Children’s Nursing
BSc (Hons)

Providing nursing care to infants, children, young people and their families
Course overview

This popular Children’s Nursing course offered by Oxford Brookes University aims to develop, through study and practice, the specialist knowledge and skills required to be a responsive, confident and competent children’s nurse.

Children’s nursing is a challenging yet highly rewarding career choice. You will be involved in caring for children and families in a variety of ways, including:

- promoting children’s health,
- nursing sick infants, children or young people in partnership with their parents and family,
- supporting the needs of families who have a sick or disabled infant, child or young person during periods of acute and chronic illness or an altered health need.

About the course

The course can be studied either full-time over three years or up to seven years on a part-time basis (limited places available). The emphasis throughout your course is on practice-focussed learning and skills development of professional proficiency. The timetable is organised to combine teaching and practice with some longer periods of practice to help consolidate your learning and development of clinical competence.

In your first year, you will be introduced to:

- the fundamental principles of child and family nursing,
- the biological and social sciences and their relevance to evidence-based practice,
- practical nursing skills,
- multiprofessional learning and practice.

In your second and third years, you will continue to develop your knowledge as you focus on aspects of children’s physical and mental health, illness and disability. You will learn under the expert guidance of lecturers and clinicians working in partnership with children and their families. We will support you to apply the understanding gained from nursing theory and the biological and social sciences to your nursing practice and care delivery.

Practice placements

You will experience a wide variety of practice learning opportunities throughout Oxfordshire. One of the reasons why the Children’s Nursing course at Oxford Brookes University is so popular is the significant investment that has been made locally in children’s services. The Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust have a hospital dedicated to children’s treatment and care. This offers students the opportunity to experience children’s care in a modern and supportive clinical environment of the highest quality. During your studies you will work in primary, community and acute inpatient care settings, with infants, children and young people who have many different health care needs. Whilst on placement, you will be supported by a named member of staff who will oversee your learning.

Examples of placement experiences include:

- The Children’s Hospital, where children are treated for a range of conditions including cardio-respiratory disease, cancer, neurological disorders, neonatal and children’s intensive care, and those requiring general or specialist surgery.
- The Horton General Hospital, providing child health care for the north of Oxfordshire and the surrounding area.
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
- Helen & Douglas House, providing respite and end of life care for children and young adults.
- Respite care for children with disabilities.

Teaching, learning and assessment

Your course hours are equally divided between theoretical and placement learning. We value the excellent partnership we have with our local health trusts, working closely with our clinical colleagues to plan and deliver your programme.

Oxford Brookes teaches a very wide range of pre-qualification and foundation courses including health and social care, nursing (adult and mental health), midwifery, occupational therapy, osteopathy, operating department practice, paramedic emergency care, and social work. You will share your learning with these other health care students. This is a key component of the course as it is essential to developing your teamwork skills and your understanding of the other roles you will encounter in practice.

We offer a very friendly and supportive environment in which to learn and consistently receive very high satisfaction ratings for its student support and its learning resources in student surveys. We have excellent teaching facilities including classrooms, a 280 seated lecture theatre, dedicated clinical skills suites and simulation resources, which include a very well equipped movement laboratory, family of computerised simulation manikins including a sinnax, sim-babies (newborn and an older baby under six months old) and birthing mother, an extensive range of anatomy models and fully networked computer rooms.

To view our online picture gallery, go to: http://shsc.brookes.ac.uk/picture-gallery

We also have excellent library resources, accessible both through the web and through a range of locally based facilities on university and NHS sites. Information technology plays an increasingly important role in health care courses and a very extensive range of learning resources can be accessed through ‘Brookes Virtual’, an online repository of lectures, handouts, information and learning exercises.

We provide a range of support mechanisms for students, such as academic advisers, who will facilitate your academic development and student support co-ordinators who provide a drop in service for any queries you may have about any aspect of student life, covering both academic and personal welfare. The university’s range of excellent support services include Upgrade (academic skills development support) and the Student Disability and Dyslexia Service.
Career opportunities

We have an excellent track record of high levels of student satisfaction, low student attrition rates and high employability. The majority of our students obtain a post, usually in their area of first choice, within children's health care shortly after graduation. It is usual for newly qualified nurses to be offered staff nurse positions of greater responsibility within 12 to 18 months.

As you progress, you will have a wide range of career options, whether you choose to pursue a career in clinical practice, management, nurse education or research.

Oxford Brookes University offers a range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) / Learning Beyond Registration (LBR) opportunities for qualified nurses if you wish to undertake further study at post-qualifying and postgraduate level.

Professional recognition

When you have successfully completed the course, you will be eligible to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as a Registered Nurse (Child).

MSc Children's Nursing (Pre-registration) *

From September 2012, we are introducing a new three-year master's degree course in Children's Nursing, which will provide individuals who already have a relevant bachelor's degree, the opportunity to undertake a Children's Nursing course leading to registration at master's level.

