Appendix 2

Faculty of Health Studies
School of Nursing

Programme Specification

Programme title: Foundation Degree Nursing Associate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year:</th>
<th>2016/2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree Awarding Body:</td>
<td>University of Bradford</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Partner(s), delivery organisation or support provider (if appropriate): | Bradford Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust  
Airedale NHS Foundation Trust |
| Final and interim award(s): | Foundation Degree  
[Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Level 5]  
Certificate of Higher Education in Health Studies  
[Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Level 4] |
| Programme accredited by (if appropriate): | |
| Programme duration: | 2 Years full time |
| UCAS code: | |
| QAA Subject benchmark statement: | Nursing |
| Date of Senate Approval: | |
| Date last confirmed and/or minor modification approved by Faculty Board | |

Introduction

The Nursing Associate programme is unique as you will be employed in the healthcare setting providing excellent learning opportunities and the opportunity to gain the mandatory requirements for working in a clinical area on placement, including Basic Life Support and moving and handling. The Foundation Degree programme is undertaken over two years, with an emphasis on learning in the clinical practice setting. As a student you will be supported both in the academic and clinical settings through the allocation of a Personal Academic Tutor (PAT), supervisor in the clinical area and the School of Nursing, Practice Education Support Team (PEST). We have well established collaborative links with local healthcare providers. Practice placements with your employing organisation will allow you to consolidate your learning and build caring and therapeutic relationships with patients, service users and carers.

Nursing is a diverse and rewarding career in which you can really make a difference to people's lives. It is a profession which focuses not only upon the care of the individual but that of families and the communities in which they live. Nurses are the largest staff group in
the NHS and work in every health setting with people of all ages and backgrounds (NHS Health Careers 2016). A Foundation Degree Nursing Associate will equip you with the skills, knowledge and attributes for a lifelong career as a respected practitioner. It will give you the opportunity to progress your career across a range of healthcare settings.

This programme reflects the guidance set in the Nursing Associate Curriculum Framework (Health Education England, 2016), and the Framework for Higher Education in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education 2008). The programme aims to equip you with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to work in a diverse and challenging health and social care environment and to help provide caring, efficient and effective health care for local communities.

The University, Faculty of Health Studies and the School of Nursing has successfully delivered undergraduate nursing programmes for many years. The University School of Nursing was ranked the 6th best Nursing course in the UK by the Guardian University Guide 2016 and 2017. Our nursing students are highly sought after by local and national employers.

The Faculty of Health Studies hosts a thriving service user and carer community who are actively involved in the development of courses, recruitment and selection of students, research projects and teaching, and offers a rich diversity of clinical experience available through its partner Trusts. The City of Bradford is a vibrant multi-cultural city, where you will be exposed to people from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.

The programme commences in January. You will undertake a variety of theory and practice modules. Each module has academic credit rating attached and will contribute to your final award. Theory and practice are integrated equally throughout the programme and, as they are interdependent, both elements are assessed and graded and must be passed at a minimum of 40% unless a specific pass mark is defined.

Students who gain academic credits, but who do not meet the university or clinical requirements for the Foundation Degree will receive an award with the title “Health Studies”.

The nature of nursing and health care means that you will be working alongside other health and social care professionals in practice placements. You will engage in collaborative, shared learning with students from other fields of nursing and other health professional programmes at the University in the Human Biology for Nursing Associates module with healthcare support workers, and through the undergraduate pre-registration nursing programme, where appropriate sessions occur that match the learning outcomes for the Nursing Associate modules, as well as learning about your own role as a Nursing Associate.

The teaching on the programme is informed by current theoretical knowledge, research and practice based evidence. Delivery of the programme is predominantly undertaken by academics that hold Nursing and Midwifery Council recordable qualifications as Registered Nurse Lecturers and Registered Nurses with extensive expertise in their field of practice. Other lecturers, who contribute to the programme, hold professionally recognised qualifications in allied fields of health care and/or are subject specialists.

**Philosophy**

The profession of nursing aspires to be holistic, compassionate and inclusive. In collaboration with patients, their families and carers we will provide an emphasis on authentic scenarios with students at the heart of learning. Experiential reflection, exploration, evidence-informed inquiry and assessment opportunities will take place with our partner organisations and at the University of Bradford.

We are committed to encouraging a community in which scholarly inquiry, improving nursing education and practice, lead to provision for quality health care and initiating change.
We will inspire you to develop your full potential through high quality, evidence-informed learning, teaching and practice activities.

We will support, guide and prepare you to provide evidence-informed care in a range of health and social care settings.

We will support students to maximise their potential and prepare them to be effective practitioners in global settings, celebrating diversity and enhancing their employability.

We will include the inter-professional team in shared governance, working and learning together to ensure the delivery of excellence in care.

