**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

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| Programme Aim and Title | FdSc Apprentice Nursing Associate  FdSc Nursing Associate |
| Intermediate Awards Available | CERT HE Health Studies (This does not lead to eligibility for NMC registration) |
| Teaching Institution(s) | University of East London |
| Alternative Teaching Institutions  (for local arrangements see final section of this specification) | N/A |
| UEL Academic School | HSB |
| UCAS Code |  |
| Professional Body Accreditation | Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) |
| Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements | Foundation Degree Characteristics Statement (QAA, 2015)  This FdSc Apprentice Nursing Associate programme has been designed to meet:  The Nursing Associate Apprenticeship Standards (2018) <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/nursing-associate-nmc-2018/>)  <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/media/2889/st0508_nursing-associate-level-5-epa-for-publication-05042019.pdf>    The Standards for Pre-registration Nursing Associate programmes (2018) <https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards/standards-for-nursing-associates/standards-for-pre-registration-nursing-associate-programmes/>,  The Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment (2018) <https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards-for-education-and-training/standards-for-student-supervision-and-assessment/> and the  Standards of Proficiency for nursing associates (NMC 2018) <https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards/standards-for-nursing-associates/standards-of-proficiency-for-nursing-associates/>, |
| Additional Versions of this Programme | None |
| Date Specification Last Updated | July 2021 |

**Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes**

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

1. Develop as a compassionate, competent, and confident Nursing Associate with the values and behaviours of the NHS constitution to practice safely within their parameters of practice.
2. Engage in a learning environment that integrates the theoretical and practical elements of the Nursing Associate curriculum to achieve the 6 platforms and 2 annexe’s (NMC, 2018) and learning outcomes of the programme and the 10 Occupational Duties of the Apprenticeship Standard.
3. Provide opportunities for you to gain the knowledge, skills and behaviours across health and social care to support health and well–being and the physical and mental health needs of individuals across the lifespan.
4. Support you to be situationally competent in your primary workplace and gain new knowledge through external authentic placements in hospital, at home or close to home.
5. Develop as a person-centred Nursing Associate and work as part of a multi-professional team supporting self -care and the individual needs of service users, their families and carers.
6. Develop excellent communication skills that are non - judgemental and have respect for equality and diversity.
7. Support you to develop leadership skills that support research informed evidence-based practice, service improvement and innovation in healthcare.
8. Develop you as a critically reflective practitioner with a passion for life- long learning and high-quality care.

**Learning and Teaching:**

The programme uses the Standards of Proficiency for Nursing Associates (NMC, 2018) and the Nursing Associate Apprenticeship Standards (2018) to act as a structure on which to build learning. The six platforms and annexe A & B from the Nursing and Midwifery Council proficiency guidelines for Nursing Associates are visited across the following theoretical, work-based and work-related learning modules:

1. Being an accountable professional
2. Promoting health and preventing ill health
3. Provide and monitor care
4. Working in teams
5. Improving safety and quality of care
6. Contributing to integrated care
7. Communication and relationship management skills
8. Procedures to be undertaken by the nursing associate.

**The Nursing Associate (NMC 2018) Apprenticeship standard- Reference number ST0827 do not apply to Self-Funding students.**

