Course overview

BSc/MSc Specialist Community Nursing
With this course you will develop and demonstrate specialist skills and knowledge in community nursing in the areas of:
- health needs assessment
- clinical practice
- care and programme management
- clinical practice leadership

You will learn about the strategies of working in partnership with patients and carers and evaluate current organisational and professional agendas that influence care delivery in primary healthcare settings. The main focus will be on contemporary multi-professional and multi-agency approaches to care.

In addition, you will be encouraged to develop participative leadership and management skills to ensure the delivery of quality care and professional standards in a commissioning environment. The course gives you the option to specialise in children’s nursing and district nursing.

You will combine on campus learning at the University with hands on experience in a practice environment, with an equal allocation of practice and theory hours. Teaching takes place in specialist groups and, in some modules, learning is shared with students from the BSc (Hons) Specialist Community and Public Health Nursing course.

Who is it for?
The course is suitable for all registered nurses who want to enhance their skills and advance their knowledge in community nursing in order to achieve registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council as a Specialist Community Nurse. Applicants are normally sponsored or seconded by a Primary Care organisation.

BSc/MSc Specialist Community Public Health Nursing
The Specialist Community Public Health Nursing course gives you the opportunity to develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills in public health nursing. It is designed to support professionals to establish skills and strategies necessary to promote health and well-being in partnership with individuals and groups in a variety of community settings.

During the course you will evaluate the current organisational and professional agendas that influence care delivery in primary healthcare and community settings. The modules that you study place emphasis on the development of leadership and management skills so that when you graduate you will be able to provide effective leadership within a mixed skill team and multi-agency work setting as well as to work proactively in a commissioning environment.

The course gives you the opportunity to gain specialist skills in two areas of community public health nursing: health visiting and school nursing.

You will combine on campus learning at the University with hands on experience in a practice environment, with an equal allocation of practice and theory hours. Teaching takes place in specialist groups and, in some modules, learning is shared with students on the Specialist Community Nursing programme.

Who is it for?
The course is suitable for all registered nurses who want to enhance their skills and advance their knowledge in public health nursing in order to achieve registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council as a Specialist Community Public Health Nurse.

Course structure

BSc/MSc Specialist Community Nursing
The Specialist Community Nursing course is modular in structure and enables the professional award to be achieved on completion of either a Bachelor’s degree BSc (Hons) or, Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip). Following the postgraduate diploma there is also the option of further study to achieve a Master’s degree (MSc in Specialist Community Nursing).

For each level of study you need to collect the following credits:
- BSc (Hons): 120 credits at level 6
- Postgraduate Diploma: 120 credits at level 7
- Master’s degree: 180 credits at level 7 (including a dissertation and research module)

Below is a list of modules and credits that you could choose to study:

**Modules:**
- Contemporary practice in community nursing (30 credits)
- Developing specialist community practice (15 credits)*
- Leadership and management (15 credits)
- Managing complex needs in the community (30 credits)
- Research and evidence-based practice (15 credits)
- Consolidating specialist community practice (15 credits)*

* For this module you need to have designated placement area working under the support and supervision of a qualified “sign-off” practice teacher.

Read more about the course and the modules on go.herts.ac.uk/scn

BSc/MSc Specialist Community Public Health Nursing
The Specialist Community Public Health Nursing course is modular in structure and gives you the option to study for three different types of awards – Bachelor’s degree BSc (Hons), Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) or Master’s degree (MSc). You can register as a Specialist Community Public Health Nurse when you complete the BSc (Hons) or PgDip awards. Postgraduate students then have the option of continuing their studies to achieve a full Master’s award.

For each level of study you need to collect the following credits:
- BSc (Hons): 120 credits at level 6
- Postgraduate Diploma: 120 credits at level 7
- Master’s degree: 180 credits at level 7 (including a dissertation and research module)

Below is a list of modules and credits that you could choose to study:

**Modules:**
- Public health: Policy, principles and practice (15 credits)
- Partnership working with families for health and well-being (15 credits)
- Promoting child and family health and well-being (15 credits)
- Universal public health practice* (15 credits)
- Leadership and managing public health practice (15 credits)
- Research and evidence-based public health practice (15 credits)
- Working with families in complex and challenging situations (15 credits)
- Consolidating public health practice* (15 credits)

* For this module you need to have designated placement area working under the support and supervision of a qualified “sign-off” practice teacher.

Read more about the course and the modules on go.herts.ac.uk/schpn
Entry requirements

BSc (Hons): applicants should have 120 academic credits at level 5 or equivalent (arrangements exist for the accreditation of prior certificated and/or experiential learning).

PgDip/MSc Award: applicants should have a first degree in a health related subject (excluding a specialist community degree leading to professional recognition as a specialist community practitioner).

All applicants are required to demonstrate effective registration on part 1 of the NMC register.

You also need to have access to an appropriate specialist community practice placement with a designated practice teacher for the duration of your studies on the course. This is normally provided through the sponsoring employer. If you are self-sponsored you are required to negotiate this with a Primary Care Organisation.

Study Options

BSc(Hons) option
• Full-time: one year
• Part-time: up to two years

PgDip option
• Full-time: one year
• Part-time: up to two years

MSc option
• Part-time: up to five years

Note: If you choose the MSc degree option you will need to complete the dissertation and research modules once working as a specialist practitioner.

Fees

The University is contracted by the NHS to provide post registration education/CPD and training for its health professionals. If you are an NHS employee contact the senior manager responsible for post registration education/CPD in your Trust to check if the course can be supported by the Trust’s contract with our University.

It may be possible to self-sponsor for the course, in which case you are required to negotiate access to an appropriate placement and qualified sign-off practice teacher before the University can consider your application.

How to apply

To apply for the courses you need to complete a University application form which can be found on go.herts.ac.uk/cpwdapply

You can also contact the Health CPD office on 01707 284956 or by email at cpdhealth@herts.ac.uk

Course enquiries

For further enquiries about the courses contact Theresa Titchener at t.m.titchener@herts.ac.uk

University of Hertfordshire

Hatfield
AL10 9AB

go.herts.ac.uk/hsw

Where will I study?

The course takes place at College Lane campus in Hatfield, just 25-minutes away from Central London by train. Luton airport and Stansted airport are just 40 minutes away.