We will ensure that educational opportunities encompass a student centred, deep approach to learning, recognising you as an independent adult learner with emphasis on your personal and life experiences.

We will deliver a portfolio of educational opportunities to serve contemporary professional nursing and service needs using innovative learning teaching and assessment strategies, underpinned by research informed theoretical knowledge.

**Programme Aims**

The programme is intended to:

Deliver a coherent educational experience that will enable you to develop the standards associated with high quality person-centred care.

Enable you to demonstrate fitness for practice and prepare you to engage in ongoing personal and professional development which will allow you to demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning.

Prepare you to work in partnership with other professionals, service users and their carers/families across organisational and professional health and social care settings.

Provide you with the skills to develop an enquiry based approach to enable the delivery of care utilising knowledge of a range of subjects.

Develop a critical awareness to enable you to work safely and effectively within an evidence-informed team.

Prepare you to become a Nursing associate who is able to provide culturally appropriate and sensitive care across the health and illness continuum in diverse health and social care settings.

**Programme Learning Outcomes**

To be eligible for the award of Certificate of Higher Education in Health Studies at FHEQ level 4, students will be able to:

L.O. 1 Exercise personal responsibility; taking the initiative in a variety of situations and performing a range of clinical and care skills consistent with the roles, responsibilities and professional values of a nursing associate;

L.O. 2 Exercise those skills, attitudes and behaviours that support the planning, delivery and evaluation of high quality person-centred, holistic care.

L.O. 3 Work across organisational boundaries and apply in practice across a range of health and care settings, the range of clinical and care skills appropriate to their parameters of practice;

L.O. 4 Communicate effectively across a range of channels with a wide range of individuals, maintaining the focus of communication on delivering and improving health and care services demonstrating appropriate inter-personal skills.
Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Diploma of Higher Education in Health Studies at FHEQ level 5, students will be able to:

L.O. 5 Explain the principles underpinning duty of care, equality and diversity and the need for candour and will consistently demonstrate the application of those principles in and across a range of settings across the life-course;

L.O. 6 Exercise those skills, attitudes and behaviours that support personal development and life-long learning together as well as those associated with the development of others;

L.O. 7 Explain the principles underpinning leadership frameworks, associated team-working and leadership competencies and demonstrate a range of those competencies, attitudes and behaviours required of a nursing associate;

L.O. 8 Demonstrate the importance of being research aware, using research and innovation, and their own role in this, across the health and care landscape in improving the quality of patient safety and care and in addressing the challenges faced within the context of rising public expectations.

Curriculum

Stage 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FHEQ Level</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Type (Core/ Option/ Elective)</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester(s)</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Introduction to human biology for nursing associates</td>
<td>core</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Nursing Associate placement 1.</td>
<td>core</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Professional values and nursing</td>
<td>core</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Nursing Associate placement 2</td>
<td>core</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Person centred approaches to care</td>
<td>core</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>core</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

At the end of stage 1, students will be eligible to exit with the award of Certificate of Higher Education in Health if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits.

THIS AWARD DOES NOT CONFER ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER WITH THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY COUNCIL.

Stage 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FHEQ Level</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Type (Core/ Option/ Elective)</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester(s)</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
At the end of stage 2, students will be eligible to exit with the award of Foundation Degree Nursing Associate if they have successfully completed at least 240 credits.

THIS AWARD DOES NOT CONFER ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER WITH THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY COUNCIL.

**Placement**

During the programme you will undertake a variety of clinical experiences predominately in the Bradford, Airedale and Craven districts. You will be allocated a supervisor on each placement. You may also be allocated an associate supervisor depending upon the placement. Supervisors are there to support and educate you during your practice placement, helping you to integrate the theoretical knowledge gained into effective/appropriate practice. They will supervise your work and assess your progress during and at the end of the placement. Clinical tutors, based in the hospital trusts, will support the practice teams and you as a student. We also have a Practice Education Support Team (PEST) that provides a link between practice placement areas and the University. The team are there to offer support and guidance to ensure and enhance your learning in practice.

Trainee Nursing Associates will experience placements in each of three health and care settings: hospital, at home and close to home settings for 1 day per week or the equivalent days in a block period. Your primary placement, where you are employed, will be based in one of these training contexts but you will have experience of at least one other placement in each of the other two settings (other than that in which you are employed). This is in order to ensure that you experience as wide a range of learning opportunities and contexts as necessary to fully deliver the required learning outcomes (HEE, 2016). The university contact will be 1 day per week over 3 semesters, 3 days a week you will work gaining practice experience as an 'employee' within your own practice area.

Placements will be undertaken in 3 x blocks of 3 weeks practice within each Stage (300 hrs per stage) and aligned with theoretical module delivery. Trainees will also have the opportunity to undertake 9 ‘complementary’ experience days to enable them to ‘shadow’ other professionals to enhance their understanding of collaborative working and others roles and responsibilities within and outside their employing organisation.

