

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	Community Nursing Specialist Practitioner: District Nursing
2	Course Code	PT1796 PT1796N
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s)	N/A
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)

6	Course Description
	<p>If you're looking to develop your nursing career within a community setting, as a District Nurse you can play an important role providing holistic care to patients in their own homes. District Nurses work autonomously, giving often complex care in non-clinical settings, and take a leading role in promoting the health of the community they serve.</p> <p>This course balances expanding your theoretical knowledge with hands-on experience of the range of practical skills you need for the challenging but rewarding role of District Nurse. We will also encourage you to develop a critical approach to care delivery so that you are able to adapt to rapidly changing situations, prevent hospital admissions, support self-care and independence using a holistic, patient-centred approach, manage complex caseloads, and provide education to patients, their families/carers and other healthcare staff effectively.</p> <p>As a District Nurse, you will become an effective leader of teams, managing staff with a varied mix of skills to drive quality improvement, ensuring that the care delivered is high-quality, evidence-based, safe and effective. We will help develop your ability to assess risk, work within multidisciplinary teams to coordinate care and service delivery and expand your understanding of the political landscape which drives change within the NHS.</p> <p>We will work in partnership with you, your practice assessor and supervisor to develop your knowledge, skills and behaviours in preparation to practise as a District Nurse in this crucial area that requires highly-skilled practitioners. One of the team will be allocated as your academic assessor to support and supervise your assessment in practice.</p> <p>This course is designed in line with the NMC standards of proficiency for specialist community practice nursing qualifications (2022) so that you're prepared for the role of District Nurse and can register with the NMC with this title. The programme also prepares you to practise as a V300 Independent and Supplementary Prescriber, ensuring you can safely prescribe for patients within the scope of your practice in line with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Competency framework for all prescribers (RPS, 2021).</p>

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded

	Post Graduate Diploma: Community Nursing Specialist Practice Qualification (SPQ) (District Nurse)	7	120
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Post Graduate Certificate Studies in Community Health*	7	60

*The Specialist Practice: District Nursing and the V300 modules cannot be used as part of the 60 credits to receive this exit award

*This exit award does not allow for application to NMC to record qualifications of Specialist Practice District Nursing and V300

Please note that DN SPQ students who are completing the V300 module as part of their overall course of study **will not** be recorded as a V300 prescriber until the full SPQ course is successfully completed. Students who successfully complete the V300 module but do not complete the full SPQ, will not be eligible to record their V300 qualification in line with guidance from the NMC.

8	Variation from the University Regulations
	<p>As this course is PSRB regulated by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) the following conditions/variations apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For modules with more than one item of assessment, all items of assessment must be passed in order to pass the module. 2. Compensation of marginally failed modules is not permitted.

9	Delivery Patterns		
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study
	Full Time	City South	55 weeks (minimum)
			Code(s) PT1796 PT1796N

10	Entry Requirements	
	<p>Home:</p>	<p>Applicants to the course must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a first level registered adult nurse with current NMC registration. • Hold a BSc Hons Qualification or have evidence of recent (within 5 years) study at level 6 or 7. • Have access to a supportive learning environment relevant to the field of practice that meets NMC SSSA standards (2023) • Meet the entry requirements to undertake the V300 module in line with the NMC Standards for Prescribing Programmes (completion of RAF) • Have confirmation from the employer of good character and suitability to undertake the course. • Have access to funding for course fees (via employer) or be willing to self-fund. • Self-funded students will be required to provide evidence of appropriate learning environment that is NMC SSSA compliant and has undertaken a BCU practice education audit. Additional requirements may also apply to self-

		funded students, this will be assessed by the course lead at application stage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who wish to RPL any prior learning (e.g., V300) will be guided to the RPL advisors for further advice and guidance.
	EU:	This course is not available to students classed as international for fee purposes.
	International:	
	Access:	N/A

11	Course Aims
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The course will prepare students to work effectively as a community specialist practitioner in line with the NMC Standards (2022) and the RPS Framework (2021). Students will be prepared to enter the workforce as qualified District Nurses with an understanding of local, national, and global issues related to their roles. Students who complete the course successfully will be able to register their SPQ and V300 qualifications with the NMC (must be completed within 5 years). The course will facilitate the development of students who are striving for excellence, applying theory to practice, and gaining exposure to a variety of interdisciplinary learning experiences.