Occupation duties

| **Duty** | **Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours** |
| --- | --- |
| **Duty 1** Be an accountable professional, acting in the best interests of people, putting them first and providing nursing care that is person-centred, safe and compassionate | K1 K2 K3 K4 K5  S1 S2 S3 S4 S5 S6  B1 B2 B3 |
| **Duty 2** Communicate effectively, recognising and working within the limits of competence and being responsible for their own actions | K6 K7 K8  S5 S7 S8 S9 S10 S11 S12  B1 B2 B3 |
| **Duty 3** Promote health and prevent ill health to improve and maintain the mental, physical, behavioural health and well-being of people, families, carers and communities | K9 K10 K11 K12 K13 K14  S13 S14 S15 S16 S17  B1 B2 B3 |
| **Duty 4** Contribute to the ongoing assessment of individuals nursing care needs, recognising when it is appropriate to refer to others for reassessment | K15 K16 K17 K18 K19  S18 S19 S20  B1 B2 B3 |
| **Duty 5** Provide and monitor nursing care to individuals and groups, providing compassionate and safe nursing interventions | K20 K21 K22 K23 K24 K25 K26 K27 K28 K29  S5 S21 S22 S23 S24 S25 S26 S27 S28 S29 S30 S31 S32  B1 B2 B3 |
| **Duty 6** Improve safety of individuals by identifying risks to safety or experience of care and taking appropriate action, putting the best interests, needs and preferences of people first | K30 K32 K35  S33 S34 S35 S36  B1 B2 B3 |
| **Duty 7** Improve quality of care by contributing to the continuous monitoring of people’s experience of care | K31 K33 K34  S37  B1 B2 B3 |
| **Duty 8** Contribute to the provision of complex nursing and integrated care needs of people at any stage of their lives, across a range of organisations and settings | K36 K37 K38 K39 K40 K41  S38 S39 S40  B1 B2 B3 |
| **Duty 9** Work in teams collaborating effectively with a range of colleagues | K42 K43  S43 S44  B1 B2 B3 |
| **Duty 10** Support and supervise others in the care team | K6 K42  S38 S41 S42  B1 B2 B3 |

**What you will learn:**

1. Key skills to be a learner in higher education
2. Care and communication (encompassing therapeutic relationships) (NMC Appendix A and Duty 2)
3. Safeguarding and contributing to risk monitoring (NMC Platform 3 & 5 and Duty 6 and 7)
4. Resilience
5. Professional values and accountability (NMC Platform 1 and Duty 1 and 5)
6. Life, social, health and behavioural sciences
7. Physical and mental health assessment & escalation (NMC Platform 5 and Duty 4 and 6)
8. Clinical decision making and problem-solving skills
9. Inter-professional learning and team working for integrated care (NMC Platform 4 & 6 and Duty 8, 9 and 10).
10. Working in partnership with service users and carers
11. Promoting health and well-being and preventing ill health. (NMC Platform 2 and Duty 3)
12. Use of research to inform practice and evidence-based practice
13. The application of theory to practice
14. Leadership and management of care
15. Reflection, preparation for registration and lifelong learning

Successful completion of your programme will be achieved over a 2-year (2 years and 3 months for apprentices) period of 45 weeks

**Learning and Teaching**

The teaching and learning methods which will be employed to facilitate achievement of the aims and learning outcomes of the programme are detailed below:

* Blended Learning
* Learning in Simulation and Practice
* Learning from Service Users and Carers
* Inter-professional Learning
* Personal and Professional Development Portfolio (PPDP)

**Assessment**

Knowledge is assessed by:

* Coursework
* Essays
* Examinations (MCQ and short answer drug calculations)
* Case studies
* Practice Assessment Document in clinical/simulated practice

Thinking skills are assessed by:

* Coursework
* Examinations
* Project work
* Practice Assessment Document in clinical/simulated practice
* Research informed knowledge and application of evidence-based practice.

Practical skills are assessed by:

* Practical reports
* Practice Assessment Document in a clinical/simulation environment
* OSCE’s in simulated practice and critical reflection on practice.
* Posters

Skills for life and work are assessed by:

* Project work
* Group work
* Oral presentations
* Practice Assessment Documents (PAD)
* Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE)
* Use of information literacies (databases)

If you have a disability and/or a particular learning need, you should discuss assessments with your Programme Leader and /or Academic Advisor. The programme will allow flexibility for reasonable adjustments to be made and can be supplied with our partners in practice.

The specific learning outcomes for each of the modules are detailed in the Module Specifications (Section 6). 7

For more information, see visit the NMC website on reasonable adjustment. <https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/eandd/reasonable-adjustments-policy.pdf>

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Programme Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the programme.

Work or Study Placements

**Assessment of work-based learning**

For students on an Apprenticeship pathway, successful completion of your programme will be achieved over a 2 year (and 3 month period to meet the EPA requirements) of 45 weeks per year and will comprise of 1200 hours each year totalling a minimum of 2400 hours exclusive of annual leave.

