

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	Return to Practice (Nursing): Adult Return to Practice (Nursing): Child Return to Practice (Nursing): Learning Disabilities Return to Practice (Nursing): Mental Health
2	Course Code	CP0760-01 Adult CP0760-02 Child CP0760-03 Learning Disabilities CP0760-04 Mental Health
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	N/A
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)

6	Course Description
	The Return to Practice (Nursing) Course offers a flexible approach to nurses whose registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has lapsed and who wish to regain their status on the professional register. It consists of one module and takes between 4 and 6 months to complete. The course complies with the Standards of proficiency for registered nurses (NMC 2018) and Standards for return to practice programmes (NMC 2023a). Successful completion of all elements provides eligibility to apply to be re-entered onto the register in one of the 4 fields of nursing. The course comprises core study days followed by a period of practice learning / placement. Key themes are studied to prepare students for return to contemporary nursing practice, including essential academic and nursing skills; ethical and legal issues; and professional issues including leadership. All aspects include the use of research to inform critical thinking. There is a focus on regaining confidence to enable co-ordination of care, supervision of students and other health care practitioners and the safe management of medication. Digital literacy and numeracy skills will be supported through use of the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and SafeMedicate®. Personal tuition and clinical supervision sessions will enrich learning experiences and will facilitate meaningful reflection on practice. University attendance is mandatory and on a part-time basis for x8 weeks on Mondays and Tuesdays. Attendance is in person and on campus in Birmingham. In practice, flexible negotiation by mandatory professional discussion in advance of course commencement, will enable discussion and planning at an individual level. However, as a minimum students should expect to attend at least x2 shifts per week for between 150 and 300 hours of practice learning and assessment. A range of practice learning experiences can be offered dependant on prior learning and experience, as well as intended scope of practice on readmission to the NMC register. The University arranges placements in the West Midlands area. Students wishing a placement outside of the West Midlands will be expected to self-arrange this and present it in advance of any offer of a place and course commencement, for scrutiny and quality assurance by the BCU placement team.

	BCU is committed to providing excellent, innovative, learning, teaching and assessment experiences. Lectures, seminars, skills, simulation and virtual environments will facilitate learning. Engagement of practice partners and service users in all areas of learning, teaching and assessment is integral to our approach. On completion, students should feel empowered to contribute to the provision of high-quality holistic care both during studies and as a registrant on full completion.
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Return to Practice: Nursing *	6	20
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	N/A		

* A Transcript of Achievement is awarded to students who successfully complete all elements of the 20 credits 'Return to Practice: Nursing' module.

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	The following derogations are be applied to the Return to Practice (Nursing) course to comply with NMC regulations (NMC 2023a, 2023b, 2018) 1. For modules with more than one item of assessment, all items of assessment must be passed to pass the module 2. Compensation of marginally failed modules is not permitted 3. Condonement of failed modules is not permitted 4. The maximum registration period within which to complete the course is 3 years 5. For clinical practice assessments a maximum of two attempts is permitted The course does not follow the Standard Academic Calendar.

9	Delivery Patterns		
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study
	Part Time (Blended Learning)	City South	Up to 1 year
			CP0760

10	Entry Requirements	
	Home:	In conjunction with our practice partners and using your online application form and pre course professional discussion we will check that you meet the following requirements: • Lapsed UK NMC registration • Evidence of literacy and numeracy capability • Satisfactory occupational health and DBS checks • Demonstration of values in accordance with The Code (NMC 2018) • Demonstration of English language requirements • Digital and technological capability to meet course outcomes

		Confirmation of approved placement (this will be considered as part of the application process) Consideration will be given to prior learning and experience in relation to the standards of proficiency, programme outcomes, and the students intended scope of practice upon readmission to the NMC register.
	EU:	This course is not available to EU students.
	International:	This course is not available to international students.
	Access:	Not applicable.

11	Course Aims
	This course aims to enable students to demonstrate delivery of safe and competent nursing care in accordance with the Standards of proficiency for registered nurses (NMC 2018) and Standards for return to practice programmes (NMC 2023). Students will be able to build upon previous skills to provide, lead and co-ordinate nursing care that is compassionate, evidence-based, and person-centred. Students will become accountable, reflective and autonomous practitioners, working within interdisciplinary and multiagency teams responding to the demands of nursing practice. They will be prepared to act as a practice supervisor in line with the SSSA (NMC, 2023b). Students will also demonstrate a political awareness of local and national policies impacting on organisational change and the integration of health and social care services.

12	Course Learning Outcomes
	Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:
1	Critically reflect upon previous and current clinical experience and skills to demonstrate an awareness of the ethical, legal and professional issues in nursing.
2	Critically evaluate leadership and decision-making skills whilst demonstrating the ability to work in partnership as part of the interdisciplinary team and the wider community.
3	Demonstrate in practice, the ability to competently assess and prioritise individual needs to facilitate effective planning, delivery and evaluation of individualised holistic care and develop practice supervisor skills.
4	Demonstrate competent numeracy skills for safe professional nursing practice.

