

## Return to Practice Programme Specification

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/cpd/return-to-practice/>

<b>Academic Year:</b>	2021/22
<b>Degree Awarding Body:</b>	The University of Bradford
<b>Programme Accrediting Body:</b>	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
<b>Target Award at FHEQ Level 6:</b>	Certificate of Continuing Education – 30 credits
<b>Programme Admissions:</b>	September and February
<b>Programme Modes of Study:</b>	Part-time on campus and in practice – 11 weeks minimum, 1 year maximum

**Please note:** This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

### Minor Modification Schedule

1. April 2019: Specification reformatted, clarified regulations wording, updated references
2. January 2021: Confirmed COVID-19 adaptations, retargeted programme at qualified nurses only, specification made accessible
3. July 2021: Annual changes for 2021/22 academic year, specification reformatted

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### Introduction

This programme is intended to provide qualified nurses with an opportunity to critically update knowledge, skills and proficiencies related to nursing practice enabling them to return to the NMC register. The Return to Practice for Nursing Professionals programme (RTP) has gained a very strong reputation over many years for being informative, engaging and supportive of students returning to both clinical practice and education.

Health care delivery is dynamic and fast changing, and service initiatives are designed to provide efficient, effective health care for individuals and communities. This programme enables students to negotiate individual learning outcomes in a supportive clinical environment, thereby integrating theory with current professional practice, for example in a negotiated optional nursing procedures session where students can build on previous knowledge and skills or develop new ones. The programme is delivered by lecturers experienced in catering for the unique needs of students who are wishing to return to practice. The methods of assessment provide some choice in the required academic work and enable students to develop evidence of continuing professional development.

The programme can be accessed by nurses who have had a break in practice and/or registration. Registered nurses will undertake the programme at graduate Level 6 as aligned to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ). It is delivered over 11 weeks, including a one-week study block which has 2 days on campus and other content delivered remotely, followed by 10 weeks in practice which includes 6 study days,

of 1 day per fortnight which are delivered one day on campus and others remotely. **Please note that delivery may be altered to adhere to Government public health guidance.**

Clinical hours can be negotiated with the practice assessor to balance home and work commitments. This approach provides a flexible opportunity for nurses to meet profession specific requirements in order to return to the register and clinical practice. Many of the features of the programme reflect the emphasis on nursing procedure acquisition, embedding of reflection of practice, and commitment to the integration of technology to support learning as portrayed in the current pre-registration programmes.

The RTP programme should be completed in 11 weeks, however extension to academic and clinical work is available.

Theory and practice are integrated equally throughout the programme as they are interdependent. The academic work must be passed at 40% unless a specific pass mark is defined e.g. Safe Medicate at 100%.

The practice element of the programme is assessed by the student's practice assessor in practice and all elements of the programme must be passed, including completion of the required practice hours. Students have to achieve a minimum of 150 hours in clinical practice to meet minimum NMC requirements.

In order to meet the requirements for eligibility to apply for registration with the NMC all elements of the programme must be successfully completed along with a self-declaration of good health and good character. On successful completion, students with lapsed registration are eligible to re-apply for registration with the NMC. Students who are unsuccessful in any of the three elements of assessment will not have met the requirements for re-registration or an academic award.

When a student completes the programme, there is a process that must be followed in order to apply for entry to the NMC register. We advise students to do this as soon as possible. If there is a delay of more than 6 months, there are additional requirements that must be met. In these circumstances, a student's application must be supported by a nurse registered in the same part of the register to which the student is applying. The registered nurse must have known the student for at least a year and have been in contact with them during the previous six months. If a student does not apply for registration within 5 years of completing the programme, they will not be eligible to apply to join the NMC register.

The credits obtained from the module can be imported into other courses delivered within the University of Bradford Faculty of Health Studies providing students with an opportunity to continue their professional education.