For students, successful completion of your programme will be achieved over a 2 year period, 45 weeks per year. This will also comprise of 1200 hours of theory and 1200 hours of practice exclusive of annual leave.

Apprentice Nursing Associates (NMC -Option B- Protected Learning)

For Apprentices, the programme comprises of a minimum total of 2400 learning hours. Practice hours are in a primary placement for a minimum of 370 hours and in external placements for 230 hours per year. Theoretical hours (200 hrs for a 20-credit module), consist of face-to-face contact, directed learning and self-directed learning. Practice hours comprise learning in primary and external placements and in simulated practice.

Hours protected for learning in primary placements are set out as:

* released for at least 20 percent of the programme for academic study
* released for at least 20 percent of the programme time, which is assured
* protected learning time in external practice placements, enabling the student to develop the breadth of experience required for a generic role, and
* protected learning time assured for the remainder of the required programme hours.

External placement attendance models differ between placements and employers. More general information from each NHS Trust is published on the FdSc Nursing Associate Moodle site when external placements are allocated. External placement information is provided as part of preparation for starting a new placement.

Nursing Associate Students (NMC - Option A - Supernumerary)

Student will be Supernumerary while learning in practice. The programme comprises of a minimum total of 2400 learning hours which will be 50% theory and 50% practice. Practice hours are in a primary (Host) placement for a minimum of 370 hours and in other external placements for 230 hours per year. Theoretical hours (200 hrs for a 20-credit module), consist of face-to-face contact, directed learning and self-directed learning. Practice hours comprise learning in placements and in simulated practice.

The 120 credits in each year of the programme, will constitute 6 modules (4 theory modules and 2 practice/ work related modules). Each year of the programme is divided into three terms. The structure of each year is shown below:

Theory Modules:

6 x 20 credit modules (undertaken in year 1)

6 x 20 credit modules (undertaken in year 2)

Students and Apprentices must complete 120 credits to progress onto year 2.

Students and Apprentices will receive support from:

Practice supervisors, a Practice Assessor and an Academic Assessor

Students and Apprentices will be supported by Practice Supervisors who can be any registered Healthcare professional working within a scope of practice. They will also have a designated Practice Assessor who must be a Registered Nurse or Registered Nursing Associate and an Academic Assessor (one for each year of the programme) who must also be a Registered Nurse or Registered Nursing Associate.

There will be opportunities for formative and summative assessment of clinical skills and tasks to ensure progression through the programme which will be closely monitored to assure the outcomes are achieved. Close monitoring of student and Apprentice progression will be achieved through tri-partite arrangements between the student or Apprentice, the Practice Assessor and Academic Advisor in their primary placements to facilitate a robust model of supervisory support. For apprenticeships, this will also include the employer.

Tri-partite review is a requirement of the Nursing Associate Apprenticeship standard (NMC 2018).

The assessment of competence via the NAPAD 1 and 2 is pass/fail. Summative assessment of work-based learning occurs once a year and requires a minimum of 370 hours in primary placement and a minimum of 230 hours in an external placement (Apprenticeship pathway) and 370 hours in a host placement and 230 hours in an external placement for Students. Students must comply with submitting records of attendance for a pass grade to be awarded

Students and Apprentices will also keep a reflective portfolio which provides evidence of successful achievement of the module learning outcomes. This can also be utilised to support the End Point Assessment (EPA) for the higher apprenticeship standard. The EPA is an oral presentation where you will be expected to discuss how the evidence in your portfolio meets the domains and outcomes to become a Nursing Associate. You will need to pass both elements of the assessment to pass the EPA.

The Nursing Associate Standards of Proficiency (NMC, 2018) places significant emphasis on the importance of numeracy and medicines management to ensure patient safety. Student and Apprentices will be given access to ‘Safe Medicate’ which is a specific e-learning tool to develop these skills. This package allows students and Apprentices many opportunities for practice through online testing in preparation for their exam included in your work-based learning module Developing as a Nurse Associate (NS4205). For students and Apprentices struggling to meet the required level of numeracy; support from the Academic Advisor, module team and practice supervisor are available. Importantly, UEL’s Centre for Student Success specialises in supporting students with numeracy skills.

