on areas of practice which need developed
<b>D3</b>	Develop original and creative responses to problems and develop strategies to promote health and well-being in individuals, families and the wider population
<b>D4</b>	Initiate policy development in light of new research and/or evidence
<b>Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others</b>	
<b>E1</b>	Using critical reflection and evaluation identify strategies to ensure safe and effective person centred care
<b>E2</b>	Ethically and effectively manage a range of resources across teams, departments and roles
<b>E3</b>	Facilitate effective multi-disciplinary/multi-agency team working within the community setting
<b>E4</b>	Influence other by using leadership skills to affect change where necessary
<b>E5</b>	Debate accountability and professional responsibility in relation to Nurse Prescribing

### Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	NURS11105	Consolidation of Practice	20				
11	NURS11153	Independent and Supplementary Prescribing L11	30				
11	NURS11148	NMC Assessment & Decision Making in Adv Pract	20				
11	NURS11150	NMC Responding to Public Health Challenges	20				
11	MIDW11003	Research for Health & Social Care	20				
11	NURS11104	Contemporary District Nursing: Managing LTC	20				

\* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

### Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	

\* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

### Criteria for Progression and Award

Successful completion of the six core modules, the practice based learning hours aligned to the modules and the additional Advanced Assessment Competency portfolio, in accordance with the professional standards will lead to two recordable qualifications on the Nursing and Midwifery Council register one as a Specialist Practitioner District Nurse and one as Nurse Independent Supplementary Prescriber. Students who desire to conclude their postgraduate study will be able to graduate at this point with a Postgraduate Diploma award.

Students who have completed all 6 modules and meet University requirements in line with the Regulatory Framework, will be eligible to progress to MSc Health Studies (Community Health) Research and Enquiry Dissertation module.

Please note that as a NMC approved programme, the following additional professional regulation will apply to modules within this programme -

- Where a module assessment comprises two or more components - each component must be successfully passed at the minimum pass mark required for the overall module pass. This ensures that components do not compensate for each other to deliver an overall aggregate pass mark, for example

- MSc level: each component must be passed at a minimum of 50%, and the aggregate pass mark should be 50%

- Where modules are shared between NMC Approved Programmes and non NMC Approved Programmes, the Standard for NMC Approved Programmes as stated in the Quality Assurance Framework must take precedence over the UWS Regulatory Framework for all students undertaking the module. This means that each component must be passed at a minimum of 50%, and the aggregate pass mark should be 50%

### C. Masters

#### Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)

<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
A1	
<b>Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
B1	
<b>Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills</b>	
C1	
<b>Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation</b>	
D1	
<b>Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others</b>	
E1	

### Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	

					1	2	3	

\* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

### Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	

\* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

### Criteria for Award

#### 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.

### Changes

#### Changes made to the programme since it was last published:

Amendments have been made in relation to the following sections:

Updates to Admission Criteria, General Overview and the Prescribing module details.

**Version Number: 1.07**