

**MA/Post Graduate Diploma in Primary Care
For students entering in 2006**

Awarding Institution	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution	The University of Reading
Faculty	Economic and Social Sciences
Length: PG Dip and Professional Qualification	46 weeks (4 terms)
Masters Degree	3 years
Programme Director:	Lorly McClure
Board of Studies	BA/PGDip Primary Care
Accreditation:	The Nursing and Midwifery Council
Date of Specification:	September 2006

Summary of Programme Aims

This programme is intended to develop informed and critical practitioners with the potential to become effective leaders in their own field of specialist nursing and health visiting practice. Continuing personal and professional development will be promoted to enable students to attain higher level skills and knowledge required for the provision of quality care of individuals, families and communities.

As potential leaders in primary care practice, students will be provided with the knowledge and skills to enable them to initiate change and respond to a community and user led primary health care service.

Transferable skills

Students will be registered graduate nurses that will have a wide range of experience, skills, and academic achievements. Their learning needs will be individually identified and further developed to a higher level.

These will include leadership, interpersonal communication, presentation, collaboration and research skills, reflection in practice and critical analysis and synthesis. Throughout the course it is expected that students will be able to transfer these skills to their practice setting.

They will also have the opportunity to further extend their skills related to written and oral communication, information handling, numeracy, problem solving, team working, advocacy, information technology and career management. Other attributes will include the ability to be self regulated, innovative and to demonstrate creative approaches to practice.

They will be expected to appreciate and critically evaluate the contribution of research and scholarship to their professional practice, and to develop expertise in using the research process, and where appropriate undertake original research within the practice area.

Programme Content

MA/Post Graduate Diploma in Primary Care

This includes an English National Board (Nursing and Midwifery Council) community specialist practitioner qualification in Community Children's Nursing, Community Learning Disability Nursing, Community Mental Health Nursing, District Nursing, General Practice Nursing, Health Visiting and School Nursing.

Post Graduate Diploma

A 46-week programme consists of the following:

130 M or 140M (with 10 for Nurse Prescribing) credits + 60 H credits

Community Nursing Specialist Qualification

MA Degree

A three year programme to include:

PG Diploma as above + one year consolidation in practice + one year to complete a

Dissertation (HCML10) of 15 – 20,000 words = 60 M credits

All core modules and all specialist modules are compulsory. Students will select one of the seven specialist options to meet their professional educational need.

Core Modules	Credit	Level
HCMA01 Leadership in Health Care Practice (MP)	20	M
HCMA02 Policy and Practice in Primary Care Trusts (MP)	20	M
HCMA00 Public Health (MP)	20	M
HCMB00 Research (MP)	10	M
HC3C13 Legal and ethical frameworks (HP)	20	H
HC3C16 The Human Lifespan: development and adaptation within the family (HP)	20	H

Specialist Programme Modules	Credits	Level
HC3J0P Teaching, Learning and Assessment in Practice(HP)	20	H
HCML01 Community Nursing Specialist Practice Placement (MP)	20	M
HCML09 Community Nursing Supervised Practice(MP)	20	M

Students will choose ONE of the following options

HCML02 Community Children's Nursing (MP)	20	M
HCML03 Community Learning Disability Nursing (MP)	20	M
HCML04 Community Mental Health Nursing(MP)	20	M
*HCML05 District Nursing/Nurse Prescribing(MP)	20	M
HCML06 General Practice Nursing(MP)	20	M
*HCML07 Health Visiting/Nurse Prescribing(MP)	20	M
HCML08 School Nursing(MP)	20	M
**HC3QP Nurse Prescribing Mode One(HP)	10	H

(**A compulsory component of the above two modules*)

Progression Requirements

To proceed to Module HCML09 Community Nursing Supervised Practice, students must have passed Module HCML01 Community Nursing Practice Placement

To proceed from Post Graduate Diploma to Degree of Masters of Arts in Primary Care

After completion of the Postgraduate Diploma students will be required to consolidate their learning in community practice for one year prior to taking up the option to register for the Masters dissertation HCML10. This 15 – 20,000 word dissertation will focus on a topic related to community nursing that has been agreed with a programme tutor. This will normally be submitted within one calendar year after MA registration

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

Teaching throughout the programme is student centred and the professional knowledge and life experience contributed by the students will be valued and used to facilitate new learning. Teaching styles will normally be interactive encouraging discussion and reflection. All of the assessed work will be related to the students' file of professional practice, thus supporting the integration of theory to practice.

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark:	Interpretation:
70-100%	Distinction
60-69%	Merit
50-59%	Good standard (pass)

Failing categories:

40-49%	Work below threshold standard
0-39%	Unsatisfactory work

For Masters degrees

To pass the MA students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation *and have no mark below 40*. As this programme includes a professional award, students must normally achieve a pass in all modules as indicated in each of the module descriptions.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall including a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation will be eligible for a Merit.

For PG Diplomas

To pass the Postgraduate Diploma students must gain an average mark of 50 or more *and have no mark below 40*. As this programme includes a professional award, students must normally achieve a pass in all modules as indicated in each of the module descriptions.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more will be eligible for the award of a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more will be eligible for a Merit.

For PG Certificate

To pass the Postgraduate Certificate students must gain an average mark of 50 or more *and have no mark below 40.*

Admission Requirements

Students will be registered nurses and normally graduates with a degree appropriate to their area of specialist practice. The community nursing specialist practitioner programme will be available to nurses and midwives who are on the Professional Register of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). They will also be required to have had at least two years experience post qualification.

