

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	Return to Practice (Nursing)
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
Credit Structure ²	20 credits
Mode of Attendance	Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	15 weeks part-time
Intended Award	Return to Practice (Nursing)
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	Previous registration with the NMC
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the Return to Practice (nursing) course. The information provided is accurate for students entering in the 2019-20 academic year.⁵

Course Summary

The national return to practice initiative for nurses and midwives commenced in 1999 following a Government initiative to encourage experienced staff no longer practising to return to work in the NHS. Current expectations of health and social care demand effective, responsive, collaborative, cost effective and accountable education for its workforce. The main objective of this course is to enable the nurse to renew registration and re-enter practice in compliance with the current standard outcomes (NMC standards. 03.06). The curriculum has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders, including field-specific practice partners across Norfolk and Suffolk.

The fundamental purpose of the course is to provide opportunities for the student to develop their knowledge base within contemporary healthcare in order to re-instate their registration with the NMC. There is recognition that learning and teaching must be client focused, practice led, student-centred and equitable. The student will be valued as an individual and respected for their previous knowledge and experience. They will be encouraged to analyse, to reflect upon and to share examples from their practice and to learn from those of others. The team believe it is important to develop a course to support the student's development and to mirror the philosophy of health and social care practitioners working in partnership in diverse settings. The course aims to encourage the student to adopt life-long learning strategies and to promote inquiry to enhance knowledge, skills and expertise pertinent to practice in the 21st century.

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Aims

To prepare Return to Practice Nurses for contemporary and evolving practice in the field of Adult, Mental Health or Child Health Nursing in populations with simple or complex needs.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students completing the Return to Practice (Nursing) will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).⁶

1. Manage self and others in practice in accordance with the NMC Code of Conduct and ethical, legal frameworks that ensure the primacy of service user interest, respecting wellbeing and human rights
2. Lead the delivery of innovative, evidence based practice within planned progressive and individualised care plans that generates new understanding of the theoretical foundations of nursing care
3. Show a critical appreciation of the principles of good governance in the management, leadership and development of care
4. Actively pursue a direction of personal, professional development that supports improvements in practice for self and other members of the multi-professional team
5. Achieve the NMC (2010) competencies for entry to the NMC register

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmark and Professional Standards:

QAA Benchmark:

- Nursing (2001)

Professional Standards:

- Nursing and Midwifery Standards for Education (2010)

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Structure

The Return to Practice (Nursing) Course comprises of one module at level 6.

The module specification is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 6			
	Return to Practice (Nursing)	20	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded 20 academic credits at level 6 and will be eligible to re-register with the NMC to enable them to practice as a Registered Nurse.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. It consists of one 20 credit module at level 6 delivered over 15 weeks. The course comprises of 12 study days (54 hours taught and 25 hours on a Virtual Learning Environment) with 150-375 practice hours, adjusted according to the length of time the student has been out of practice. The face to face contact hours will be a mixture of lectures, seminars, workshops and simulated skills sessions. Practice placements will be arranged by the University in conjunction with our local practice partners and students are expected to complete a minimum of 15 practice hours per week. In addition, students will normally be expected to undertake 5 hours of independent study on average per week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

In order to successfully complete the Return to Practice (Nursing) Course, the student must pass all components of the assessment process. The assessment consists of 2 parts:

1. Practice Assessment Document
2. Theoretical Assessment

Practice Assessment

The student is required to demonstrate successful completion of 100% of the essential skills at the appropriate level, as set out in the NMC standards for pre-registration nursing education (2010), to receive a pass grade in practice.

Theoretical Assessment

The student is encouraged to produce 3 short formative pieces of work which help to shape their summative assessment. The grade awarded for the summative assessment will be the overall grade for the theoretical component of the course and is commensurate with level 6. The essay will include the use of reflection to examine their professional and personal development. They will focus on a specific contemporary change in practice. Submission is in the final week of the course.

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute, and are registered with the UK Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Course Costs

Students undertaking Return to Practice (Nursing) may have tuition fees paid by NHS Health Education East of England.

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students may be required to pay additional costs for books, printing and other learning materials payable at a later date.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).