The course is open to UK and EU students and will appeal to individuals who already possess a good honours degree (normally at 2:2 or above).

The course will be taught alongside the well established and highly regarded BSc (Hons) Children's Nursing course offered by Oxford Brookes University. Working at master's level, you will focus on developing a knowledge base in children's nursing, which is evidence-based and strongly underpinned by research. During Year 1, you will undertake a Graduate Diploma and then progress onto the master's route for Years 2 and 3.

You may be able to enter directly into Year 2 by providing evidence of prior experience (AP(E)L) - this may include having a degree in a health/nursing related subject.

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be a fully qualified children's nurse and eligible to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. We may be able to offer a limited number of international places (please contact us for more information).

For more information about this course starting in 2012, please contact us by email: mscchildrensnursing@brookes.ac.uk

*Subject to validation by the university and the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Why choose Oxford Brookes?

- Top-quality teaching: our lecturers are experienced in their specialist practice area and maintain excellent links with those areas locally or across the region. Many of our lecturers also have extensive national and international links.
- A large, dedicated building in Oxford (Marston Road) and a campus in Swindon (Ferndale) with first-rate facilities including simulation suites (ward environment, high dependency setting, movement laboratory and a communication suite), all fully equipped with computerised resources and anatomy models. Our Ferndale Campus in Swindon also has a fully functional operating theatre and ward environment.
- Interprofessional learning with students from a broad range of health and social work professions, providing opportunities for shared learning and allowing the development of teamwork skills.
- Varied placement learning opportunities working alongside experienced professionals in some of the UK's leading clinical and community settings including world-leading Oxford-based hospitals and our own osteopathic teaching clinics.
- Research expertise in areas like public health, rehabilitation and cancer care. The last government Research Assessment Exercise rated 70% of health-related research to be internationally recognised, with some achieving world-leading status.
- There are excellent sports facilities at Oxford Brookes with more than 40 sports clubs and six dedicated sports of excellence.
- The opportunity to work overseas: UK-trained health and social work professionals are highly valued throughout the world.
- A huge variety of career opportunities; working in the National Health Service (NHS), social services, the independent or voluntary sectors.
- Excellent graduate employment: graduates from Oxford Brookes are highly regarded by employers and the majority of our graduates gain their first choice of post in their chosen field.
- Many graduates go on to further study or enter health management, education or research roles.

Name: Angela Gibb
Studying: Children's Nursing

The best part was finally being able to study for a job I have always been interested in. Meeting new people, getting to know them and making great friends have also been enjoyable.
Specific entry requirements

- 5 GCSE passes at A-C or equivalent, including Science, Mathematics and English at grade B; or
- Advanced Diploma at grade B, including GCSE Science at grade B and A-level at grade C; or
- Access to Higher Education. See our website for more details: www.brookes.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/childrens

All applicants will be screened for fitness to practise and a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check will be made.

Typical offers

All the qualifications listed above, plus a typical offer would require:
- BBC at A-level with at least one science subject, or equivalent in terms of vocational A-levels.

Learning to become a children’s nurse is very rewarding but it can also be demanding as you are required to meet both the university requirements for an award and the requirements for professional registration. Caring for vulnerable children and their families is very fulfilling but it is important to recognise that it can be emotionally challenging too. We find that students enjoy their course and are more successful if they have carefully considered these factors before embarking upon a children’s nursing career.

Open days

Please check our website regularly, where details of our open days will be advertised: http://shsc.brookes.ac.uk/opendays
If you would like to have a tour of the university campus, please contact the Enquiry Centre on +44 (0) 1865 484848, to make the necessary arrangements.

How to apply

Full-time: Applications through UCAS.
Part-time: Direct to the university by contacting the Programme Administrator.

UCAS codes: B704 BSc/NJ
Institution: O66
Institution Code Name: OXFD

Note: This is a very popular course and is regularly oversubscribed. Therefore an early application is strongly advised.

Useful contacts

Programme Administrator
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 482585
Email: childrensnursing@brookes.ac.uk
Website: http://shsc.brookes.ac.uk
Address: Oxford Brookes University
Jack Straw’s Lane
Marston, Oxford
OX3 0FL

Senior Tutor
(admissions enquiries only)
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 482592
Email: shsc_seniortutors@brookes.ac.uk

Oxford Brookes University
Website: www.brookes.ac.uk

Headington Campus Tours
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 484848
Email: query@brookes.ac.uk

Accommodation Office
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 484680
Email: accomm@brookes.ac.uk
Webpage: www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/accommodation

University Student Finance
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 483088
Email: finance-fees@brookes.ac.uk
Webpage: www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/finance

NHS Student Bursaries
Tel: +44 (0) 845 358 6655
Website: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students/816.aspx

UCAS (Customer Service Unit)
Tel: +44 (0) 871 4680468
Email: enquiries@ucas.ac.uk
Website: www.ucas.com

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

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