

Return to Nursing Practice

Department of Nursing Sciences, Faculty of Health and Social Sciences



The Return to Nursing Practice programme is for Adult (General), Mental Health and Children's Nurses who no longer have 'live' registration with the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) and wish to re-enter the profession after a complete break in practice, or where they have worked fewer than 450 hours in the past three years (NMC 2019).

Course Overview

This programme comprises both theoretical and practical elements. It is designed to enable Nurses to re-enter registered practice with up-to-date proficiencies (NMC, 2018), knowledge and skills and the confidence to maintain safe and effective standards of patient care.

Please note this is a programme to update your knowledge and skills and enable you an opportunity to re-practice your clinical skills and get you back on the register, it is not re-training.

This programme has been approved and validated by the NMC and on successful completion you will be awarded 20 academic credits (at Level 6 – degree level) and gain re-registration with the NMC.

The course length is typically 16 weeks from the start dates. Teaching dates can be found on the course page- [Return to Nursing Practice Level 6 credits | Bournemouth University](#). The course is taught on the Lansdowne Campus in the Bournemouth Gateway Building. For more information, please visit www.bournemouth.ac.uk/maps

Entry Requirements:

- Lapsed NMC registration following a complete break in practice, or where you have worked fewer than 450 hours in the past three years
- Confirmation of a practice placement and successful interview with the Trust and a Bournemouth University (BU) representative
- Occupational clearance to commence the course

If English is not your first language:

- IELTS (Academic) 7.0 with minimum 7.0 in each component or equivalent

Course Fees

Course fees are paid for by Health Education England. A £1000 cash card will be provided to help cover any childcare, travel and book costs once the programme has commenced. From April 2022 this may be only for students on honorary contracts.

Accreditation

Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC)

Practice Placements

Prior to applying to the BU programme, you must secure a practice placement in a healthcare setting – either in an acute or community NHS trust, or in the private sector. Please contact one of the Education Leads below to make an enquiry.

If you are currently working for a health care organisation, applicants will need to have agreement from their employers to undertake the RtNP programme and attend for a joint interview with the University.

The placement must start by the first study day at the University and be for the duration of the programme. Clinical placements must normally be within Dorset, Wiltshire, Somerset, or the Hampshire and Isle of Wight area. You will be required to attend a joint interview with a member of BU staff and a representative from your prospective practice placement.

The practice experience may be gained as part of employed work or by working as an “honorary” member of staff and must be for a minimum of 150 hours. These hours may need to be extended, to a maximum of 450 hours, depending on how long you have been out of practice and how long it takes you to complete the assessment portfolio. You must therefore ensure that any ‘contract’ allows you to continue until you have completed the practice outcomes of the programme.

During your practice placement time you will work in a role equivalent to that of a third-year pre-registration student. Practice hours should be for a minimum of two 7.5 hours a week for 10 weeks. Negotiation with the placement provider as to how the required clinical hours are completed needs to be organised prior to commencing the placement, as well as confirmation of a named NMC Practice Assessor and Practice Supervisor(s).

All practice placements (NHS and Private sector) need to appreciate that you are not a pre-registration student and therefore they need to provide you with:

- Joint interview with the University and representative from your practice placement
- Honorary contract (at minimum)
- DBS and Occupational Health screening
- Practice risk assessment
- Induction to include Moving and Handling, Basic Life Support, Child Protection (if appropriate) and Safeguarding training **before** the placement commences
- A uniform and name badge
- A Practice Assessor on the same part of the register to which you are returning

Practice Placements – Contact Details

If you are interested in gaining a practice placement in an NHS Trust, please email the relevant Education Lead with a summary of when you last used your registration, any recent working history and stating the clinical area in which you are seeking a placement. All of the contact details for the NHS Trusts we work with are on our website: <https://www.applycpd.com/BU/courses/111376?courseId=111376&tabId=27>

Private Sector Practice Placements

If you wish to undertake your practice placement in the private sector you will need to contact them directly. Please ensure that the placement has an NMC educational audit to take pre-registration students and that an NMC Practice Assessor is available to sign-off your proficiencies.

If private hospitals are unsure about any of the above, please encourage them to contact the Programme Leader, Emma Böckle at returtonursing@bournemouth.ac.uk

How to Apply

Following a successful interview with the Trust and a University representative and having negotiated your practice placement, you can apply to BU for a place on the programme via the [online application system](#).

Please contact the HSS CPD Admissions Team at hsspostregadmissions@bournemouth.ac.uk if you have any queries about the admissions process. If you have general queries, please contact Programme Leader, Emma Böckle at returntonursing@bournemouth.ac.uk

Course Structure and Duration

The course will consist of:

- Eight study days usually delivered over a three-month period and include both face to face and online delivery.
- A minimum of 150 placement hours in a suitable clinical setting
- You will also be expected to undertake self-managed study outside of university and your placement

The time you take to complete the course will depend on your previous experience, the time you have been away from nursing and the time required to complete the practice assessment portfolio.

Please be aware that, at the earliest, it will be approximately six months before you can apply for NMC re-registration, as your programme assessments will have to go to Bournemouth University's exam board before you can be declared eligible for re-registration.

Pre-Course work

You will need to complete a self-assessment document prior to your initial meeting with your Practice Assessor and BU Academic Assessor. This will help identify your previous knowledge and skills and how these maps against the Future Nurse standards (NMC, 2019). In addition, you will be required to read through core programme materials before the first day. Access to BU resources will be available one week prior to the start of the course.

Programme Content

Whichever part of the nursing register (adult, child, or mental health) you are planning to re-enter, there are common themes that are covered. Topics include the following:

- Reflective Practice
- Health and Social Policy
- Research Awareness
- Legal, Ethical and Professional issues, consent and safeguarding
- Clinical Skills
- Health Promotion and Public Health
- Supporting teaching and learning in practice
- Pharmacology and Medicines administration and optimisation

Please note: The University reserves the right to introduce changes to the information given, including the addition, withdrawal, re-location or restructuring of courses.