It is recognised that using experiences from work environments in learning and assessment strategies can raise ethical issues, for example confidentiality or questioning of work practices. You will be made aware of the processes for raising and escalating concerns and your professional responsibilities around duty of candour. Due to the nature of reflective practice and work-based and placement learning, you must also abide by the confidentiality policies of your employer, placement provider and UEL

**Programme Structure**

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

3 Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme.

4 Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme.

5 Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme.

6 Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme.

7 Equivalent in standard to a Masters degree.

Programmes are made up of modules that are each credit weighted.

The module structure of this programme:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level** | **Module**  **Code** | **Module Title** | **Credit Weighting** | **Core/Option** | **Available by Distance Learning?**  **Y/N** |
| 4 | NS4201 | Professional Values (Mental Wealth) | 20 | Core | N |
| 4 | NS4202 | Bioscience for Nursing | 20 | Core | N |
| 4 | NS4291 | Nursing Practice in the Workplace | 20 | Core | N |
| 4 | NS4203 | Promoting Health and Preventing ill Health | 20 | Core | N |
| 4 | NS4204 | Communication | 20 | Core | N |
| 4 | NS4205 | Developing as a Nursing Associate | 20 | Core | N |
| 5 | NS5201 | Pharmacology for Nurse Associates | 20 | Core | N |
| 5 | NS5205 | Teamwork for Inter-professional Practice | 20 | Core | N |
| 5 | NS5291 | Becoming a competent Nursing Associate | 20 | Core | N |
| 5 | NS5203 | Evidence Based Research | 20 | Core | N |
| 5 | NS5204 | Patient Safety and Quality Improvement | 20 | Core | N |
| 5 | NS5202 | Professional Competence in the Clinical Practice | 20 | Core | N |

*There are no optional modules for this programme.*

The above module structure has been designed to meet the NMC standards for pre-registration nursing associate programmes, the Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment and the Standards of Proficiency for Nursing Associates.

For Apprentices, they must also meet the Nursing Associate (NMC 2018) Apprenticeship Standards.

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 240 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated. You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

**Programme Specific Regulations**

Students must have an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and Occupational Health Clearance.

For Apprentices, UEL will check for an up to date DBS with the Employing Organisation and all students on the Apprenticeship route will have complete an occupational health questionnaire.

The Programme also requires Mandatory Skills training which are listed in the Programme Handbook.

This programme must undertake approval by the Nursing and Midwifery Council and comprises of work based learning and taught theory.

The programme has requirements for a range of external placements that will support a generic and holistic experience in the workplace.

**Typical Duration**

The typical duration of this programme is 2 years (2 years and 3 months for the Apprenticeship route to include the EPA) but students who are unable to progress for any reason may use the intermission process to catch up on their studies.

The Award will be a Foundation Degree Nursing Associate.

Students and Apprentices must pass 120 credits in Year one to progress to year 2.

The expected duration of this programme is 2 years full-time (2 years and 3 months for Apprentices). The minimum working hours for an Apprenticeship route is 30 hours per week.

A student cannot normally continue study on a programme after 4 years of study in full time mode unless exceptional circumstances apply and extenuation has been granted. The limit for completion of a programme in part time mode is 8 years from first enrolment.

**Progression:**

Students who complete the FdSc Nursing Associate Programme will be eligible to APL onto the Pre-registration Nursing Programme for up to 50% of the Programme

**Further Information**

More information about this programme is available from:

• The UEL web site (www.uel.ac.uk)

• The programme handbook

• Module study guides

• UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)

• UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)

• School web pages

All UEL programmes are subject to thorough programme approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our programmes by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.

Additional costs:

Travel to placements

Textbooks

Stationary

Printing/Photocopying

Membership of a Union (Optional but advised)

NMC registration on completion of the programme.

**Alternative Locations of Delivery**

N/A