

Course Title	PgD Specialist Practitioner - District Nursing
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
Credit Structure ²	120 Credits at level 7
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	PgD Specialist Practitioner - District Nursing
Named Exit Awards	PgD in Community Nursing Studies
Entry Requirements ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration on Part One of the NMC Register • An honours degree normally at 2:2 or above • Three years post registration experience, the latest of which must be in the Primary Care setting <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration on Part One of the NMC Register • Evidence of the student's ability to work at master's level (to be discussed with Programme Lead) • Three years post registration experience, the latest of which must be in the Primary Care Setting <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation that the practice area will provide a supervisor and an assessor overseen by a named coordinator of practice learning for each student • Confirmation that an appropriately qualified and experienced practitioner will be available to supervise and assess the prescribing element. • DBS check which needs to be within 3 years when commencing prescribing element
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the PgD in District

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#)

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

Nursing course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2024-25 academic year.

Course Summary

This programme is designed for experienced registered nurses who are based in the community setting within District Nursing teams. The programme content is set by the professional standards listed below and the integration of theory and practice is an essential element of this programme. Students therefore undertake 50% of their learning and assessment in the practice placement where they are provided with opportunities to apply their developing knowledge and understanding of specialist nursing practice. On successful completion of the programme students will be eligible to have their specialist practice qualification and prescribing qualification recorded with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Course Aims

The PgD in District Nursing programme aims to enable students to:

- Integrate advanced expertise, skills and knowledge to initiate and deliver enhanced health care in partnership with patients, their families and carers and communities.
- Share learning experiences with colleagues from a wide variety of professional backgrounds enabling students to reconceptualise practice.
- Critically evaluate concepts and evidence in order to present complex arguments to support the delivery of care.
- Develop as a reflective, independent, self-directed learner in order to advance and disseminate specialist theory and practice.
- Effectively engage others in the planning, delivery and evaluation of a range of community health care interventions.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of changing socio – economic and political issues and the impact on primary health care delivery.
- Use effective and creative problem solving skills in a variety of practical settings.
- Meet the required regulatory standards in order to act as an Independent Nurse Prescriber.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the PgD in District Nursing course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).⁵

On completion of the programme we expect students to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding and cognitive skills

1. Independently propose and evaluate alternative approaches to contemporary District

⁵ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

Nursing practice.

2. Critically appraise conceptual models, theories and vocabulary encountered within the programme.
3. Deal with complexity and contradiction in knowledge proffered for practice.
4. Make sound judgments in the absence of complete data.
5. Discern between different research methods and their suitability for undertaking research in the area of District Nursing.

Subject Specific Skills

6. Demonstrate competence and expertise in a variety of contexts within the field of District Nursing practice.
7. Effectively engage others in the delivery of enhanced care.
8. Demonstrate how they have achieved the appropriate Practice Learning Outcomes according to the Standards for Specialist Education and Practice (District Nursing) (NMC 2001) and the Voluntary Standards for District Nurse Education and Practice (The Queen's Nursing Institute (2015)). These outcomes include competency in prescribing from the appropriate formulary.

Key/ Common Skills

9. Critically analyse and appraise existing sources of information.
10. Demonstrate ability to present complex arguments to a group in a competent manner.
11. Demonstrate self-reflectivity and an awareness of the need for continuing professional development.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following Professional Standards:

- Standards for Specialist Education and Practice (Nursing and Midwifery Council 2001)
- Voluntary Standards for District Nurse Education and Practice (The Queen's Nursing Institute 2015).

Course Structure

The PgD in District Nursing comprises 4 theory modules at level 7 and three practice modules. All modules are mandatory.

Module Specifications for each of these modules can be found in the Module Specification Handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁶
Level 7			
	Principles of care coordination in community settings (District Nursing)	20	M
	Holistic Assessment	20	M
	Non-Medical Independent and/or Supplementary prescribing for Nurses, Midwives, SCPHN, Radiographers, Physiotherapists, Podiatrists, Paramedics, and Dietitians (LEVEL 7)	40	M
	Leading Evidence – Based Therapeutic Interventions in District Nursing	40	M
	Practice Elements 1, 2 & 3	Nil	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a PgD in District Nursing. Students who do not complete the practice elements but who successfully complete the theory elements of the programme may be eligible for an exit award. This will be the PgD Community Nursing Studies. There will be no eligibility for professional recognition of this award, however students may prescribe as Independent Non-Medical prescribers if they successfully complete that module.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Delivery of taught theory lessons will be interspersed with weeks of practice placements. These may be arranged in blocks or alternate weeks. Students studying full-time on the PgD in District Nursing are likely to have approximately 24 tutor structured learning hours per theory week. Tutor structured learning will be a mix of lectures, seminar, practical activity and on-line learning. Students will also be required to spend an equal number of hours in the practice placement. During practice placements students will be supernumerary. Placements will be arranged by the employing organisation in consultation with the University. Students will normally be expected to undertake 12 hours of independent study in an average week but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes and will include essays, reports, presentations, poster presentations, critical analysis of research, group work and written examinations. In addition, there will be observed practical examinations and practice based assessments incorporating critical reflective reviews of the practice experience.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this programme are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own

⁶ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#)

specialist knowledge to contribute and are registered with the NMC or HCPC.

Course Costs

The PgD Specialist Practitioner - District Nursing is commissioned by Health Education East of England or contract funded.

*International students on health courses may also incur a placement fee. For information please contact the Admissions Department on 01473 338348 or via email admissions@uos.ac.uk.

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).