ADDITIONAL COURSE REGULATIONS: FOUNDATION DEGREE NURSING ASSOCIATE including Nursing Associate Apprenticeship (NMC 2018)

INTRODUCTION

1. These Special Regulations relate only to the following programme:

- Nursing Associate containing Foundation Degree Nursing Associate - September 2019 programme

2. The programme may or may not be undertaken as an apprenticeship

ADMISSION

3. The requirements for admissions are those set out in the General Regulations for the Conferment of Awards; the additional requirements are set out below.

4. All entrants are required to attend a selection day/event, and complete any assessments prescribed as part of the selection process.

GENERAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

5. All entrants are to satisfy the University in relation to health clearance (including occupational health requirements) following the prescribed procedures at the time of application.

6. All entrants must satisfy the requirements concerning clearance in relation to criminal convictions and any other requirements specified by the University, taking account of the requirements of the regulatory bodies, in relation to the protection of vulnerable persons. All entrants to the programme must remain in good standing in relation to such requirements, including, where required, registration for the updating of certificates by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

7. In addition to the entrance requirements specified in the General Regulations for the Conferment of Awards entrants to the programme must obtain any additional requirements specified by professional or regulatory bodies.

8. Non-apprentices applying to the programme must have passed level 2 Maths and English (or equivalent) at grade 4 or above (GCSE grade C or above).

9. Non-apprentices must also have experience of at least six months of working or voluntary experience in the UK health and care sector (minimum of 10 hours a week) or have a level 3 qualification in a health and social care (A level or equivalent).

10. Apprentices applying to the programme must have passed level 2 Maths and English (or equivalent) at grade 4 or above (GCSE grade C or above).

11. Apprentices must be employed in a trainee nursing associate role in the UK health and care sector providing care for a minimum of 30 hours.

12. Apprentices must have the support of their employer who will sign the relevant agreement form linked to the Apprenticeship.

13. Where the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is offered as evidence the University will apply the NMC requirements for overseas applicants to the register. In these cases, the NMC require a minimum overall level of 7 in the test. However, a level 6.5 in writing will be accepted alongside a level 7 in reading, listening and speaking.

PROGRAMME AWARD

14. The award of Foundation Degree Nursing Associate is made upon successful completion of 240 credits. This is the only award that infers eligibility to apply for registration with the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC).

DEFAULT EXIT AWARDS NOT LEADING TO PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

15. For a student who passes the theory modules and the assessment of practice in year 1 but does not complete the final year, the Board of Examiners must consider

recommending an exit award that does not lead to professional recognition.

16. The following exit awards are available to students not recommended for an award

leading to professional registration.

- To qualify for a Certificate of Higher Education in Wellbeing and Care students must:
- Pass level 4

17. Where an award cannot be recommended, the Board may recommend the award of institutional credits.

18. Aegrotat awards may be offered at the discretion of the Board of Examiners as outlined in the regulations; however, such awards would not provide eligibility to apply for admission to the relevant professional register.

CREDIT EXEMPTION ON ENTRY

19. Entrants may gain exemption from modules in line with the University's policy in the

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

20. For apprentices, before the apprenticeship begins, the University, in collaboration with the employer, must assess the individual's prior learning to establish the 'starting point', or baseline, of the apprentice. This informs how much of the apprenticeship training content the individual requires.

21. In recognising prior learning, the following should be considered against the knowledge, skills and behaviours set out in the apprenticeship standard or framework:

- Work experience (this is particularly important if the apprentice is an existing employee);
- Prior education, training or associated qualification(s) in a related sector subject area; and
- Any previous apprenticeship undertaken

22. Where there is prior learning, the content and duration of the apprenticeship must be reduced to reflect this. The new (reduced) duration must still meet the minimum threshold of 12 months. At least 20% of the paid hours for the new (reduced) duration must be spent on off-the-job training.

23. For applicants other than those who have a current registration at first or second level with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), RPL of up to a maximum of 50% of the programme will be considered, provided all the requirements are met in full.

24. For applicants who have a current registration at first or second level with the NMC, without restrictions on their practice, unlimited RPL will be considered providing that all requirements are met in full.

25. For students requesting transfer from another institution, a transcript, reference, completed assessment of practice documentation and validated record of placement hours will be required. All applicants' past theory and practice learning will be mapped against the programme's modules.

PERIODS OF REGISTRATION

26. The programme is full-time over 2 years, comprising an equal balance of theory and practice learning that is no less than 2,300 hours.

27. The minimum and maximum period of registration for students recommended for a professional award, including periods for interruption and reassessment, together with credits transferred from another higher education institution or programme at the University, are as follows:

• 2 years minimum and 4 years' maximum for full time students;

MODULES

28. Students on this programme will not be able to choose starred modules.

ASSESSMENT

29. All assessments must be passed. This includes theoretical assessments and those involved in the assessment of practice.

30. Assessment of Practice will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

TIMING OF REASSESSMENT

31. An apprentice's first reassessment attempt must be taken in the next available timetabled assessment period, or, where permitted by the University, through in-year reassessment.

32. An apprentice's second reassessment attempt must be taken in the next available timetabled assessment period without attendance on the module, this can be during the same academic year as the two initial assessment attempts. Employers will not be charged for this second reassessment attempt.

COMPENSATION

33. The programme is excluded from University regulations regarding compensation.

34. There can be no compensation for failure in the assessment of practice and there can be no compensation between theory and practice. Students must pass successfully all elements of practice learning.

PROGRESSION

35. A student may only progress from one year or one part of the programme to the next on successful completion of the required practice assessment.

36. Apprentices are permitted to trail and progress up to a maximum of 40 credits related to theory assessment only. Apprentices are not permitted to trail and progress practice assessment.

37. The apprentice's employer, in consultation with the Higher Education Institute will confirm that the apprentice is eligible to progress to the end point assessment.

38. In order to progress to end point assessment, apprentices must meet the following criteria:

• Employer is satisfied the apprentice is consistently working at the level of the occupational standard.

• English/mathematics Level 2

• Completion of a Foundation Degree approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Council

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND CONDUCT

39. Students are required to make a formal declaration of good health and good character at the beginning of each year of the programme.

40. As a condition of a professional award, students must successfully meet the requirements concerning attendance and professional practice, together with the requirements of the regulatory bodies relating to student conduct, good health and good character. Potential breaches of professional conduct will be subject to the fitness to practise procedures for the Faculty.

EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

41. At least one External Examiner appointed to the programme must be appropriately experienced and qualified in the relevant area of practice and, unless other arrangements are agreed with the appropriate regulatory body, be from the relevant part of the Register.

CLASSIFICATION

42.Classification is based on the 80 credits from the core modules at Level 5 (excluding any pass/fail modules).

Version 1, approved by Academic Board, 22 July 2019

Version 2, approved by Academic Board 30 March 2020

Version 3, approved by Education Committee 28 October 2024