

RETURN TO PRACTICE NURSING (RTP)

KEY INFORMATION FOR PRACTICE EDUCATION FACILITATORS AND MENTORS

Course overview

The RTP nursing course has been approved by the NMC for those requiring a RTP course to return to part one of the register. Nurses with lapsed registration on part one and three can undertake their practice requirements in public health nursing. It is not approved for midwives (part two) or for those with lapsed registration on part two and three. The 30 credit unit is offered at level 5 or 6, and is run 3 times a year: September, January and May. It is a flexible unit, depending on how long the nurse has been out of practice.

Time out of practice	Placement hours
Just misses PREP practice requirement to less than 5 years	80
Between 5-10 years	150

Time out of practice	Placement hours
Between 11-20 years	300
More than 20 years or never practiced with a PIN	450

Checks prior to commencing placement

The University undertakes an enhanced disclosure CRB and occupational health assessment, and checks previous registration with the NMC. Students cannot commence placement until all these are completed.

What the University provides

In addition to workshops on key policy and practice issues, students have input on manual handling, infection control, drug calculation and drug administration and CPR. Those on part three of the register (SCPHN) have a public health input. Attendance at these is evidenced in the practice assessment document.

What is expected in practice?

Students are required to be supported and assessed in practice by a **sign-off mentor**. The assessment of practice is based on the **NMC (2004) Standards of proficiency for pre-registration nursing education** (following NMC guidance that these can be used rather than the 2010 standards). Students returning to part three of the register will be assessed with the NMC (2004) Standards of proficiency for specialist community public health nurses, and these have been benchmarked against the pre-registration standards. Students with a previous community specialist practitioner qualification have the option of being assessed with the NMC (2001) standards for specialist education and practice, which meet the pre-registration standards. Students must be given the opportunities to address any identified gaps in their knowledge base, based on the above standards of proficiency. For nurses working in the acute setting their proficiency in the administration of medicines is assessed via a practice based assessment.

Length and nature of placement

The format of the placement should be negotiated between practice and the student, taking into consideration placement capacity. Students should be expected to work full shifts, but would not necessarily be expected to work night shifts or weekends unless this was mutually agreed. We strongly encourage students to complete at least 2 shifts together to ensure continuity of care and placement experience.

What are they allowed to do in practice?

Most RTP students do not have current NMC registration, and in effect should be treated like final year pre-registration students. They are unable to administer medicines without direct supervision, and are not able to hold the medicine keys.

What if the student requires more hours than stated?

Students should normally be expected to achieve proficiency within their placement hours, however a maximum of 40 extra hours can be negotiated between the sign-off mentor and student (with tutor input if required). Should competency not be achieved within these hours the University personal study tutor must be informed and documentation completed which illustrates that the student has been referred in practice. Process must have been followed which would allow discussion and action planning at the mid point of the placement to highlight any concerns and strategies for development.

What support do mentors and Practice Education Facilitators get?

1. The course leader or student's personal tutor will be happy to discuss the practice assessment document or any other concerns, with any Mentor or practice education facilitator. Please make contact by either phone or email.
2. A pod cast can be accessed on the faculty placement website and you tube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34WtlZ9BVS&feature=youtu.be> which demonstrates how to use the practice assessment document.
3. As mentors supporting RTP students are often quite isolated, we have set up an 'RTP mentor buddies' site which you can use as a forum to post questions or discuss experiences (anonymously) with other mentors in similar situations. This can be accessed through emailing c.gaddum@mmu.ac.uk to request entrance. This forum will be moderated by the programme lead and any inappropriate comments will be taken down. Confidentiality is required to be maintained at all times.

Other student requirements

Students are also required to complete a portfolio of evidence of 3375 words or equivalent which demonstrates that they meet the learning outcomes (see student and mentor handbook). This may take various forms such as a case study or a critical analysis of practice. While the student may discuss this with you, you are not obliged to offer academic advice. Students can seek academic support from their personal study tutor.

Further information

All mentors will be provided with a Student and Mentor handbook that provides more information about the course. An honorary contract is NOT required for RTP students based in the North West, as they are covered under the learning and development agreement with NHS NW.

In the case of any queries please contact the student's personal study tutor or Clare Gaddum the course leader at c.gaddum@mmu.ac.uk / 0161 2472527