

## **Frequently asked questions – pre-registration nursing**

### **What are the entry qualifications?**

We accept many different qualifications for entry to nursing. Here is a guide to some of the more common routes for entry.

#### **A Levels or BTEC National Diploma**

If you are doing A levels or a BTEC National Diploma course then we normally require a minimum of 300 UCAS points. Ideally, both BTEC and A level subjects should have relevance to nursing. We also look at your GCSE profile. It is a Nursing and Midwifery Council requirement that you have minimum of 5 GCSE's that include English or Welsh, Maths and IT passed at a grade C or higher.

#### **Access to Higher Education (Nursing/ Health and Social Care/ Public Services)**

If you are studying on an Access to Higher Education course, this must be related to nursing. You need to achieve your full Access qualification and we will consider students who have achieved a minimum of 45 credits at level 3; 6 of these credits to be at distinction, 33 at merit and 6 at pass.

#### **NVQ Level 3 in Health and Social Care**

If you are working in care and have achieved NVQ in Health and Social Care at level 3 you may currently be considered for entry but are advised that this route is under review and may not be available in the near future. You must also produce evidence that you have recently achieved qualifications in numeracy, information technology and English. These can either be at GCSE level and passed at grade C or higher or studied at Key Skills level 2. We also accept the ECDL as an IT qualification.

### **Are there any other requirements?**

We also look at your experience. We appreciate that if you are under 18 then you will not be able to secure a job as a health carer. We do though take into consideration your work experience that you undertake at school, any part time jobs, if you are involved in any groups such as a buddy scheme for bullying as an example.

If you are already working in health care, then this is ideal and we encourage you to stay working in this field. If you are changing your career, then we advise you to gain work experience in a care setting, but you may find if your qualifications are not relevant to nursing you may need to undertake the Access to Higher Education in a health related field where you may get the opportunity to engage with work experience as part of this course.

### **Is there a deadline for applications?**

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UCAS have a deadline for applying to university. This is usually at the end of the first week in January. We cannot guarantee that late applications will be processed.

## **Do I have to apply online or can I apply direct?**

You apply online using the UCAS website. Go to [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk) and follow the guidance there. If you are still unsure then please contact the Student Information Desk here at Glyndŵr University at [SID@glyndwr.ac.uk](mailto:SID@glyndwr.ac.uk) and they can help you. You can no longer apply as a direct applicant.

## **Do I have to be specific about which area of nursing I wish to join?**

Yes you do need to know which pathway you wish to follow. At Glyndŵr University we offer Adult Branch and Mental Health Branch at undergraduate level. We do expect you to have made your decision about which route you wish to follow prior to applying to the course. It is often difficult to change over to a different programme once you have commenced your nurse education on a specific pathway. Please research all areas of nursing prior to the application process.

## **How many times a year do the courses run?**

Currently the Adult Branch programme runs twice a year. We have an intake every March and September.

The Mental Health Branch programme runs once a year. The intake commences every September.

## **Will I be entitled to the Welsh Assembly Government NHS bursary and payment of tuition fees?**

If you are a UK National and meet residency rules (have home fees status) then you are entitled to the full tax free, non means tested bursary. Your tuition fees will be paid and you will receive 36 bursary payments to help support you throughout the three year course.

If you are a member of the European Union then you are not entitled to the bursary, but your tuition fees will be paid.

If you are an international student then you have to be assessed by our international office to establish if you have indefinite leave to remain in the UK and are eligible for 'home fees' status. If you have this status and have the correct VISA then you will be eligible for the non means tested bursary and payment of tuition fees. It must also be possible to check your criminal record status.

## **If I don't live in Wales am I still entitled to the Welsh Assembly Government bursary?**

Yes as long as you are a UK National or have home fees status.

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Academic Year: 2010-2011

## **Is there any other financial support for people who have dependants?**

If you have children or you are a carer then there are means tested top ups available for you to access. As each case is different we advise you to contact the universities [student funding and welfare service](#) (web address), email [studentwelfare@glyndwr.ac.uk](mailto:studentwelfare@glyndwr.ac.uk) or telephone 01978 293295 and they can provide you with a financial forecast.

## **Do I need to obtain Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) clearance?**

Yes - an enhanced CRB disclosure is required. This currently costs just below £70 and you must pay for it. You cannot commence any placements until we have received this back and it is clear.

## **I already have a current Criminal Records Bureau clearance with my employer do I still need to complete one with you?**

Yes you do. We need to be the holders of your CRB record whilst you undertake your nurse education. This is because in the event of a conviction the organisation holding the latest CRB details is informed directly. You are required to inform us immediately if there is any change in your CRB status whilst on the programme

## **I have a previous conviction; will this prevent me from becoming a nurse?**

Not necessarily. If you have a conviction then we advise you to get in touch with the university to discuss this with a member of staff. Ideally you need to do this before you apply or during the application process. Anything discussed will be confidential, but you will be able to establish if your conviction will prevent you from becoming a nurse or not.

