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# Course Specification

Postgraduate Diploma  
Community Specialist  
Practitioner - District  
Nursing

Course Code: CSDDN

2020/21

For applicants/prospective students

**Postgraduate Material Information**  
**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

Version: July 2020

**Postgraduate Material Course Information**  
**Summary**

**Revised Course Structure and Delivery Information for Academic Year 2020/21  
in Response to Coronavirus Covid-19 and Associated Public Health England  
Guidance as at 3 July 2020**

**PART 1 of 2: Important General Information about Course Delivery for Leeds  
Beckett University Awards in 2020/21 (Information Specific to Your Course is  
Provided in PART 2)**

**Introduction**

This document contains important information about Leeds Beckett University's planned approach to course delivery and assessment in 2020/21. It provides an update to the information previously available in our online prospectus. You should read this document carefully so that you are aware of any changes that affect your course.

The University is informed by Public Health England (PHE) Covid-19 advice and guidance for maintaining a Covid-secure learning and working environment. We have made arrangements to continue to provide a high-quality educational experience in a way that protects the safety and wellbeing of both students and staff. We are engaging closely with Leeds Beckett Students' Union to inform the arrangements and will also be informed by feedback provided by our individual students.

Public Health England guidance continues to evolve, so the arrangements for delivery of your course and use of the campus may need to change during the academic year to continue to protect students and staff.

The taught content advertised at each level of study, or its equivalent, will be delivered across the academic year 2020/21. We have identified an appropriate mix of blended learning - a mix of face-to-face, on-campus, online and digital content and teaching and learning for each subject, reflecting what will maximise learning as well as supporting more vulnerable learners and enabling the university as a whole to minimise transmission risk.

Covid-19 social distancing measures will be implemented during 2020/21 for teaching, learning, assessment and student support.

In the event of further government lockdowns, either local or national, we will prioritise digital and online learning and support to enable students to continue with their studies.

If there is an easing of Covid-19 restrictions, we will continue to provide blended delivery for teaching block 1 or semester 1 in 2020/21. We will keep teaching blocks 2 and 3 or semester 2 under review, informed by Public Health England advice. We may revert to different proportions of on-campus learning and online learning delivery later in the academic calendar year or a later teaching block. Learning will remain accessible for students who are unable to attend on campus sessions.

## **How we will communicate with you**

We have sent information to applicants who have accepted an offer by email on the plans for delivery of your course in 2020/21, the academic calendar (teaching block delivery or alternative) applicable for your course and on the options available to you as a prospective student, to enable you to make informed choices.

As the situation evolves, further information on local course delivery arrangements will be provided to you in emails from your School and via the School.

In addition to the course specific information set out in this document and the above communications, the University's Covid-19 microsite contains information for students and applicants, including information relating to University accommodation and University facilities and services. The Covid-19 microsite is regularly reviewed and updated as the situation, advice and planning evolve and is available at: [www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/COVID19/#tabplaceholder2](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/COVID19/#tabplaceholder2)

## **Key terms and conditions**

Further important information for applicants and students is available on our web site:

[www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/information-for-applicants-and-students/](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/information-for-applicants-and-students/)

This includes information about the student contract, fees and funding, your rights of cancellation, the student protection plan and the University complaints process. It is essential that you read the information on this webpage carefully as it sets out the rights and obligations that will form the contract between you and the University upon accepting an offer and information about how to make a complaint.

## **Start dates**

*NB: This course has a non-standard academic calendar, more details in part two.*

Our academic year will begin at the normal time. Start dates will be notified to direct applicants via their offer letter or for UCAS applicants, via UCAS Track. The length of the course is confirmed in the information about your course in Part 2 of this document below.

## Location of delivery

In academic year 2020/21, it is planned that your course will be delivered via a blend of online and digital learning and on-campus teaching and learning, with the necessary Covid-19 social distancing and other measures in place on campus informed by Public Health England advice and guidance.

Information on how blended teaching and learning will be delivered and the location of any on-campus delivery is provided in a subsequent section of this document entitled '**Teaching and Learning Activities**'.

Information on the delivery of placements and other off-campus learning opportunities is provided in a subsequent section of this document entitled '**Placements and Other Off-Campus Learning Opportunities**'.

## Course Fees

Your course fee is stated in your offer letter. The course fee published for 2020/21 on the University's Online Prospectus and included in your offer letter has not changed. Other additional costs remain as published on our original Online Prospectus information in addition to the areas of costs outlined below.

The course will be delivered via a blended approach that includes online teaching and learning, digital learning and on campus sessions. If a further lockdown is necessary then delivery will be continued and supported via online and digital learning. Students are advised that they will need a personal digital device for this purpose. The University's wide range of student support services available for students also includes a laptop loans scheme. Students may wish to bring an existing personal device or purchase or lease a laptop or similar device for their personal use which would be an additional cost. The costs of this would vary depending on your individual requirements but can be in the region of £400-800 depending on the device.

The University is developing a means-tested Covid-19 Financial Assistance Package to support students to acquire a laptop should this be needed. Students may also apply for a living expenses fund for unexpected personal hardship as a result of the Covid-19 Crisis.

