

PG Dip Adult Nursing/Mental Health Nursing Entry Portfolio

The portfolio is designed for you to demonstrate:

1. Experience of practice in a health care role (minimum of 600 hours)
2. Prior learning equivalent to key learning outcomes from year one of the BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing (this learning will equate to a minimum of 650 hours)

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1. Experience of practice in a health care role

In order to comply with NMC Standards applicants should have a minimum of 600 hours prior experience of clinical care. Examples of healthcare experience include:

- Working as a healthcare assistant or activity coordinator in a nursing home, hospital or similar setting
- Other support worker roles in health or social care, for example, operating department assistant, physiotherapy assistant
- Working as any registered healthcare professional
- Charity work which involves communicating with people with health and social care needs, for example, with the Samaritans, Age UK, Crisis
- Voluntary work which could be in the UK and/or overseas
- First aid/lifeguarding duties
- Working in a pharmacy - giving health and over the counter medication advice
- Pharmaceutical representative
- Youth worker giving health promotion advice
- Working with young people not in employment, education or training.
- Befriending older people
- Alternative experience will be considered on an individual basis

This practice experience is arranged by the applicant; it is equivalent to 3-4 months of full time work but may be achieved through part-time work over a longer period of time. This would normally be through paid employment, allowing applicants to gain care experience

with a range of patients, clients or service users. It may be possible for some applicants to gain the required experiences in a voluntary capacity. Caring experiences with family members or with a single client would *not* normally be considered as providing adequate evidence of care experience. This clinical practice experience should normally have been carried out within one year of the date of application to the programme; applicants without such experience may be able to undertake it during the application process.

Clinical practice experience

In relation to clinical practice experience applicants will be required to provide detail of their relevant experience. This should quantify the hours spent in practice (a minimum of 600 hours is required), and demonstrate that the knowledge and skills they have gained during their experience of care are relevant to their nursing programme. Applicants should be able to describe their experience in detail and reflect on what they have learnt, making use of the principles that underpin the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) Code - *prioritise people; practice effectively; preserve safety and promote professionalism and trust* (NMC 2015).

A reference

The reference(s) must be from a manager or equivalent and must confirm the number of hours worked and activities carried out by the applicant as part of their normal duties. Guidelines for referees regarding information to be included will be provided from the programme admissions team. Entry to the programme is subject to satisfactory reference(s). The practice hours evidenced will contribute to the 2,300 practice hours that need to have been accrued by the end of the PG Dip in order to meet the requirements of the NMC and register as an adult nurse.

2. Prior learning equivalent to key learning outcomes from year one of the BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing

The portfolio of prior learning will require applicants summarise their prior experience, and to place it in context by reflecting on the knowledge and skills gained during their (first) degree, and during the clinical practice experience undertaken prior to entering the programme. The portfolio is designed to demonstrate prior learning equivalent to

identified key learning outcomes from year one of the approved nursing programme; this learning will equate to a minimum of 650 hours and will contribute to the 2,300 theory hours that need to have been accrued by the end of the PG Dip in order to meet the requirements of the NMC and register as an adult nurse.

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General information

Graduates who obtained their degree more than five years ago may be considered for the programme provided they can demonstrate evidence of successful recent and relevant study, at an appropriate level. For example, the Open University provides several highly relevant courses of study at degree level. Guidance for recent study is provided on an individual basis and entry to the programme would be conditional on successfully completing such study.

Practice experience may be gained during the application period but it must be completed at least six weeks prior to course commencement to allow the claim to be processed and approved.

Although post-graduate diploma students are regularly taught alongside BSc Hons nursing students, the level of assessment will be at masters' level (level 7) in a number of units; applicants are therefore required to demonstrate considerable capacity for self-management and independent learning during the application process.

Unsuccessful applicants may be eligible to be considered for the three year **BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing/Mental Health Nursing course**.