



## **Module Specification**

### **Specialist Practice in Occupational Health Nursing**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Specialist Practice in Occupational Health Nursing

**Module code:** UZVRR6-20-M

**Level:** Level 7

**For implementation from:** 2024-25

**UWE credit rating:** 20

**ECTS credit rating:** 10

**College:** College of Health, Science & Society

**School:** CHSS School of Health and Social Wellbeing

**Partner institutions:** None

**Field:** Health, Community and Policy Studies

**Module type:** Professional Practice

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** No

**Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements:** None

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** The module focuses on Occupational Health nursing practice and developing learners who are competent and effective public health nurses who lead and work in a range of work environments and sectors to enhance the health and wellbeing of people in their workplaces and beyond.

This module aims to support occupational health learners to achieve the NMC (Nursing and Midwifery Council) Standards of Proficiency for Specialist Community

Public Health Nurses (Occupational health Field) (2022). The Standards of Proficiency are six Spheres of Practice - (Sphere A to F outlined in the Programme Specification). Achievement of the standards enables entry to the third part of the NMC register.

Learners will be expected to take responsibility for their learning, engage positively with all learning opportunities and show evidence of consistent achievement in practice through a Practice Assessment Document (PAD).

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** To equip learners with the core and field specific SCPHN Occupational Health Nurse proficiencies: the essential skills, knowledge and attributes required in Occupational health practice, (NMC SCPHN standards, 2022).

To achieve the proficiencies in the SCPHN standards each learner will be based in a practice placement, arranged either by the sponsoring organisation or a privately arranged placement. Each learner will have an Academic Assessor from the university course team with the relevant field experience and a Practice Assessor in the practice placement. The practice assessor will have a key role in assessing the learner's proficiency, providing assurance of achievements and competence to practice safely and effectively.

**Outline syllabus:** The syllabus focuses on developing learners who are competent and effective practitioners, able to work in partnership with other professionals, sector experts, employers and employees to lead workplace health initiatives that are responsive to the needs of individuals and organisations.

The emphasis on “how” learners undertake this work and build effective relationships and services that are person centred, anti-discriminatory and inclusive will underpin skills in assessment, planning, implementation and review of public health interventions and services.

Foundational to this is experiential learning in placements with the named practice supervisors and assessors in line with the Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment (NMC, 2018, 2023). Learners will undertake activities and tasks in practice that draw on learning from the classroom and support the achievement of

the occupational health nurse proficiencies.

Placement hours will typically be around 850 hours.

Integrated into the practice module is the use of a PAD to monitor development, learning and progression.

Module content will include a focus on the application of core and field specific proficiencies.

For Occupational health Nurses (OHN) this will typically include:

Identifying individuals who may be vulnerable or at risk of direct and indirect abuse or harm within or outside the workplace, appropriately escalating and referring to other professionals and agencies

(Sphere C)

Applying specialist knowledge and skills to identify emerging health issues, physical and mental, and signpost to available support for access to health and care services and other agencies to balance individual health and wellbeing with employment obligations.(Sphere C)

Applying specialist knowledge to interpret, inform and provide impartial advice on health and safety legislation and case law (Sphere D)

Undertaking health assessments, and using strength based and trauma informed approaches to identify any issues and plan of action.

Providing specialist, personalised occupational health advice on work adjustments to employees and employers including ergonomics and occupational hygiene measures (Sphere D)

Critically examining and applying the hierarchy of control to manage risks to health, safety and wellbeing in the workplace, including control of emissions and pollutants (Sphere E)

Facilitating workplace adjustments that enable wider participation of people in work, effectively using assistive technologies (Sphere E)

Evaluating the impact of job redesign and the potential need for skills development and/or redeployment on the health and wellbeing of people (Sphere E)

Advanced communication and interpersonal skills to establish trusting relationships (includes use of digital and other modalities to support communication in virtual and

remote environments)

This module underpins the field specific Work based Health and Wellbeing module and draws on learning across all the modules undertaken within the SCPHN programme

Module content will include: Core and field specific proficiencies

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** This module includes face to face teaching, self-directed learning and experiential learning in an occupational health placement. A mixed methods learning approach in practice placements and the university offers flexibility and encourages a universal design for learning to accommodate learners' needs and abilities. This includes face to face contact hours, virtual online learning and learning in placement with practice assessors and supervisors. Further directed and self-directed study will also be set on the university digital platform.