**Learning and Teaching Strategy**

The programme is framed around the core concepts; direct clinical/patient care, working with a range of population groups across a range of settings and developing self and others. The core concepts form a framework of key content which is revisited across the two years, progressing from an introduction and broad understanding of concepts, to application of concepts applied to nursing. The intention is to facilitate your development by introducing you to the fundamental knowledge and skills needed to meet the health needs of all
patient/client groups. You will not only learn about and become competent nursing patients/clients in your own field of nursing but you will also become confident in nursing patients/clients who have additional conditions related to other fields of nursing practice. For example; learning to work with patients/service users with surgical problems but who also have a learning disability.

Throughout the foundation degree programme you will participate in a wide range of trainee centred learning activities in order to help you develop the knowledge, skills and values required for practice based around core subjects. There is a structured approach to teaching which will start with key reading, and or a directed activity, followed by a keynote lecture, this is consolidated by more directed activities for example group work, clinical case studies, simulated practice, team based learning and elements of problem based learning, tutorials, debates and discussions. You will be expected to complete and give feedback upon directed activities and undertake regular self-directed study. Your learning will be monitored by regular formative assessments; this provides timely feedback but does not contribute to the final module mark.

You will have the opportunity to work with and learn alongside other professionals in health and social care, both in the university and practice settings. As a trainee, it is expected that you will develop and display the professional behaviour that is required of all nurses by the general public and your employer, both in the university and whilst you are gaining practice experience.

**Assessment Strategy**

The programme is assessed both formatively and summatively in theory and practice. There is scope within some assessments to choose topic areas for study and in some cases type of assessment. Assessments aim to determine achievement of the learning outcomes of each module. Methods used include essays, case studies, reports, workbooks, communications exercise, individual readiness assurance tests and team readiness assurance tests, written and clinical examinations and portfolios. Practice experience is continuously assessed with a mid-placement formal formative assessment and a formal summative assessment. In addition you will complete a formative reflection on practice and feedback will be provided by your PAT. You are required to submit a self-assessment for all summatively assessed work. Service users/carers are involved in all aspects of assessment, including setting assessments, providing evaluation and feedback in practice and summatively assessing some presentations. Written assessments and reflections are submitted electronically using Pebblepad or Blackboard according to module guidelines.

Theory assessments include a variety of methods with optionality being available in the topic areas studied and where possible method of assessment. Clear links between formative and summative work will be made evident to students to support learning from and for assessment. Methods of assessment have taken into consideration; outcomes and feedback (staff, clinicians and students) from current assessments, variety of assessment, clinical assessments to assess safe practice in a controlled and safe environment, resourcing and marking mechanisms.

**Assessment Regulations**

This Programme conforms to the standard University Assessment Regulations which are available at the link below

http://www.bradford.ac.uk/aqpo/ordinances-and-regulations/

However, there are 3 exceptions to these regulations as listed below:

1. **Waiver against the Progression Criteria as follows:**
Waiver from the university progression regulation of 120 credits at 35% of which 100 credits must be at 40%. The waiver is 120 credits at 40% of which all component parts of an assessment must be achieved at a minimum of 40%. Any element of the component part must also be achieved at a minimum of 40%.

2. Waiver to the regulations on supplementary assessment attempts for modules:
   That modules will only be offered a single supplementary assessment for the clinical practice components and that where the requisite mark is not achieved the student will be required to withdraw from the programme.

3. Waiver re the regulations for decisions on supplementary assessment by the Board of Examiners Committee.
   Faculty of Health Studies waiver to permit the first supplementary assessment attempts after the 4 weeks of publication of first attempt results and prior to the assessment committee.

Admission Requirements

The University welcomes applications from all potential students and most important in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate’s potential to benefit from their studies and succeed on the programme. Applicants will also have the support of their employing organisation. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

The minimum entry requirements for the programme are as follows:

GCSE Maths and English (grade C or above) or equivalent key skills and a level 3 qualification in Health and Social Care (or equivalent experience).

However applications are welcomed from applicants with non-standard qualifications. Please talk to us if you do not fit the standard pattern of entry requirements. Recruitment is arranged jointly with your employer, after successful shortlisting you will be invited for an interview. The interview is centered on values based recruitment in accordance with Health Education England guidelines.

We strongly encourage potential applicants to attend university Open Days, where you will have the opportunity to meet staff, view the facilities and discuss the “Bradford Experience” with current students.

Recognition of Prior Learning

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme. We recommend contacting our Central Admissions Department on admissions-health@bradford.ac.uk before making an application.

Minor Modification Schedule
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version Number</th>
<th>Brief description of Modification</th>
<th>Date of Approval (Faculty Board)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Learning and teaching strategy and assessment strategy to include team based learning</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
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