## **Programme Learning Outcomes**

To be eligible for the FHEQ Level 6 Return to Practice certificate, students will be able to:

- LO1 Critically analyse, discuss, and apply relevant health and social care policy, legislation, and professional regulatory guidance in relation to contemporary nursing practice to include pharmacology and medicine administration.

- LO2 Critically analyse and reflect upon the nurse’s role in leading and managing the assessment, planning and evaluation of care delivery and the promotion and prevention of ill health.
- LO3 Critically evaluate the impact of inter-professional, inter-agency team working in delivering safe, coordinated and quality care for patients and clients.
- LO4 Demonstrate effective communication and relationship management skills in delivering nursing care and safeguarding people across diverse communities and care settings.
- LO5 Critically demonstrate competence, professional accountability, autonomy, and informed reflective practice using relevant digital technology, research, and literature to underpin nursing practice.

## Curriculum

The Programme content was developed in close partnership with the other West Yorkshire Universities and with the support of Health Education in the North. The Programme design integrated student evaluations, employers’ requirements, professional bodies, local healthcare providers and policy drivers from Government. However, the curriculum will continue to change in response to national and professional body direction to remain current with relevant research evidence, legislation, policy, and guidelines for professional practice. New content has been added to the timetable to reflect the new NMC standards including communication theory, preparation for using digital technology, pharmacology, inter-professional learning, and relationship management skills. Service users are also involved in teaching and interviewing of applicants.

The programme is delivered across one semester and is offered twice yearly or more frequently depending on commissioned places. This may be at varying starting points during the academic year.

Module Code	Module Title	Type	Credit	FHEQ Level	Study Period
NUR6041-C	Return to Practice for Nursing Professionals	Core	30	6	Semester 1 or Semester 2

At the end of the Programme, students who have completed 30 credits, achieved the award learning outcomes and met the NMC practice requirements will be eligible to exit with a FHEQ Level 6 Certificate of Continuing Education.

**Successful completion of the RTP programme confers eligibility to re-register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council as a nursing professional.**

## Learning and Teaching Strategy

From entering the programme, the focus of teaching and learning facilitates student’s eligibility to re-register as a nurse and thus the achievement of all the module outcomes. A blended approach to learning is used on the Programme which means students have the

opportunity to learn through a range of different educational approaches including traditional lectures as well as different types of group work and different practice and skills related learning. The following outline shows how the different methods of teaching and learning help meet the learning outcomes of the programme:

Research informed key lectures will deliver core content; providing students with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and develop conceptual understanding. Some of these will be delivered face to face on campus, some will be delivered as a live (synchronous session and some as an asynchronous session – meaning you can access the lecture at your own convenience).

Seminars and group learning will be used to facilitate teacher/learner/ peer dialogue and inter-professional discussion and further develop and challenge conceptual understanding. Again, some of these will be face to face, or as synchronous online seminars.

Directed study provides students with the opportunity to undertake reading, participate in enquiry-based learning, address individual learning needs and contextualise learning to the student's own area of practice.

VLE will be used to provide access to online resources, lecture notes & external links to websites of interest. On-line discussion boards using VLE will promote group interaction and discussion of module content. Learning objects will involve allocated time within the module for students to engage with specific packages of learning using problem based learning or clinical skills resources.

Practical sessions consist of opportunities to enhance acquisition of nursing procedures, leadership and management of care and regain competence.

Formative feedback at individual and group tutorials will be through timetabled sessions, meetings can be arranged through electronic communication which will facilitate reflection and student self-assessment.

When undertaking professional practice students will be allocated a Practice Supervisor and Practice Assessor to provide support for the placement. At the end of the placement they will assess the students' performance in collaboration with the Academic assessor for practice. Preparation for supervisors and assessors in practice will mirror the pre-registration nursing preparations organised by the Practice Education Lead in negotiation with placement providers.

