

Northern Ireland

District Nursing Clinical Career Pathway



This information sheet was developed in June 2023¹, by the District Nursing Professional Leads in the five HSC Trusts in partnership with: Ulster University, Queen's University Belfast (QUB), Open University, NIPEC, PHA, Human Resources, Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and the Regional Trade Union Forum. The information sheet is for Nurses interested in pursuing the Consultant Nurse role in District Nursing and who do **not** currently have a Master's Degree or equivalent. For more information about the core roles in the District Nursing career pathway [click here](#) and to view the Consultant Nurse – District Nursing [job description \(JD\)](#)

Are you interested in the role of Consultant Nurse in District Nursing?

If you are Registered Nurse (RN) with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and do not currently have a Master's Degree or equivalent – check out which of the academic pathways below from UU, QUB and OU will suit you best to get a Master's Degree.

Academic pathways in Ulster University

You have successfully completed

Post-Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing - District Nursing with integrated nurse prescribing pathway



If you successfully completed this qualification between 2018 & 2023 then you can apply to UU to access a place on the [MSc dissertation module](#) (a range of 8 options are available²) (60 credit module = £2,240.00[Ⓢ]). You will be awarded an MSc on successful completion of this module.

- 1) **If you successfully completed this qualification before 2018 and you are working in District Nursing services** then you can apply to UU to access a place on the [MSc dissertation module](#) (a range of 8 options are available¹) (60 credit module = £2,240.00[Ⓢ]). You will be awarded an MSc on successful completion of this module.
- 2) **If you successfully completed this qualification before 2018 and you are NOT working in District Nursing services** then you must first complete **NUR857 Advanced Research Methods (30 credit module=£1,600.00[Ⓢ])** and apply to Ulster University to access a place on the [MSc dissertation module](#) (a range of 8 options are available¹) (60 credit module = £2,240.00[Ⓢ]). You will be awarded an MSc on successful completion of these modules.

¹ Check the Universities' websites for up-to-date information on entry criteria, closing dates for application & costs. Information accurate as at 10-07-2023.

² The 8 options include QI project; service evaluation; undertaking a piece of qualitative/quantitative research; producing a paper for publication or review of the literature

Academic pathways in Ulster University cont'd



You have successfully completed

BSc (Hons) in Nursing 2:1 if you only have this academic qualification you will have to apply for and complete the [MSc Nursing](#) – this 3 year programme = **£6,720.00**[®]. Email the post-registration office for more information about Master's programmes postreg@ulster.ac.uk

You have live NMC Registration on Part 1 (Adult) NMC Register

The new NMC post-registration standards for community nursing, require that “that each applicant selected to undertake a community nursing Specialist Practice Qualification (SPQ) programme has the academic capability to study at the level required for that programme” If you only have a Registered Nurse (RN/RGN) qualification then you can apply for a [short course](#) or a [stand-alone module](#) and once successfully completed will provide the evidence that you have the academic capability required to study at the level required for entry on the Community Nursing SPQ in District Nursing. UU is also developing an online module (to be available in September 2024) which is worth 10 credits and costs **£329.50**[®]. Visit [Ulster University website](#) in 2024 to find out more about this new online 10 credit module.

Academic pathways in Queen's University Belfast



You have successfully completed

Post-Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing - District Nursing with integrated nurse prescribing pathway

QUB offer two MSc research modules and students hoping to complete their MSc must undertake at least one of the modules: one of the modules is more qualitative in focus and the other quantitative and statistics (an MSc module for 2023/34 £776). For more information on the [MSc Advanced Professional Practice](#) (nine pathways available).

You have successfully completed

BSc (Hons) in Nursing 2:1 if you only have this academic qualification you can undertake a [Master's programme](#)

Academic pathways in Queen's University cont'd



You have live NMC Registration on Part 1 (Adult) NMC Register

Diploma Level: Preparation for Degree Programme (£2,355), is designed specifically for Nurses who qualified before September 1990. This programme provides Nurses, without a diploma, the necessary preparation and academic skills required to succeed at degree level study.

