



Programme Specification

Nursing Associate {Apprenticeship-UCS} [UCS]

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Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Nursing Associate {Apprenticeship-UCS} [UCS]

Highest award: FdSc Nursing Associate

Interim award: FdSc Health and Social Studies

Interim award: CertHE Health and Social Care

Awarding institution: UWE

Affiliated institutions: University Centre Somerset

Teaching institutions: University Centre Somerset

Study abroad: Yes

Year abroad: No

Sandwich year: No

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: CHSS School of Health and Social Wellbeing, College of Health, Science & Society

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies:

Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)

Apprenticeship: ST0827

Modes of delivery: Full-time

Entry requirements:

For implementation from: 01 October 2021

Programme code: B79E13

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: The FdSc Nursing Associate Programme has been developed to provide an outcome based programme of academic and work-based learning that will develop the wide-ranging skills and capabilities required to support the role of the registered nurse. The programme is aligned with the requirements for the Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education level 5 nursing associate apprenticeship standard.

The programme will meet the required professional standards as stated within the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Standards of proficiency for nursing associates (2018). Students will be supported in accordance with Part 2: Standards for student supervision and assessment (NMC 2018) and the programme has been guided by and mapped against the Nursing Midwifery Council (NMC) standards of proficiency for nursing associates (2018).

Initial assessment of the student's ability in relation to Math, English and Digital Literacy provides a point of reference of their competency. It identifies areas that may need a focus and where further support can be identified to monitor their progression during this programme.

The programme is aimed at those individuals currently working in health and social care, enabling them to have opportunities to progress and develop their careers. They will work under the leadership and direction of registered nurses providing and monitoring high quality holistic and person-centered care to individuals whilst supporting the registered nurse in the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of care.

The programme is a collaborative development with clinical partners in meeting both local and national demands of the health care workforce to meet patients' needs and expectations now and in the future; with employability and enterprise skills development integral to the programme. Through working in partnership with our local National Health Service partners, and private and voluntary sector partners, the

student will be able to experience the range of health and social care that will prepare them for their role. On successful completion of the programme nursing associates can be employed across a variety of health and social care settings without being confined to one geographical area. The nursing associate will be employed throughout the programme within an NHS provider or a private or voluntary organisation.

Both the NMC and IfAte requirements must be met to be awarded the FdSc Nursing Associate, which leads to eligibility for NMC registration and an Apprenticeship completion certificate. On completion of the programme the student will be eligible to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (2018) as a Nursing Associate. Progression can either be onto the BSc (Hons) Health and Social Care to top up to a Degree, or to progress in Nursing on to the UWE BSc (Hons) pre-registration nursing programme at an advanced entry point.

Features of the programme: Placement experience

By the end of the programme the nursing associate will have had the opportunity to work with a range of people across the three health settings: in hospital, at home and close to home. This gives an opportunity to experience and demonstrate all the six platforms for safe, effective, compassionate, competent, and non-judgmental care.

Uniqueness of placement experience

To facilitate the required placement experience and to enable work with a range of client groups there is a collaboration between clinical partners to offer an innovative placement pattern across all organisations. This will enable the student to follow patients throughout their journey, appreciating the patient's perspective, and reinforcing the patient centered care philosophy of the programme.

Nursing associates will have a practice supervisor and practice assessor throughout their placements. The assessor will have overall responsibility for ensuring that the competencies for the programme are achieved.

Tripartite reviews will be undertaken on a regular basis. This is an opportunity for the nursing associate, employer and academic assessor to discuss progress and action plans for future learning.

Within the programme students are able to access alternative learning experiences through elective day experiences. These are sourced by the student and encourages engagement with health and social care outside of their normal parameters of care.

For those undertaking this programme as an apprenticeship, the practice placement experiences prepare students for the required End Point Assessment.

Educational Aims: The programme has six platforms and 2 annexes with associated learning outcomes that are achieved through both theory and practice experience by the student.

Six platforms:

1. Being an accountable professional
2. Promoting health and preventing ill health
3. Provide and monitor care
4. Working in teams
5. Improving safety and quality of care
6. Contributing to integrated care

Annexe A- Communication and relationship management skills

Annexe B- Procedures to be undertaken by the nursing associate

Programme Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Knowledge and Understanding

- A1. Demonstrate underpinning knowledge and skills required for their role in supporting people to improve and maintain their individual mental, physical, behavioural health and wellbeing. The student will actively be involved in the prevention of and protection against disease and ill health, and engage in public health, community development, and in the reduction of health inequalities (NMC 2018).
- A2. Have underpinning knowledge and skills required to understand and apply their role to work effectively as a member of the interdisciplinary team, collaborating and communicating effectively with nurses, a range of other health and care professionals and lay carers. (NMC 2018).

