

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	PgD Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (Health Visiting)
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	Nursing and Midwifery Council
Credit Structure ²	120 Credits at level 7
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	PgD Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (Health Visiting)
Named Exit Awards	PgC Public Health Nursing Studies
Entry Requirements ⁴	Registered on Part 1 or 2 of NMC register Degree or equivalent
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the PgD Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (Health Visiting) course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2023-24 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The course has been developed in response to the growing need for practitioners to respond to the public health policy agenda and its requirement to develop knowledge, understanding and skills of Specialist Community Public Health Nursing and contemporary public health approaches to practice (PHE 2019). A requirement within this context of practice is for health care professionals to develop a comprehensive range of skills; develop and lead population and individual based public health services, tackle inequalities in health, prevent ill health and work in partnership with individuals, families and communities.

This programme enables any nurse or midwife, registered on either the Nursing or Midwifery parts of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) professional register, to qualify and practice as a Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (SCPHN) within the identified field of health

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 Taught Postgraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

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

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visiting. The educational preparation of the students is thorough and extends and builds on strengths gained from their initial registration and previous experience.

The content of the programme enables the achievement of the ten standards of proficiency for the safe and effective practice of the SCPHN (NMC, 2004). The achievement of these standards will be through a combination, and balance, of 50% theory/theoretical element and 50% experience in SCPHN-HV practice. As such it comprises practical and theoretical learning that is transferable to different settings, clients and areas of practice, addressing the common principles of community public health.

Course Aims

- Achieve recognition, proficiency and registration as a Specialist Community Public Health Nurse within an identified field of practice.
- Explore and analyse a range of theoretical concepts, perspectives, policies and evidence related to public health and to consider their application to specialist community public health practice.
- Engage in critical understanding and debate on the issues and factors associated with inequalities in health and the associated concepts of social justice, equity, social inclusion and exclusion and vulnerability and resilience.
- Critically appraise, analyse and apply relevant ethical, moral and legal theories and reasoning within the provision and development of specialist community public health nursing.
- Develop knowledge and skills in leading service delivery and development and innovation within public health nursing practice.
- Approach professional practice with empathy, compassion and resilience
- Critically analyse and explore the concepts of partnership and collaborative working in public health/specialist community public health nursing
- Critically reflect on their own public health skills and personal development, and develop reflective skills and practice whilst promoting a high level of autonomy and self-direction within a multi-disciplinary, multi-professional environment.
- Consider and manage the conflicting priorities, risks, complexities, ambiguities and uncertainties of specialist community public health nursing.
- Critically analyse opinion, assumptions, concepts and data to become effective and creative problem solvers.

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- Critically appraise and analyse relevant research in public health with an emphasis on their practice/professional context.
- Develop a range of intellectual skills reflecting the rigour required at masters level which will enable the continuation of their personal and professional development beyond the framework of the course.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the PgD Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (Health Visiting) course 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 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

On completion of the PgD in Specialist Community Public Health Nursing programme all students will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding, and cognitive skills

- Demonstrate enquiring, reflective, critical and innovative approaches to public health practice, improvement and leadership in a range of contexts.
- Critically evaluate the impact of public health policy and practice on the populations' health and wellbeing.
- Debate ethical, moral and legal issues and frameworks relevant to a range of public health issues and dilemmas faced by practitioners.
- Engage with colleagues to discuss and critically debate a variety of public health perspectives.
- Appreciate the importance of effective implementation and critical evaluation of public health strategies and improvement across a range of practice settings and diverse populations.

Subject specific skills

- Critically appraise ways in which public health and social policies impact upon the health and wellbeing of populations.
- Demonstrate critical awareness of the social, political and economic factors which influence service users experience of health care.
- Demonstrate a critical analysis of the key concepts and theories upon which their practice is predicated.
- Analyse the concepts of equity and discrimination within the context of public health.
- Utilise strategies which will assist with the integration of public health and specialist

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

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community public health nursing approaches in complex practice settings.

- Implement a range of public health/specialist community public health nursing strategies and activities which are effective across a range of practice settings.
- Appreciate and demonstrate effective appraisal and evaluation of public health/specialist community public health nursing approaches, strategies and provision.
- Appreciate a wide range of methodological approaches to evidence based public health and research
- Critically analyse relevant implications for partnership and collaborative working with clients, communities and partner organisations.
- Critically self evaluate and reflect upon their own identified field of professional practice.

Key/common skills

- Utilise and evaluate problem solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical settings.
- Demonstrate an ability to engage effectively in partnership working with clients, families, communities and stakeholders.
- Critically analyse, apply, interpret and evaluate the evidence underpinning their practice, and initiate change in practice.
- Demonstrate an ability to engage in complex arguments with a group in a competent and appropriate manner.
- Demonstrate self-reflectivity and an awareness of the need for continuing professional development.
- Maximise individual potential by acting as a role model and developing the public health potential of others, including consumers.
- Formulate strategies to develop their own lifelong learning and the practice of others.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards /Competency Frameworks:

For successful completion of the PgDin Specialist Community Public Health practice the student will need to have demonstrated achievement of both the theoretical and practical aspects of the Standards of proficiency for specialist community public health nurses (NMC 2004). In addition, the Public Health Knowledge Skills Framework (2019) together with the Institute of Health visiting (iHV 2018) recommended curriculum has guided the programme design.

Course Structure

The PgD Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (Health Visiting) comprises modules at level 7.

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Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 7			
	Promoting child and family health and wellbeing	20	M
	Partnership working and therapeutic interventions for child and family support	20	M
	Safeguarding Children and families in complex and challenging situations	20	M
	Public Health: Policy, Principles, Research and Evidence Based Practice	40	M
	Professional Practice and Development SCPHN	20	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a PgD Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (Health Visiting). Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a Post Graduate Certificate in Public Health Nursing Studies on successful completion of 60 credits excluding the practice requirements.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on PgD Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (Health Visiting) are likely to have 113 days in university based learning and 112 days in practice based learning. Placements will be arranged by the Employer. Students will normally be expected to undertake 7 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be consist of coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) one two hour exam and three practical assessments.

Special Features

On successful completion of the PgD Specialist Community Public Health Nursing-Health Visiting students are eligible for registration with the Nursing Midwifery Council on part 3 of the register with the NMC. This course is delivered in partnership with Suffolk County Council and Cambridgeshire Community Services (Norfolk)

Course Team

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

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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 NMC.

Course Costs

The Postgraduate Diploma Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (Health Visiting) is commissioned by Health Education East of England or contract funded.

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

Academic Framework and Regulations

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