Face-to-face contact days include larger group teaching combined with smaller group (seminar format) teaching. The small group teaching will comprise teacher and student led activities that enable critical discussions and collaborative approaches to specialist practice health visiting scenarios. This enables individuals to build and develop prior learning and identify new learning and current challenges. The online format will mirror the face-to-face contact in terms of structure and integrate shared learning activities.

As a practice module there will be a focus in the curriculum on interdisciplinary learning and drawing on practice assessors and service users in the university contact days to ensure an integrated collaborative approach. Users of the occupational health service and service user voice and experience will also be integrated into the teaching and where possible service users involved in the design and co-production and delivery of lessons.

Opportunities to develop independent learning will be provided through the module in terms of signposting students to podcasts, vodcasts and alternative learning material deemed valuable to learners' development.

Each learner will have an Academic Assessor from the university course team with the relevant field experience. The academic assessor will understand the student's learning and achievement in practice and be the initial point of contact for the learner or Practice Assessor if an issue arises in practice. The academic assessor will evaluate and recommend the student to the NMC for SCPHN registration at the end of the programme.

Each learner will have a Practice Assessor in the practice placement. The practice assessor will be registered in the same field of practice as the learner. The practice assessor will have a key role in assessing the learner's proficiency, providing assurance of achievements and competence to practice safely and effectively.

Learning in practice placements and the achievement of the core and field specific proficiencies will be recorded in the PAD. This provides an ongoing record of progress and achievement in practice learning across the Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPHN) programme at the University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol.

Partnership working is key between the student, practice assessor and academic assessor.

**Module Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

**MO1** Demonstrates in practice achievement of the Occupational Health field specific proficiencies

**MO2** Demonstrates in practice achievement of the core SCPHN proficiencies

**Hours to be allocated:** 200

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 152 hours

Placement = 850 hours

Face-to-face learning = 48 hours

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/65E704B4-E28D-3637-4DE6-B9A6D30727D7.html?lang=en) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/65E704B4-E28D-3637-4DE6-B9A6D30727D7.html?lang=en>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

### **Assessment strategy:** Portfolio

Learners are required to demonstrate the achievement of core and specific occupational health proficiencies through the completion of the PAD. The PAD is the assessment tool designed to record progress and evidence of the required proficiencies and outcomes for the programme of study, in line with the NMC Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment (NMC, 2018/23).

Building a portfolio of evidence supports the integration of theoretical knowledge with Occupational Health practice as well as critical reflection on knowledge and skills development in line with the NMC Standards of Proficiency for SCPHN (2022).

Learners will undertake activities and tasks in practice that draw on learning from the classroom and support the achievement of the occupational health proficiencies.

Integrated into the PAD are structured formative reviews of progress, and tools for example structured assessments of practice. This will support learners to reflect on their professional behaviours and progress towards achievement of the professional competencies, plus action planning for further development and learning.

The PAD is either a pass or fail.

The academic assessor and practice assessor work in partnership to assess, review and recommend the learner for progression for each part of the programme.

### **Assessment tasks:**

#### **Portfolio (First Sit)**

Description: Practice Assessment Document (PAD) - Pass/Fail

Weighting: 0 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

**Portfolio (Resit)**

Description: Practice Assessment Document (PAD) - Pass/Fail

Weighting: 0 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (Occupational Health Nursing)

[Glenside] MSc 2024-25

Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (Occupational Health Nursing)

[Glenside] MSc 2024-25