



**Open University (OU)  
BSc (Honours) Adult/Learning  
Disability/Mental  
Health/Child Nursing  
Programmes**

Information for Managers

December 2023

## Introduction

The OU pre-registration nursing programme is undertaken on a part-time basis over a period of four years. Course information can be accessed at: <http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/find/nursing-and-healthcare-practice>

N.B. This can be over a shorter period if the student already has transferable academic credit.

The practice learning element of the programme takes place in the employee's workplace and other areas across NHSGGC during the course of their studies. The employee will be required to undertake a minimum of 2310 hours of practice placement as a student nurse over the duration of the programme. This is split in to three placements per three stages of programme giving a total of nine placements. A total of 770 hours are completed across the 3 practice placements in each stage and breaks are not credited as practice placement hours. If the employee's substantive post is in an appropriate clinical environment they will return to this area for their final practice placement of each stage. A practice tutor and workplace practice supervisors and practice assessors will support employees throughout their practice learning experiences.

The theory element of the programme is taught through OU open learning which means that employees complete the theory component from home/library and don't attend a classroom environment. Employees are supported by a tutor throughout their studies and receive learning materials from the OU.

## Open University Uniform and Name Badge

Your member of staff will receive 3 pairs of trousers and OU tunics and a '#hello my name is...' name badge should be

ordered for them. They must wear these when they are a student nurse undertaking a practice learning experience.

## Funding

The Scottish Government provides backfill funding of **£10,000 per year for a period of four years** for each employee who is undertaking the OU programme. The funding should be used to cover backfill when your member of staff is undertaking a practice learning experience in your own or another area, **and to support additional paid study leave**. Travel costs should also be covered when travel is incurred undertaking a practice learning experience in another area. Allocation and frequency of study leave should be agreed between you and the employee. The funding available for study leave will vary depending on factors such as banding, pay point, enhancements, etc., but managers must use their remaining allocation of funding to support periods of paid study leave. The recommendation from the OU is that employees should expect to be allocated the equivalent of one day (7.5 hours) per month where funding allows.

Funding comes into the Board twice a year, is distributed between acute and partnerships depending on where the HCSWs are employed, and is claimed by your management accountant. You should therefore liaise direct with your finance support regarding any financial queries.

## Employment Arrangement during Practice Learning Experiences

Employees will continue to report any absence from practice learning experiences to you as well as their course tutor. You will continue to administer any pay changes or contractual changes using the eESS system.

All NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde employment policies will still apply during practice learning experiences and employees will be updated by you on any changes or service developments.

Employees will be able to utilise Learnpro and should continue to ensure that they complete all statutory and mandatory training, as well as participating in their Turas Appraisal and iMatter survey to ensure they are trained and supported at work.

### **Rostering on SSTS**

You will continue to roster your member of staff on SSTS as normal but when they are undertaking a practice learning experience you should record it as study leave. If your member of staff is required to work unsociable hours, i.e. weekends during their practice learning experience, it should be added to notes in SSTS that the member of staff should be paid enhancements.

### **Completion of the Programme**

On completion of the programme employees will attain a BSc (Hons) in Adult, Learning Disability, Mental Health or Child Nursing and can apply for registered nurse vacancies through NHSGGC Newly Qualified Nurse recruitment processes.

### **Key Contacts**

- NHSGGC Employer Link - David Lamont, Associate Chief Nurse, Professional Development and Education, NMAHP Directorate, Corporate Nursing.  
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Additional information on the OU programme can be found here: [HealthCare Support Worker \(HCSW\) Portal - NHSGGC](#)