PGDip in Community Nursing in the Home / District Nursing
PGDip in Community Children’s Nursing

Note: this course is only offered at Postgraduate Diploma level

Courses overview

Students who successfully fulfil the required criteria within the above PGDip courses can qualify for the relevant NMC Community Specialist Practitioner (CSP) Award, which includes being a non-medical prescriber able to prescribe from the community practitioners’ formulary. You will also have been deemed to have met the minimum mentorship requirements.

We aim to enable you to become a skilful community specialist practitioner, able to lead and bring about change in your practice environments.

These courses will challenge you and help you to develop the knowledge and skills that you require in these exciting times.

The community environments where health care is offered are undergoing great change. Achieving effective practice in these settings requires highly dynamic and flexible practitioners who can bring about positive change in relation to their community specialist practice.

For a service to be effective, it must be based upon ongoing assessment, planning and evaluation and involve an effective partnership between the patient/client, their carer, their family members and relevant population groups. This involves interdisciplinary, interprofessional and interagency collaboration. The importance of working collaboratively is therefore a central philosophy within the PGDip courses we offer.

The courses are centred on practice and you will spend a large amount of time in the practice environment. You will have a practice teacher who will support the development of your professional practice.

The PGDip in Community Nursing in the Home / District Nursing (DN) comprises six single modules, four of which are compulsory and two are chosen from a possible four acceptable modules. You will be sponsored or seconded to study full-time over a period of 12 months or two years part-time. The four compulsory modules are:-

1. **Leadership in Health and Social Care** will help you develop and apply the knowledge and conceptual and practice skills needed to be an effective leader within health and social care environments, in both the public and private sectors.

2. **Community Specialist Practice 1** (DN). This is a practice-based module, which enables you to develop an in-depth systematic understanding of the knowledge and skills in primary care nursing in relation to DN practice.

3. **Community Specialist Practice 2** (DN). This is a practice-based module that will enable you to demonstrate originality and initiative in the consolidation of your community specialist practice knowledge and skills. You are based in a practice placement which enables you to develop and extend your specialist practice leadership skills in DN practice and to discuss practice issues with colleagues and peers.
4. **Community Practitioner Nurse Prescribing (V100)** incorporates the learning outcomes specified by the NMC for registration to allow practitioners to prescribe from the Nurse Prescribers’ Formulary for Community Practitioners.

The acceptable modules are:-

- **Work-Based Learning** (with a district nursing (DN) focus). This is a practice-focused single module which will enable integration and consolidation of your specialist community knowledge and skills. You will work on a project based on the principles of work-based learning.
- **Operational Leadership in Health and Social Care** which examines the way in which the Health and Social Care environment utilises and controls its functions and resources.
- **Advanced Communication and Supportive Relationships** which explores verbal and non-verbal communication, and the development of supportive relationships, within the context of health and social care.
- **Advanced Symptom Management** which focuses on the development of assessment skills in the context of life-threatening illness, and on the management of distressing symptoms in palliative care.

The PGDip in Community Children's Nursing comprises six single modules, four of which are compulsory and two are chosen from a possible three acceptable modules. You will be sponsored or seconded to study full-time over a period of 12 months or two years part-time. The four compulsory modules are:-

1. **Leadership in Health and Social Care** will help you develop and apply the knowledge and conceptual and practice skills needed to be an effective leader within health and social care environments, in both the public and private sectors.
2. **Community Specialist Practice 1** (CCN). This is a practice-based module, which enables you to develop an in-depth systematic understanding of the knowledge and skills in primary care nursing in relation to CCN practice.
3. **Community Specialist Practice 2** (CCN). This is a practice-based module that will enable you to demonstrate originality and initiative in the consolidation of your community specialist practice knowledge and skills. You are based in a practice placement which enables you to develop and extend your specialist practice leadership skills in CCN practice and to discuss practice issues with colleagues and peers.
4. **Work-Based Learning** (with a community children's nursing (CCN) focus). This is a practice-focused single module which will enable integration and consolidation of your specialist community knowledge and skills. You will work on a project based on the principles of work-based learning.

The acceptable modules are:-

- **Community Practitioner Nurse Prescribing (V100)** incorporates the learning outcomes specified by the NMC for registration to allow practitioners to prescribe from the Nurse Prescribers’ Formulary for Community Practitioners.
- **Advanced Health Promotion** which explores practical aspects of health promotion, including how to develop strategic and action plans for health promotion.
- **Risk and protection of children** which will critically examine contemporary childhood from an international perspective including children's rights, child welfare and wellbeing and children's experiences of harm in society.

Many opportunities are available to continue your studies, for example you could take the credit you have achieved in the PGDip into the Student Designed Award and by completing a triple dissertation module gain a master's degree.
Teaching, learning and assessment

The teaching, learning and assessment strategies which underpin the courses reflect their interprofessional, client-centred and practice-focused approach. All our courses adopt a student centred approach to teaching and learning and are strongly focused on encouraging each individual to attain their full potential as lifelong learners.

We encourage group work and discussions so that you can develop new skills, knowledge and experience. Lively debates develop within sessions and you will be able to discuss the relevant issues with others from different primary care trusts and the wider health and social care environment. To make the most of the range of experience, skills and knowledge within the group, a variety of teaching and learning strategies are employed including seminars, discussions, debates and group work. You will also have access to the ‘Brookes Virtual’ learning environment (an online repository of lectures, handouts, information and learning exercises).

The strategies we use encourage self-reflection, the integration of theory and practice, and interprofessional collaboration. Staff will support the development of your academic and professional practice.

Practice assessment is a key part of the assessment process and many strategies are used to assess your overall practice competence. These are all clearly demonstrated in the course practice assessment document.

