Introduction to Practice Nursing

This unique, funded training course equips those new to practice nursing with the core knowledge and skills needed in today’s busy general practice environment. It has been developed as the first stage of a three-stage pathway that links entry level with CPD through to advanced practice.

The course is available at four universities across Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Work-based learning is central to this initiative, supported by nurse mentors and primary care workforce tutors. Theoretical learning includes core competencies, complimented by personalised study days to meet the specific requirements of the learner’s role within their practice.

Competencies

Students can actively manage and shape their learning through a mixture of core and personalised competencies. Core content includes introductions to:

- The role and scope of the practice nurse
- Supporting people with long term conditions
- Public health, sexual health, immunisations and travel health
- First contact, triage and wound care
- Asthma, COPD, cardiac disease, diabetes and mental health
- Safeguarding adults and children
- Quality and risk management in contemporary health policy
- Legal, ethical and professional issues.

Learning and assessment

This one-year course offers 30 FHEQ credits at level 6 and comprises:

- **Introductory theory** - delivered through six campus-based study days with accompanying action learning sets.

- **Practical competencies** - through a practice portfolio.

- **Personal education** - the course is to be complemented by four days personalised study on topics agreed by the learner and their employer.

Students will be supported throughout the course by an experienced supervisor/practice nurse mentor and a primary care workforce tutor/nurse development lead based in each clinical commissioning group.

Assessment is through the clinical skills portfolio and a written case study.

Course dates

Courses start at the following universities from November 2014:

- University of Brighton
- Canterbury Christ Church University
- University of Greenwich
- University of Surrey

The course element is fully funded by Health Education Kent, Surrey and Sussex (HEKSS) for practice nurses working in the KSS region and includes a contribution towards the student’s travel expenses to the university. The personalised element will be funded through CCG’s CPD funding.
Key facts

Who is the course for?
The course is for NMC registered nurses who are employed in practice nursing but with less than six month’s worth of experience in general practice. It is aimed at those just entering practice nursing as a first career or as a change in career direction. Acceptance on the course is subject to meeting the eligibility criteria and course availability.

What if I have over six month’s experience?
Those who have been working in general practice for more than six months when the course commences will not be eligible. The practice nurse training pathway stages 2 and 3 are being developed to support career progression building on the individual’s previous knowledge and experience.

Do I already need to have a job?
As the course offers work-based learning, participants must be employed in general practice and have the support of their employer.

What do employers need to do?
Employers need only to commit to release the practice nurse for the total ten days for both components during the year and identify an experienced supervisor/mentor. CCG workforce tutors or nurse development leads will be able to help with this.

How was the course developed?
The course was commissioned by HEKSS to ensure the development of a well-trained practice nurse workforce with the skills and knowledge to meet the changing needs in primary care. It was developed by the four participating universities in consultation with subject experts in general practice, education and clinical commissioning groups.

For more information and to apply visit kss.hee.nhs.uk/pntraining

Or contact any of the participating universities:

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