Course Specification
Part A

Course Title: Nursing Associate FdSc

Course code: HLSFD053

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences
School of Nursing Midwifery & Health

Academic Year: 2020/21

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Information Directory (MID), student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

HLSFD053 Nursing Associate Course – Spec Part A 28022020
PART A Course Specification
NURSING ASSOCIATE FdSc

1. Introduction

The Nursing Associate foundation degree is an established course in the portfolio of high-quality nursing courses delivered within the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences at Coventry University.

The nursing associate role sits alongside existing roles such as nursing care support workers and registered nurses providing care in a range of settings and was created to bridge the gap between these existing roles. It offers an opportunity for progression to other nursing roles including that of a graduate nurse through progression onto a pre-registration course, therefore further enhancing career prospects.

Development of the healthcare workforce is pivotal and Coventry University prides itself on working closely with health and social care providers building the capacity and capability needed to deliver compassionate, high quality evidence-based care to a diverse population to meet their workforce needs.

The course prepares Nursing Associates for their role and meets a wide range of learning outcomes designed to meet the skills and knowledge requirements outlined in the Nursing Associate Standards of Proficiency set by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC 2018a). The course delivery meets both the NMC educational standards (NMC 2018b) and the NMC student supervision and support standards (NMC 2018c). On successful completion of the course, students can register with the NMC as a Nursing Associate.

The course uses a blended learning approach which sits well with the University’s 2021 Corporate Strategy to further develop areas such as blended learning with emphasis on cementing relationships between education and industry in recognition of the changing nature of the learning experience.

A distinctive feature of the course is the involvement of Service Users in every stage of the course from development and recruitment through to teaching, assessment and evaluation. In 2019, the programme was shortlisted for two awards, namely; the Nursing Times award for Nursing Associate Training Course Provider of the Year 2019 and a Health and Science Apprenticeship of the year award 2019, for which we were awarded 2nd place.

2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Award</th>
<th>Mode of attendance</th>
<th>UCAS Code</th>
<th>FHEQ Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FdSc Nursing Associate</td>
<td>Full Time Study 2 Year Course</td>
<td>UCAS code TBC</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate of Higher Education (fall back award)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Awarding Institution/Body

Coventry University.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4 Collaboration</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery | Coventry University main campus  
CU Scarborough  
Coventry University London |
| 6 Internal Approval/Review Dates | Date of approval: 12/2019  
Date for next review: Academic year 12/2028 |
| 7 Course Accredited by | Nursing and Midwifery Council |
| 8 Accreditation Date and Duration | NMC accreditation 5th February 2020, Indefinite approval. |
| 9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors | There are no Subject Benchmark Statements for Nursing Associate Courses.  
The Foundation Degree Characteristics Statements (QAA 2015) were central to the design and planned delivery of the course along with other key professional body standards, guidance and publications evidenced below.  
Public Health England (2017) Health Matters: giving every child the best start in life. Available at: [https://www.google.com/search?q=Health%3AMatters%3A+giving+every+child+the+best+start+in+life.&rlz=1C1GGRV_enGB809GB809&oq=Health%3AMatters%3A+giving+every+child+the+best+start+in+life.&aq=führsn=e05f781_10&sfvrsn=ea05f781_10](https://www.google.com/search?q=Health%3AMatters%3A+giving+every+child+the+best+start+in+life.&rlz=1C1GGRV_enGB809GB809&oq=Health%3AMatters%3A+giving+every+child+the+best+start+in+life.&aq=führsn=e05f781_10&sfvrsn=ea05f781_10) [28.08.19]  
12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course

The Nursing Associate Foundation Degree course aims to develop compassionate, competent and confident nursing associates at academic level 5 who are qualified to deliver a wide range of clinical skills and nursing care underpinned by a systematic knowledge base. The course has been designed to ensure that all of the Nursing and Midwifery Council Standards of Proficiency for Nursing Associates can be achieved and that students will be able to care for people of all ages and from different backgrounds, cultures and beliefs with excellent communication and interpersonal skills, demonstrating accountability for their practice.

Achievement of the aims of the course will ensure that nursing associate students have the qualities necessary for employment in situations requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making in keeping with the characteristic statements of the foundation degree graduate (QAA 2015). They will be able to undertake further education and training to develop existing skills and acquire new competence and/or qualifications such as that of registered nurse as recommended in the Shape of Caring report (HEE 2015).

13 Course Learning Outcomes

The Course Learning Outcomes are designed to meet the Standards of proficiency for nursing associates (NMC 2018). They are appropriately aligned with FHEQ Level 5 and QAA Benchmark statements for Foundation Degrees.

On successful completion of the course a student will be able to

1. Act in the best interest of people, putting them first and providing nursing care that is person-centred, safe and compassionate. Act professionally at all times and use their knowledge and experience to make evidence-based decisions and solve problems. They will recognise and work within the limits of their competence and are responsible for their actions.

2. Play a role in supporting people to improve and maintain their mental, physical, behavioural health and wellbeing. Be actively involved in the prevention of and protection against disease and ill health, and engage in public health, community development, and in the reduction of health inequalities.

3. Provide compassionate, safe and effective care and support to people in a range of care settings. Monitor the condition and health needs of people within their care on a continual basis in partnership with people, families, and carers and contribute to ongoing assessment and can recognise when it is necessary to refer to others for reassessment.

4. Communicate effectively across a wide range of channels and with a wide range of individuals, the public, health and social care professionals, maintaining the focus of communication on delivering...
and improving health and care services and will possess those inter-personal skills that promote clarity, compassion, empathy, respect and trust.

5. Explain the principles underpinning leadership frameworks and associated team-working and leadership competencies and will demonstrate a range of those competencies, attitudes and behaviours required of a Nursing Associate.