Students will need to follow the Public Health England advice and any specific national requirements for maintaining personal safety and hygiene to protect themselves and others from the Covid-19 risks. These personal safety measures such as the wearing of face coverings will be an additional cost that students need to consider.

Where PPE (personal protective equipment) is an essential requirement for the nature of the course you are undertaking this will be detailed below.

## Timetable Information

*NB: This course has a non-standard academic calendar, more details in part two.*

This course will be scheduled using a semester-based delivery which will be specified in timetable information.

The academic year 2020/21 will start on the dates notified to you.

Taught sessions will normally be scheduled and included in your timetable. This will include on-campus sessions that you should attend. In 2020/21, depending on your course, this may also include scheduled online teaching and learning sessions where student engagement is required at a specified time and tutor pre-recorded lectures and scheduled discussion sessions. Module information will be made available online by the school for enrolled students.

Timetables will be made available to students during induction week via:

- The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- The Leeds Beckett app

You should discuss any difficulties relating to your engagement with timetabled sessions with your Course Administrator.

## **Policies, Standards and Regulations** [www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/public-information](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/public-information)

Covid-19 social distancing measures will be in place for teaching, learning, assessment and student support in 2020/21. This means that there will be operational requirements and protocols in place for the way in which your course is delivered and the way in which University activities, facilities, and spaces operate which students and staff will need to follow.

In the event of further government lockdowns either local or national in response to Covid-19, we will prioritise digital and online learning and support to enable students to continue with their studies. We may need to implement approved emergency Covid-19 pandemic academic regulations to take account of the impact of Covid-19 general extenuating circumstances.

## **Placements and Other Off-Campus Learning Opportunities**

Covid-19 response measures are likely to impact on the arrangements for placements, field trips, volunteering and other off-campus activities. If available, these are likely to operate with appropriate social distancing arrangements. Employers may reduce the availability of placement or volunteering opportunities due to the impact of Covid-19 on their operations.

The availability or type of placements with employers, study abroad or volunteering opportunities, may be restricted. The University follows the UK Government's Foreign and Commonwealth travel advice and is also informed by any specific in-country international travel restrictions or requirements.

The University's current position is that we will not facilitate outward (from UK) international/overseas placements, study abroad or volunteering activity in 2020/21. This is to protect students and minimise the risk of you being stranded abroad in the event of a lockdown and the introduction of national/local travel restrictions. We will only consider international placements for students whose domicile address is in the country of their placement.

Inward Exchange study (from other EU countries to the UK under this scheme) will be supported where these align with the teaching blocks academic calendar delivery dates. There may be other national or international travel restrictions or quarantine measures or specific work-place Covid-19 measures that impact on these opportunities.

Should the Covid-19 response and alert level be amended any activity may also be subject to Covid-19 employer, local or in-country requirements applicable at the time of the placement/activity. We will keep the position under review for teaching blocks 2 and 3 or semester 2, informed by Public Health England and the UK Government's Foreign and Commonwealth travel advice.

Students will have access to advice and support from the University careers and employability team during their studies via the online resources and support.

Further information on placements or other off-campus learning opportunities applicable to your course is provided below.

## **Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course**

We will prioritise face-to-face teaching and practical teaching to meet any requirements of relevant professional, statutory and regulatory bodies if your course includes these elements. This will ensure that your course retains its full professional status.

Specific information on applicable professional statutory or regulatory body recognition or requirements for your course is summarised below.

## Teaching and Learning Activities

The way we will deliver this course and teaching, learning and assessment activities in 2020/21 will be informed by Public Health England advice and guidance on Covid-19 secure requirements and the need for social distancing for the protection of students and staff.

You will experience a blended approach to learning for 2020/21; this is a mix of face-to-face, on campus online, and digital content, teaching and learning.

We are working within the government two metre social distancing measures for teaching block 1 or semester 1 so we are not planning to deliver large-group teaching on campus throughout 2020/2021. This will ensure that maximum space will be available for small-group teaching.

In most cases, the taught content will also be available online so you can still access it if you are not able to attend campus due to the pandemic (for example, due to self-isolation, shielding or travel restrictions).

There will be digital content and recorded lectures available online to support students who may be unable to travel to campus. In some circumstances, other formal taught sessions may also be recorded.

In the event of a further government lockdown in response to Covid-19, we will prioritise digital and online learning and support to enable students to continue with their studies and study towards achieving any specified professional statutory and regulatory body accreditation requirements where this applies.

If there is an easing of Covid-19 restrictions, we will continue to provide blended delivery for teaching block 1 or semester 1 in 2020/21. We will keep teaching blocks 2 and 3 or semester 2 under review, informed by Public Health England advice (see Introduction section above).

Further information on local course delivery arrangements will continue to be available from your School and via the School.

Students will be kept up to date with new information when this is available via this University web site.

## Learning Support

### Our approach to delivering student support in 2020/21

Given the planned social distancing measures in place on campus for 2020/21 to ensure safe delivery of services for students and staff, some of the arrangements for student support will be accessible online.