Assessment is based on a developmental process of acquiring, modifying and refining skills and knowledge during each module. A variety of assessments are used, including written assignments, a practice portfolio and examinations. Your practice knowledge and skills will also be assessed, so that you can demonstrate your ability to critically reflect on and develop practice in line with current professional standards.

Student support

All our courses adopt a student-centred approach to teaching and learning and are strongly focussed on encouraging each individual to attain their full potential as lifelong learners. You will be supported throughout the course by academic skills sessions, an allocated personal tutor and module support. In addition to the support you will receive from the course team, Oxford Brookes also offers a range of other student support schemes such as Upgrade (academic skills development support). There is also a dedicated Student Disability and Dyslexia Service, which provides support for students with disabilities including sensory and mobility impairments, dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties. For more information, go to www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/life/wellbeing/index.html

Student profile

I am a Community Children’s nurse based at the Royal Berkshire NHS Trust in Reading.

I choose to study at Oxford Brookes because it has an excellent academic reputation, runs the course that I wanted to do and is convenient for where I live.

When my course is finished, I hope to use the knowledge gained from the Specialist Practice course to work towards planning and providing an improved service to children and families in Berkshire.

Sheila Huelin, Children’s Community Nurse
Specific entry requirements

Applicants for the PGDip in Community Nursing in the Home / District Nursing and the PGDip in Community Children’s Nursing courses will normally be health care professionals with a minimum of one year’s professional (i.e. post-qualification) practice. Entry onto the course will be subject to satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau clearance.

In addition, you must normally:

- be registered on the relevant nursing or midwifery parts of the NMC register and demonstrate evidence of Advanced Level study on entry
- have the support of your manager or sponsorship from a Primary Care or Hospital Trust.
- have access to a community practice teacher
- have a source of funding to enable you to meet the course fees.

If your first language is not English, you must demonstrate that your level of English is appropriate for study at postgraduate level. This level is outlined in the Oxford Brookes University postgraduate regulations: www.brookes.ac.uk/international/courses/postgraduate/apply

Course fees

You may be able to obtain funding and sponsorship from your strategic health authority through your PCT. Another possibility is that you fund yourself independently; in which case you need to access a practice teacher and placement within your local Trust. Note: this may involve additional funding.

How to apply

If you would like more information about the course, please contact the Programme Administrator. If you meet the criteria detailed in the specific entry requirements section, and you are ready to apply, your next step is to complete an application form. Application is made online through UKPASS at www.ukpass.ac.uk

Course codes: Community Children’s Nursing (course code P037435)
Community Nursing in the Home / District Nursing (course code P046224)

Applications received electronically through UKPASS will be forwarded directly to the Programme Administrator. Supporting documentation should be forwarded using the email addresses indicated on the UKPASS application form.

Applications are dealt with on a first come, first served basis, so please act early to avoid disappointment.

Further information

If you would like to talk to a member of the teaching team about the course, please contact the Programme Administrator who will direct your enquiry to a member of the team.

Programme Administrator
Telephone: +44 (0) 1865 488814
Email: cspshsc@brookes.ac.uk
Website: http://shsc.brookes.ac.uk
Address: School of Health and Social Care
Oxford Brookes University
Jack Straw’s Lane
Marston
Oxford
OX3 0FL
Why choose Oxford Brookes University?

- Oxford Brookes University has been named the UK’s best modern university for the tenth year in a row due to its strong teaching and research profile in the modern university sector (*The Sunday Times’ University Guide 2011*).
- We have a large and dedicated building in Oxford (Marston Road) and a campus in Swindon (Ferndale), Wiltshire equipped with excellent classroom and clinical skills simulation suites and resources. To view our online picture gallery, go to: [http://shsc.brookes.ac.uk/picture-gallery](http://shsc.brookes.ac.uk/picture-gallery)
- We have our own osteopathic clinics: Mill Court in Headington, Oxford and at Ferndale Campus in Swindon offering a full range of osteopathic treatments to students, staff, NHS staff and the general public. [http://shsc.brookes.ac.uk/osteoclinics](http://shsc.brookes.ac.uk/osteoclinics)
- Our courses are open to a wide range of health and social care professionals providing highly flexible continuing professional development (CPD) study opportunities with part-time, full-time and mixed mode options (including opportunities for e-learning, blended and distance learning).
- We support multi and interprofessional learning and teaching, and many of our courses are either fully multiprofessional or offer excellent opportunities for shared learning.
- Our lecturers are experienced in their specialist practice area and maintain excellent practice links with those areas locally or across the region.
- Many of our lecturers have reputations for excellence and have established links with colleagues, organisations and institutions at national and international level.
- We have a strong research profile, with experienced researchers working in established areas of cancer care, children and families, drug and alcohol, physical rehabilitation and enablement and interprofessional education & collaborative practice.
- Oxford Brookes is rated internationally excellent across a broad range of subjects in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). 70% of our research in Allied Health Professions and Studies was rated as being of international significance, and of this, 10% was rated as world-leading.
- Oxford Brookes is a student centred institution that is fully committed to each individual achieving their potential. To support this, we offer a broad range of student support schemes to facilitate learning and development: [http://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/life/wellbeing](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/life/wellbeing)
- We have been awarded the highest commendation possible, for all its health and social care programmes and courses, by the Quality Assurance Agency, following a Major Review of our educational provision in 2005.
- We have an excellent track record of high levels of student satisfaction, low student attrition rates and high employability.

To obtain a large-print copy of (or sections of) this publication or to enquire about other formats please contact +44 (0) 1865 484848 or email query@brookes.ac.uk

Oxford Brookes University actively supports equality in education and welcomes applications from all people representative of our diverse community. For more details please visit [www.brookes.ac.uk/services/hr/eod](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/services/hr/eod) or phone +44 (0) 1865 485929.