6. Contribute to the provision of care for people, including those with complex needs. Show understanding of the roles of a range of professionals and carers from other organisations and settings who may be participating in the care of a person and their family, and their responsibilities in relation to communication and collaboration.

14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

The Nursing Associate course structure complies with the Undergraduate Principles of Course Design. The course is exempt from the add+vantage module scheme. All modules within the course are mandatory with five modules in year one studied at level 4 (120 credits) and six modules in year two studied at level 5 (120 credits).

The course is a full time course timetabled over 40 weeks per year, which combines and integrates both academic and practice-based learning. Nursing Associate students will experience working and learning in a range of settings in order to appreciate health care in a wide variety of contexts. They will attend the University and undertake set learning activities and have clinical practice placements for the duration of the course. To meet the NMC Nursing Associate course requirements all 2,300 hours of the course are protected for learning and the course has an equal split of theory hours and practice hours. The course complies with Option A of the NMC Programme standards for nursing associate courses and students are supernumery in their practice placements and supported by a Practice Supervisor and Practice Assessor (NMC 2018c).

Students will be subject to the standard University disciplinary procedures and be expected to adhere to the policies and procedures in any Organisation where they have practice learning placements.

All modules are designed to ensure that on completion of the course the nursing associate student will be able to deliver a wide range of clinical care underpinned by a systematic knowledge base in a compassionate, competent and confident manner and meet all the requirements necessary to register as a nursing associate with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. The students on the course will have opportunities in the clinical setting to learn alongside pre-registration students from nursing and other disciplines. This will enhance the development of their team work, interpersonal skills and understanding of each other’s roles.

Cascade of Awards:

FdSc Nursing Associate
↓
Certificate of Higher Education

- All year one modules must be achieved in order to be awarded a fall back award of Certificate of Higher Education.
- Progression from level 4 to level 5 is in accordance with University regulations for undergraduate courses.
14.2 The following table enables a holistic view of the learning outcomes and how the modules contribute to these. Total credits are within the maximum per level of study and module sizes are as defined in the academic regulations. Modules within the course, their status (whether mandatory or options), the levels at which they are studied, and their credit value are identified.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Value</th>
<th>Mandatory/Optional</th>
<th>Course Learning Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>F4006FD</td>
<td>Introduction to Nursing Science</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>F4007FD</td>
<td>Foundation Skills for Nursing Care</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>2, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>F4008FD</td>
<td>Foundations in Communication and Professional Practice (practice based learning 1)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>F4009FD</td>
<td>Applied Nursing Science</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>2, 3, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>F4010FD</td>
<td>Promoting Health and Wellbeing and Preventing Ill Health (practice based learning 2)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>F5006FD</td>
<td>Therapeutic Approaches in Nursing Care</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>3, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>F5007FD</td>
<td>Evidence Based Nursing Practice</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>3, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>F5008FD</td>
<td>Providing and Monitoring Safe Care (practice based learning 3)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>1, 3, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>F5009FD</td>
<td>Supporting Learning and Assessment</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>1, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>F5010FD</td>
<td>Foundations in Legal and Ethical Aspects of Care</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>1, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>F5011FD</td>
<td>Effective Teamwork and Transition to Nursing Associate (practice based learning 4)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure

The entry requirements include GCSEs Grade A-C in Maths and English (grades 9-4 on new grading system) or equivalent such as functional skills level 2 in Maths and English or NARIC approved equivalent international qualifications. Other requirements include demonstrating an understanding of the role, intermediate digital literacy skills, an ability to study at diploma level with a commitment to completing a foundation degree course.

Applicants who are shortlisted will need to attend a selection event. Values based questions and activities are used to evidence the NHS Constitution values. A short numeracy and literacy test form part of the assessment process. Students will be expected to develop their numeracy, literacy and
digital literacy skills throughout the course. A satisfactory enhanced disclosure barring service (DBS) and Occupational Health assessment are requirements for entry to the course and for the duration of the course.

For students entering with advanced standing, the standard university Recognition Prior Learning (RPL) process will be followed. The maximum RPL of 50% will be in keeping with that permitted by the Nursing and Midwifery Council for students who want to register as nursing associate. The 50% restriction does not apply to applicants to pre-registration nursing associate courses who are currently an NMC registered nurse without restrictions on their practice.

16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment

This Course conforms to the standard University Academic Regulations Undergraduate Mode E

However, there is an exception to these regulations listed below

- Only one resit of a practice based learning module is permitted. This applies to Modules F4008FD, F4010FD, F5008FD, and F5011FD.
- A drugs calculation test needs to be passed at 100%

17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement

The Course is managed by the Nursing Board of Study of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

The Progression and Awards Board (PAB) for Nursing is responsible for considering the progress of all students and making awards in accordance with both the University and course-specific regulations.

The assurance of the quality of modules is the responsibility of the Boards of Study which contribute modules to the course.

External Examiners have the opportunity to moderate all assessment tasks and a sample of assessed work for each module. They will report annually on the course and/or constituent modules and their views are considered as part of the Course Quality Enhancement Monitoring (CQEM). Details of the CQEM process can be found on the Registry’s web site. External Examiners will be registered Nurses who are normally experienced academics in higher education.

Student views are sought through module and course evaluation questionnaires and are fed back to the Board of Study in the CQEM report.

18 Additional Information

Enrolled students have access to additional, key sources of information about the course and student support including,

Faculty/School Undergraduate Handbook – available on the Student Portal
Centre for Academic Writing
Moodle – online learning platform
Course Handbook – available on Moodle
Placement Handbook – available on Moodle
Module guides for each module
Moodle help guides
Module Information Directory
Module Resource lists
Study Support information
Student Support Centre
SIGMA (Mathematics support Centre)
References