13	Level Learning Outcomes
	Upon completion of Level 4 / the Certificate of Higher Education, students will be able to:
	Not applicable
	Upon completion of Level 5 / the Diploma of Higher Education, students will be able to:
	Not applicable
	Upon completion of 60 credits at Level 6 / the Bachelors Degree, students will be able to:
	Not applicable

14	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	A variety of teaching and learning methods will be used to link theory and practice in developing students' knowledge, skills and understanding. Methods of learning and teaching include Moodle based activities and online learning, face to face engagement, group work, case studies, simulation, peer support and feedback, practice learning exposure, interprofessional learning, and service user feedback. The focus will be on meeting the Standards for return to practice programmes (NMC, 2023a) and developing reflection skills in line with NMC guidance on revalidation (NMC, 2021). Students are encouraged and guided to identify and reflect on their own learning needs and personal and professional development. Continuous learning will be supported by: • The course lead who will provide pastoral support and identify appropriate learning experiences. • Access to BCU Centre for Academic Success, Library and Learning Resources and Careers + Service to support development of academic skills. • Practice supervisors who will supervise and support you in practice to enable proficiency and autonomy as part of their professional role. • A practice assessor who will make the final assessment of practice to ensure competence. • An academic assessors who will identify the total number of assessed practice hours required and monitor and confirm your achievement of proficiencies and programme outcomes in the academic environment at the end of the programme. • Practice education facilitators (e.g. Practice Placement Managers, Practice Placement Educators) within placement provider organisations. The length and content of the programme will be determined in partnership with students, taking into consideration previous level of knowledge and experience, registration history, relevant experience undertaken while out of practice, and the number of hours per week any individual student will spend in practice. Formative assessments will offer interim assessment opportunities where students may gain understanding of learning progress. Modes of formative feedback include self-evaluation, quizzes, group work feedback and peer feedback. Summative assessments are used to make judgements about learning to evidence achievement of module learning outcomes. Summative assessment methods used are: • Numeracy: recorded as Pass/Fail. The numeracy assessment pass mark is 100%. • Practice Assessment Document: recorded as Pass/Fail. Passing this assures us that you have met the Standards for return to practice programmes (NMC, 2023a) and are practice supervisor ready. • A choice of an in-person or course work assessment which will be graded according to university regulations (this will provide the overall mark for the module). Feedback is provided throughout the course in a variety of ways including verbal, written, peer feedback and service user feedback. Feedback provided will offer guidance on how to improve learning both during the course and for future studies.

15	Course Requirements		
15a	Level 6: <i>To complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 20 credits):</i>		
	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
	tbc	Return to Practice: Nursing	20

15b	Structure Diagram
Level 6 (20 credits) Core Code: tbc Title: Return to Practice: Nursing	

16	Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment																		
Overall student workload consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the individual module, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities. - Scheduled Learning includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable - Directed Learning includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, peer learning - Private Study includes preparation for exams etc The balance of assessment by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends on the individual modules. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.																			
Level 6 Workload 24% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th><th>Number of Hours</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Scheduled Learning</td><td>48</td></tr> <tr> <td>Directed Learning</td><td>84.5 (+ placement hours)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Private Study</td><td>67.5</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total Hours</td><td>200</td></tr> </tbody> </table> Balance of Assessment <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Assessment Mode</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Choice of in-person or coursework assessment</td><td>100%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Exam (numeracy)</td><td>Pass/Fail</td></tr> <tr> <td>In-Person (placement)</td><td>Pass/Fail</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Activity	Number of Hours	Scheduled Learning	48	Directed Learning	84.5 (+ placement hours)	Private Study	67.5	Total Hours	200	Assessment Mode	Percentage	Choice of in-person or coursework assessment	100%	Exam (numeracy)	Pass/Fail	In-Person (placement)	Pass/Fail
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N.B. In line with NMC requirements all elements of all assessments must be passed to gain full award and to be eligible to apply for NMC re-registration. There will a numeracy assessment related to nursing proficiencies and calculations of medicines which must be passed with a score of 100%.

References:

NMC (2023a) *Standards for return to practice programmes - The Nursing and Midwifery Council*, [www.nmc.org.uk](https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards-for-education-and-training/standards-relating-to-return-to-practice/standards-for-return-to-practice-programmes/). Available at: <https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards-for-education-and-training/standards-relating-to-return-to-practice/standards-for-return-to-practice-programmes/> (Accessed: 24 August 2026).

NMC (2023b) *Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment*, NMC. Available at: <https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards-for-education-and-training/standards-for-student-supervision-and-assessment/> (Accessed: 24 August 2026).

NMC (2018) 'Standards of proficiency for registered nurses', NMC, pp. 13–15. Available at: <https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/standards/2024/standards-of-proficiency-for-nurses.pdf> (Accessed: 24 August 2026)

NMC (2018) *The code*, Nursing and Midwifery Council. Available at: <https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards/code/read-the-code-online/> (Accessed: 24 August 2026).

NMC (2021) *What is revalidation?*, Nursing and Midwifery Council. Available at: <https://www.nmc.org.uk/revalidation/overview/what-is-revalidation/> (Accessed: 24 August 2026).