Degree Level: Short Courses (£2,355) QUB also offer level 6 study short courses. A short course normally comprises 3 modules, which you can complete in one year as a part time course of study. On successful completion you will be awarded 60 credits at Level 3, and you may be eligible to progress onto other degree programmes. If you accumulate 120 credits at Level 6 you may be eligible to be awarded a BSc Health Studies, please contact the School for further information. Examples of short courses include:

- Cardiology nursing.
- Tissue Viability
- Respiratory
- Working with People with Dementia

Degree Level: Stand Alone Modules (£785) a number of stand-alone modules at degree level are offered every year. For example, **SPR3101: Research and Development in Clinical Practice** prepares Nurses for future study. If you accumulate 120 credits at this level, you may be eligible to be awarded a BSc Health Studies, please contact the School for further information

Academic pathways in Open University



You can apply for **MSc in Advanced Clinical Practice**

(closing date 19 July 2023)

This programme incorporates a Non-Medical Prescribing module which, upon successful completion, enables you to gain regulatory recognition as a non-medical prescriber within your scope of practice. September 2023 is the final time this degree will be available to new students. If you wish to claim this qualification, you must complete your study by 31 December 2026.

Funding for Academic Study

If you are unable to get a commissioned place on a programme or funding from your HSC Trust, there are some other funding opportunities that you can apply for – see Appendix 1.

Speak with your line manager to see if any study leave is available for you to complete the programme.

Academic pathways cont'd

if you don't have NMC V300 Independent/supplementary prescribing qualification you can apply to the Universities below:

UU

[NMP programme](#) is delivered part-time over 1 academic year. Students will complete Health assessment (unless suitable for exemption through Accreditation Prior Learning) Prescribing in Practice, Pharmacotherapeutics in Practice and 90 supernumerary practice learning hours to meet both the NMC and Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Standards.

The cost of the **NMC V300** programme for 2023-2024 at Ulster University is as follows:

- at Postgraduate Level (Level 7) = **£2,239.80** (£37.33 per credit point)
- at Undergraduate Level (Level 6) = **£2,355.00** (£39.25 per credit point).

QUB

[Undergraduate and postgraduate certificate](#) in nurse and midwifery prescribing **NMC V300 (£2,355)**, includes three compulsory taught modules, Prescribing in Practice, Pharmacotherapeutics in Prescribing and Health Assessment each worth 20 credits. Accredited Prior Learning can be given for Health Assessment if this module has been completed prior to commencing the Programme. The duration of this programme is one academic year as a part time option only with a minimum of 32 days of theory (26 days if the Health Assessment module has already been completed) and 90 hours in supernumerary practice where the student develops the skills of clinical/ health assessment; diagnostics/care management and planning and evaluation of care in relation to prescribing in their field of specialist practice.

OU

To apply you must be a Nurse and have a Degree or equivalent. The [NMC V300 \(£3720.00\)](#) starts in September 2023 and the programme ends in March 2024. Applications close on **19 July 2023**. This is the last time it will be available to study.

Funding Opportunities Available

Your HSC Trust may support you to complete the academic qualifications. There are also other funding streams that you can apply to if your HSC Trust is unable to fund you, such as:

[Burdett Trust – Small Grants Programme](#)

Under this programme, grant funding will range from £2,000 to £8,000. Grants will be for one-off sums; no repeat or multi-year funding will be made. Grants can be paid in advance of expenditure being required, but all funds must be fully spent for the agreed purpose within nine months of receipt or returned to the Trust. Applicants are asked to [fill in an application form online via the Trusts' website](#). There is no closing date in operation. Applications will be received and assessed continually during the year and the Trust aims to process grants within six weeks of receipt, although on occasion the process may take longer.

[Queen's Nursing Institute](#)

Education grants provided for nurses undertaking accredited community nursing programmes. There are five education grant bursaries of up to £1000 per applicant to cover course fees and books, available for registered nurses who work in community and primary care settings. Applications are accepted throughout the year

[RCN Foundation](#)

RCN Foundation offers a range of education grants for nurses, midwives, nursing support workers, and those aspiring towards a career in nursing.

[Unison](#)

Unison offers grants towards course or exam fees for members studying at their own expense.

HSC Trusts

There are opportunities in HSC Trusts for staff to apply through the Organisational and Workforce Development team for a programme such as Cert/PG Dip Business Improvement



@nipec_online

[District Nursing | NIPEC \(hscni.net\)](#)