Intellectual Skills

- B1. Provide compassionate, safe and effective care and support to people in a range of care settings. The student will monitor the condition and health needs of people within their care on a continual basis in partnership with people, families and carers. They will contribute to ongoing assessment and can recognise when it is necessary to refer to other for reassessment. The student will have underpinning knowledge and skills required for their role on providing and monitoring care (NMC 2018).
- B2. Development of skills in relation to self-directed and independent study for continuing professional development.

Subject/Professional Practice Skills

- C1. Demonstrate professional attributes at all times and use their knowledge and experience to make evidence based decisions and solve problems. The students will recognise and work within the limits of their competence and are responsible for their actions (NMC 2018).
- C2. Contribute to the provision of care for people, including those with complex needs. They understand the roles of a range of professionals and carers from other organisations and settings who may be participating in the care of a person and their family, and their responsibilities in relation to communication and collaboration. The student will have the underpinning knowledge and skills required for their role in contributing to integrated care across organisations (NMC 2018).
- C3. Improve the quality of care by contributing to the continuous monitoring of people's experience of care. They identify risks to safety or experience and take appropriate action. Putting the best interests, needs and preferences of people first. The student will have underpinning knowledge and skills required for this role in contributing to risk monitoring and quality of care (NMC 2018).

- C4. Communicate effectively to ensure the best interests of people which is central to the provision of high quality person-centered care.

Transferable Skills and other attributes

- D1. Demonstrate capability for digital and technological literacy.
- D2. Demonstrate and adapt their communication and relationship management skills in relation to cultural and diversity.
- D3. Ability to respond in the best interests of people and be flexible in different care environments.

Assessment strategy: The programme builds on the traditions, experience and values of a nursing profession that looks to the provision of the highest quality, evidence based person-centered care in the 21st century. In a fast-paced world of change, the programme places compassionate care at its core whilst promoting the enthusiastic adoption and promotion of those technologies and innovations that support improvements in patient care and service improvement.

Student support:

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZWK9E-30-1	Applied Anatomy and Physiology for Clinical Practice 2025-26	30
UZWKF7-15-1	Communication and Relationship Management Skills 2025-26	15

UZWK9D-15-1	Improving Safety and Quality of Care 2025-26	15
UZWKF6-30-1	Provide and Monitor Care 2025-26	30
UZWKF5-30-1	The Accountable Professional in Clinical Practice 1 2025-26	30

Year 2

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Year 2 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZWK9F-15-2	Contributing to Integrated Care 2026-27	15
UZWY3Y-30-2	Pharmacology and Medicines Management 2026-27	30
UZWKF9-30-2	Promoting Health and Preventing Ill Health 2026-27	30
UZWKF8-30-2	The Accountable Professional in Clinical Practice 2 2026-27	30
UZWKFA-15-2	Working in Teams 2026-27	15

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

On completion of the programme the nursing associate will be able to demonstrate personal responsibility and work independently within defined parameters of practice, taking the appropriate initiative in a variety of situations, and performing a range of clinical and care skills consistent with the roles, responsibilities and professional values of a nursing associate.

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

The Foundation Science Degree Nursing Associate programme has been developed with reference to a number of key guidelines, policies and strategies. External influences have been considered e.g. professional body requirements including NMC standards and Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education:

Standards of proficiency for Nursing Associates (NMC 2018)

Standards for pre-registration Nursing Associate programmes (NMC 2018)

Apprenticeship standard Nursing Associate (NMC 2018)

Strategy 2020

The UWE Bristol Enhancement Framework

UWE Bristol Strategy has four key priorities - outstanding learning, ready and able graduates, research with impact and strategic partnerships, connections and networks. Programme learning, teaching and assessment strategies relate to all four of these key priorities.

University policies

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.

External examiner(s) are appointed in line with the NMC (2018) requirement to 'ensure appropriately qualified and experienced external examiners consider and report on the quality of theory and practice learning'.