**Students should normally be expected to achieve all proficiencies within 150 PRACTICE HOURS.** These 150 practice hours can be negotiated to be undertaken flexibly over a period of 11 weeks or more as negotiated with the Practice Assessor/Supervisor and the student. In exceptional circumstances, a maximum of 40 additional practice hours can be negotiated between the Practice Assessor and Academic Assessor where the student has NOT had opportunity to achieve all standards of proficiency within the 150 hours of practice. Should proficiencies still not be achieved by the end of the extended practice hours the Practice Assessor MUST inform the Academic Assessor and final interview undertaken with the student and recorded in the PAD. The student will be recorded as having failed the practice placement at this time.

A supplementary placement will be arranged to be undertaken in an alternative practice area. The supplementary placement will be 150hrs of practice again with negotiation of extended practice hours as above where deemed necessary by the Practice Assessor and Academic Assessor.

Formative feedback at individual tutorials, online meetings and through electronic communication will facilitate reflection and student self-assessment. There are specific feedback sessions scheduled within the timetable to assist students with their academic and practical development throughout the Programme. Numeracy skills are an essential requirement of the learning experience and will be acquired through an e-learning package – Safe Medicate.

## **Assessment Strategy**

Students will have a choice in the focus and type of written assessment for the programme which will enhance and develop academic skills in terms of report writing or reflective writing. This can help students to develop their reflection skills or relate the writing to a specific aspect of professional practice. An individualised approach is taken with student support through management of extensions as requested. This is a successful strategy for students who are managing other home and work responsibilities.

## **Assessments**

1. Write a report relating to an aspect of care in practice or write a reflective essay focusing on the achievement of one NMC professional value for practice - 3000 word maximum. This will be assessed at FHEQ level 6. Detailed assessment guidelines provided to students will ensure that the learning outcomes for the module can be met through either written academic assessment.

The essay will be worth 100% of the module marks but the other assessments must be passed to complete the module:

2. Complete the Online Safe medicate exam which must be passed at a mark of 100%.
3. Complete the Practice Assessment Document which must have a pass mark in all elements.

## **Study Abroad**

This programme is not eligible for Study Abroad opportunities.

## **Assessment Regulations**

This Programme conforms to the standard University Undergraduate Assessment Regulations which are available at the link: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations/>

However, there are three specific programme requirements which fall outside these regulations:

1. All students on the programme are required to pass all component parts of an assessment at a minimum of 40%, or as an identified pass grade. The pass grade for individual module assessments will be identified on the module descriptor and in the module handbook.
2. All students on the programme are permitted, where required, a second attempt for all elements of assessment that have not reached a pass mark at the first attempt.
3. All students on the programme are permitted, where required, a third attempt in theoretical elements of the assessment, that have not reached a pass mark at second attempt.

## Admission Requirements

The University welcomes applications from all potential students. Consideration of applications will be based on **previous lapsed registration with the NMC** and a **signed declaration of good health and character**.

All offers of places are made subject to:

- A successful interview centred on values-based recruitment in accordance with Health Education England guidelines.
- Satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
- Medical screening
- Copy of the student's highest educational qualification.
- Evidence of Maths and English Level 2 or equivalent, such as GCSE grade 4/C. A numeracy and literacy test may be undertaken if evidence cannot be provided.

Prospective students should contact the Programme Leaders for advice if unsure of eligibility. The University will secure a practice placement after the offer of a place on the programme. Students who have contracts with Local Trusts while completing the programme will have placements negotiated through their employer and undergo similar interviews and checks with their respective employers.

## Recognition of Prior Learning

This programme is not eligible for our RPEL or RPCL processes due to the format of the programme and the requirements to refresh your knowledge at the time of the placement.

## International students

This programme is open to international students **only** if you have previously been registered on the Nursing and Midwifery Council register in the UK.

Applicants whose first language is not English will be expected to possess a University approved English Language qualification at **IELTS 7.0** or equivalent. For details please see: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/international/entry-requirements/>

If you do not meet the IELTS requirement, you can take a University of Bradford pre-session English course with our Language Centre: <https://www.brad.ac.uk/courses/other/pre-session-english-language-programme/>