Please contact Gill Campbell at [g.campbell@glyndwr.ac.uk](mailto:g.campbell@glyndwr.ac.uk)

## **How long is the course?**

The course is three years in duration.

## **Is it full time or part time?**

We currently only offer a full time programme. You cannot study as a part time undergraduate nursing student here. Each academic year is 42 weeks long leaving you with 10 weeks per year as holiday entitlement. These holidays are set by us for the full 3 years of the programme and cannot be changed. Each academic year is split into 3 blocks of 14 weeks that are divided equally between theory and practice. Please see sample year planner for a breakdown of the trimesters.

## **Where are the placements?**

Our placements cover the whole of North Wales so you can expect some travel which may not always be convenient due to the rural nature of the placement circuit. We use Ysbyty Gwynedd, Ysbyty Glan Clwyd and the Wrexham Maelor as the three main 'acute' district general hospitals with 'community' placements extending around them. We also have some Mental Health and Adult Branch placements in Powys.

However you will find though that the majority of your placements are arranged to be as close to your residence as possible, so if you live in Wrexham for instance then you will normally be placed at the Wrexham Maelor and surrounding areas. While every effort is made to do this there may be occasions when this is not possible and this may mean longer travel time to placement.

## **Do I need to have a car?**

No you don't. On commencement of the course you are asked if you are a driver or a non driver. This is then taken into consideration when placements are allocated.

## **Do I get travel costs to placements?**

Yes you do. If you drive then you receive a petrol allowance. If you are using public transport, you submit all receipts and are reimbursed your costs. Travel is not reimbursed when you are in university.

## **Do I have to provide my own uniform?**

No you don't. You are provided with your uniforms prior to the commencement of your first placement. You usually receive 2 pairs of trousers and 3 tunics which must last the duration of the programme. The Betsi Cadwalader University Health Board has a uniform policy for its staff and this adhered to by all students on the programme when in practice.

## **Do I have to work shifts when I am on placement?**

Yes you do. You are expected to follow the shift patterns of your mentor. You are expected to work a full working week of 37.5 hours, but how your shifts are allocated will depend on your mentor's off duty. You will be expected to work some weekends, bank holidays and nights. Examples of shift patterns are below (please note times are approximate):

Late: 12.30pm – 9pm

Early: 7.30am – 4pm

Long day: 7.30am – 9pm

Night: 8.45 – 7.45am

Placements that operate 9-5pm hours are with the Health Visitor, Outpatients Department and the District Nurse.

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## **I have a learning difference; will this prevent me from becoming a nurse?**

Not unless it would bring into question your fitness to practise as a nurse.

## **I have a medical condition; will this prevent me from becoming a nurse?**

Not necessarily. All candidates have to undertake Occupational Health Department clearance that involves completing a health questionnaire in the first instance. You may also be required to attend a medical examination to ensure you are medically fit to practise. If you do not pass this then you will not be able to commence nurse education as it is part of your condition of offer.

## **Will I need to be interviewed before I receive an offer of a place?**

Yes you will. All nursing candidates are interviewed by a panel of 2 to assess their suitability for nursing. All offers made at interview for the successful candidate are conditional on any outstanding academic results, your CRB, medical and 2 references.

## **What do I do if I am unsuccessful with my application?**

If you are unsuccessful at anytime in your application we would encourage you to contact the admissions team (Cathy Hewins-Jones and Peggy Murphy) for feedback. Contact details are: [c.hewinsjones@glyndwr.ac.uk](mailto:c.hewinsjones@glyndwr.ac.uk) and [p.murphy@glyndwr.ac.uk](mailto:p.murphy@glyndwr.ac.uk). However we do encourage students to seek advice throughout the application process from their current educational establishment.

## **Some useful links:**

Please find below some links to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) that can provide you with information about the professional nature of nursing and how nurse education is moving forward.

### **The Code: Standards of conduct, performance and ethics for nurses and midwives**

Please follow the link to the NMC's [Code of professional conduct for qualified nurses and midwives](#). Nursing is a regulated profession and all nurses must abide by the guidance set out in The Code.

### **& You; Helping you train to become a nurse or a midwife**

Please follow the link to the [NMC's code of professional conduct for student nurses and student midwives](#).

## **Nurse Education: Now and in the future**

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Please follow the link to the NMC's guidance on current [nurse education programmes and proposed changes for the future](#).

**Changes to pre-registration nursing programmes: FAQs**

Please follow the link for the NMC's [frequently asked questions](#) with regards changes to pre-registration nurse education.

**Standards of Proficiency for Pre-Registration Nursing Education**

Please follow the link for the NMC's guide to [standards for pre-registration nurse education](#).