12	Course Learning Outcomes
Knowledge and understanding	
1	Demonstrates autonomous, accountable, and reflective practice, providing high quality evidence-based care with patients and their support networks at the centre of decision making
2	Demonstrates an ability to lead, support and manage teams whilst driving improvements in safety and quality of care provision
3	Critically analyse and interpret data, research, and evidence to support the delivery of care and promote health, independence, and wellbeing to all those receiving care
4	Critically understands and works within relevant legal, ethical, and professional frameworks to demonstrate safe and competent prescribing practice
Skills and other attributes	
5	Demonstrate the skills and knowledge required to facilitate an effective learning environment for all staff and students, acting as a role model to all
6	Meets the NMC proficiencies for community specialist practitioners within the field of district nursing.

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 lecture/seminars, interactive lectures, Moodle based activities and online learning; group work, case studies relating to profession-specific skills and student presentations.

Clinical practice will include opportunities to be exposed to and participate in a variety of learning experiences with the support of a practice assessor and practice supervisor (NMC, 2019). An academic assessor will work with practice assessors and supervisors in the supervision and support of student assessment in practice. Students are encouraged to access experiences that develop their understanding of the multi-disciplinary team as well as third sector and voluntary organisations.

The course offers both formative and summative assessments. Formative assessments are those interim assessment opportunities whereby you can gain an enhanced understanding of how well you are progressing with your learning. Modes of formative feedback include self-evaluation quizzes with automated answer feedback, group work feedback, peer feedback, mock exams and feedback from practice assessor and supervisors in clinical practice. Summative assessments are used to make judgements about what you have learned and that you have met the learning outcomes, to enable award of qualifications and academic credits. Some of the summative assessment methods used for this course include presentations, exams, assignments, report writing.

You will demonstrate achievement of the NMC proficiencies for community specialist practice (2022) through the completion of a practice assessment document and the collation of a portfolio of evidence.

Students are expected to engage in all teaching, learning and assessment activities. The nature of the course delivery requires students to undertake a significant amount of independent learning and therefore students will need to ensure that they are utilising the support and time available to them effectively. In return, the course team and module teams will provide guidance, advice and signpost students to services that can support their academic and professional development. Students will be allocated an academic assessor who will oversee their progression and liaise with the student and their practice assessor at regular intervals throughout the course. The academic assessor will be responsible for confirming all elements of the course have been successfully completed.

The curriculum will cover a variety of topics aligned to the 7 NMC platforms for Community Specialist Practice Qualification (NMC, 2022) which will enable students to develop their knowledge, skills and behaviours. The exposure to practice-based learning will enable students to apply theoretical learning directly to practice in a real-life situation under the supervision of a suitably qualified practice assessor. Completion of all elements of the course will lead to students being able to register the following qualifications with the NMC:

- Specialist Practitioner (District Nurse)
- Independent and supplementary prescriber (V300)

15	Course Requirements	
15a	Level 7: In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):	
	Module Code	Module Name
	LBR7699	Specialist Practice: District Nursing
	LBR7399	Leadership Skills and Project Management for Health and Healthcare
		Credit Value
		20
		20

LBR7686	Health Assessment	20
LBR7630	Independent and supplementary prescribing for nurses, midwives and SCPHN (V300)	40
LBR7700	Supporting and Assessing Post-Registration students in Practice	20

15b Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

Term 1 Core LBR7699 Specialist Practice: District Nursing 20 credits (year-long) LBR7686 Health Assessment 20 credits	Term 2: Core LBR7630 Independent and Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses, Midwives and SCPHN (V300) 40 credits LBR7399 Leadership Skills and Project Management for Health and Healthcare 20 credits LBR7700 Supporting and Assessing Post-Registration students in Practice 20 credits
Term 3 LBR7699 Specialist Practice: District Nursing 20 credits (year-long)	

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 optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- 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, Graduate+, peer learning
- Private Study includes preparation for exams

The balance of assessment by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	293
Directed Learning	410
Private Study	497

Total Hours	1200
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Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	22.5
Exam	22.5
In-Person	55