Nursing and Midwifery Council Standards for entry:

For entrance to the programme leading to qualification in Community children's nursing, Community learning disability nursing, Community mental health nursing, District nursing, General practice nursing, Health Visiting, and School Nursing, the requirement is to be registered on Part 1, and for health visiting only, Part 2 of the Nursing and Midwifery Council Register

Admissions Tutor Lorly McClure

Support for Students and their Learning

Student learning is supported by IT services which has several hundred computers, and by the library which across its three sites holds over a million volumes and subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals. The library also has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning ([S@IL](#)), computer-based teaching and learning facilities. A range of appropriate professional journals is available at the Bulmershe Library. There is also a special arrangement with several local hospital libraries, which are accessible to students with specialist interests.

Student guidance and welfare support is provided by personal tutors, the careers advisory service, the special Needs advisor, study skills advisor, hall wardens and Students Union.

Career Prospects

This Programme is available to a wide range of practitioners who wish to work in the primary health care setting.

Community Nursing Students undertaking this course will have been sponsored by local National Health Service Primary and Health Care trusts. Their career prospects are therefore excellent and the majority of students who have successfully qualified are initially employed as specialist community nurses and health visitors, many moving on to advanced practice.

Opportunity for Study abroad

There are no formal arrangements for exchanges but some students undertaking this programme have had the opportunity to undertake their short elective placement abroad. In the past students have been able to gain experience in places such as: the Republic of Ireland, Jersey, the United States of America, and Madagascar.

Educational aims of the programme

This programme is intended to develop informed and critical practitioners who are effective in their own field of specialist nursing or health visiting practice.

Continuing personal and professional development will be promoted to enable students to attain higher level skills and knowledge required for the provision of quality care of individuals, families and communities.

As potential innovators and proactive leaders in primary care and public health nursing, students will be provided with the knowledge and skills to enable them to initiate change and respond to a community and user led primary care nursing service

Although designed in the first instance to meet the needs of community nurses, This programme could, in the future, incorporate individual pathways to meet the professional development needs of other health related professionals, such as social workers, speech therapists and occupational therapists.

Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. Legal and ethical issues that arise in community nursing and health visiting practice
2. Theories underpinning leadership, change and quality improvement strategies within the National Health Service
3. Social policy and public health perspectives underpinning the process of addressing and assessing population health needs within an inequitable society
4. Theoretical perspectives informing the processes of human growth, development and decline and the diversity of human responses to adaptation and change
5. Different approaches to the research process in general and to research within their own field of community nursing and health visiting practice.
6. Educational theory as applied to teaching and learning in clinical practice
7. Where appropriate, a knowledge of pharmacology, diagnostics, and legal and ethical issues related to the prescription, supply and administration of medicines
8. How to conduct an original piece of research from literature search, ethical implications, methodology, data collection analysis and synthesis

Teaching/Learning Methods and strategies

The knowledge required is delineated through formal lectures, guided reading, student led seminars and group discussion. All theoretical knowledge is related to community nursing and health visiting practice through the use of theory /practice linking and discussion with personal tutors in college, and community practice educators in the practicum.

Assessment related to the Post Graduate Diploma and Professional Qualification

Details of this will be provided within each module specification. Overall, knowledge is tested through a combination of formative and summative coursework, examination, seminars and a major professional study

Assessment related to the Masters of Arts in Primary Care

A 15 – 20,000 word dissertation based on original research into a relevant practice issue to be submitted in year 3

Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyse and evaluate decision making in community nursing and health visiting from a legal and ethical point of view 2. Develop quality improvement initiatives and appropriate performance–improving strategies 3. Identify and address the health needs of individuals, families and communities, and critically evaluate current problems and new insights. 4. Demonstrate the ability to collect and critically analyse ethnographic data. 5. Critically evaluate current research, and evaluate research techniques and methods. Where appropriate identify an area of research and develop new hypotheses 6. Demonstrate the ability, through reflection, to formulate and achieve personal and professional learning outcomes 7. Creatively apply and integrate theoretical concepts in order to lead innovation and change within a relevant field of practice 	<p>Teaching/Learning methods and strategies</p> <p>It is expected that these skills will be learned and developed through guided discussion, both in the classroom and in practise through the process of reflection and contract learning.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>These outcomes will be assessed through course work and the practice portfolio, which includes a reflective journal and student centred learning contract.</p>
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<p>C. Practical skills – able to:</p> <p>Achieve the required competencies related to their community nursing and health visiting specialism. These are identified by the Nursing and Midwifery Council, and included within the Specialist Module specifications under the following general headings related to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clinical Nursing Practice 2. Care and Programme Management 3. Clinical Practice Leadership 4. Clinical Development to include the public health role <p>Use Information Technology in order to develop and inform</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Research based projects b) The assessment of individual, family and community health needs c) The management and communication of knowledge and information 	<p>Teaching/Learning methods and strategies</p> <p>These practical skills will be learned within the placements. Students’ identified and professional learning outcomes will be facilitated and assessed within a practice portfolio by approved community practice educators</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>These outcomes will be assessed through course work and the practice portfolio, which includes a reflective journal and student centred learning contract.</p>
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<p>D. Transferable skills – able to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Advanced written communication skills b) Oral presentation and teaching skills c) The ability to collaborate as part of a team within uni and multi speciality groups d) Advanced library and information retrieval skills e) Initiative and personal responsibility f) Effective decision making in complex and unpredictable circumstances g) Leadership in association with the implementation of innovation and change h) Independent learning to facilitate continuing professional development 	<p>Teaching/Learning methods and strategies</p> <p>All of these skills will be an integral part of the taught programme to include the teaching methods indicated above in AB&C</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>It is expected that these skills will be demonstrated as part of the assessment indicated above both in the college setting and in practice</p>
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Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.