We are committed to ensuring you continue to have opportunities to access the learning and wellbeing support that you need over the forthcoming year. General learning spaces, including access to libraries, will be available to be booked online; and where specialist space is needed, this will either be provided: as normal; created in newly adapted spaces; or replicated as part of an enhanced suite of online resources.

We want to provide a safe environment for students and staff, so on-campus delivery of student support services will be limited. This may mean that campus-based school offices will operate within defined core office hours. However, full access to advice, learning support and specialist services will be delivered via telephone, email, video calls and online live chat. The Students' Union will also be implementing social distancing arrangements for student advice services.

### **Access to Library support in 2020/21**

The Library offers access to thousands of resources via MyBeckett or the Library web site which also provides full details of all our services <http://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/home>

In response to Covid-19, and the need for social distancing for the protection of students and staff, the libraries will be available via a booking system in 2020/21 for students to study, access PCs and laptops, printer/copiers, and other equipment, and to use the books and journals.

The Library and Student IT Advice Service is available by online chat, email or phone, and provides support on using the University's online and digital services, finding information, borrowing, Office 365, MyBeckett, online meetings, saving your work, passwords, etc:

- online, including 24/7 chat: [http://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/contact\\_us](http://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/contact_us)
- by phone 0113 812 1000 (24/7 IT support)

The Library Academic Support team can help you develop your academic skills such as critical thinking, academic writing and analysing data, and research skills such as how to find, use and evaluate information for your studies. The team liaises with your lecturers to provide the information resources you need for your subject and to arrange academic skills sessions to support you in your studies. They also have a wide range of short tutorials available on the Library's YouTube channel:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCFFd5u75zmy00EnkM9F2zPQ](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFFd5u75zmy00EnkM9F2zPQ)

### **Support from your School**

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to university specialist support services as appropriate. They can also arrange for a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript on your behalf. You may also like to contact your Course Representative or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course related questions.

### **Student Advice and Support**

If you have any questions about life at our University in general, you may contact the Student Advice Hub to speak to one of our Student Services Advisers. This team, consisting of recent graduates, are able to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services and opportunities our University provides.



Our Student Advice Hub will be operating via live chat, video, telephone and email services. Telephone lines - 0113 812 3000 - will open as usual 09.00-17.00 Monday-Friday. You can book an appointment via telephone or online video chat with an adviser via the link at: [www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/student-experience-team/](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/student-experience-team/). This is where contact details for all specialist support services can also be found. You can also email the team at [studentadvicehub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:studentadvicehub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

### **Range of Support Services Available**

There is a range of support for disabled or vulnerable students. Any student with a disability, who may or may not have declared this to the University and wishes to discuss their learning support for the year ahead or their status as a Covid-19 extremely vulnerable person, should contact their Disability Adviser for their School who is based in Student Services to discuss their support needs in the first instance. The service contact details are [disabilityadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:disabilityadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) or telephone 0113 812 5831. Students who are classed at Covid-19 Extremely Vulnerable (i.e. you have received a Shielding Letter from the NHS) but who do not regard themselves as disabled, and have not registered with the Disability team, should discuss any support arrangements they may need, directly with their Course Director and if resident in halls, their Residential Life team.

Once enrolled, you will have access to our virtual learning environment, MyBeckett. Within this system you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The Support tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration. The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.

You can also access details of all University student support teams at our web A-Z of Services. This can be found at [www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/student-support/](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/student-support/). Here you can obtain further information including service contact details, access self-help resources or book an appointment with a range of support services.

In order to provide you with information on student services support in 2020/21 in response to the changing Covid-19 position, updated information will be provided on our University Covid-19 microsite.

## **PART 2: Important Information Specific to Postgraduate Diploma Community Specialist Practitioner - District Nursing for 2020/21**

<b>Award</b>	Postgraduate Diploma Community Specialist Practitioner - District Nursing
<b>Contained Awards</b>	Postgraduate Certificate Health Related Studies
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of Qualification and Credits</b>	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 120 credit points at level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework

### **Course Lengths and Standard Timescales**

The start date for induction week is below and additionally will be notified to the students via the offer letter.

- 1 year (full time, campus based)  
Starts 14 September 2020/ Ends August 2021
- 2 years (part time, campus based)  
Starts 14 September 2020/ Ends August 22

**For more information about part-time delivery contact your school**

The course is delivered over 52/104 weeks. This course is scheduled using a non-standard academic calendar and non-standard semester dates. The 2020/21 non-standard academic calendar is available from your Course Administrator and is in your Course Handbook.

### **Timetable Information**

This course will be taught via semester-based delivery. Details of on-campus and other scheduled sessions will be confirmed in your timetable.

Further information on learning and teaching activities and your modules is provided in a later section of this document.

### **Work Placements and Other Off-Campus Learning Opportunities**

**Summary:** This course is delivered in collaboration with healthcare employers, usually the NHS. As an NMC approved course, 50% of time is spent in the practice placement, in order to bridge the theory/practice gap and to allow for experiential learning. As a postgraduate, students take the lead in their own learning. The e-portfolio facilitates this process acting as a guide to developing action plans and in self-assessment tasks. The outcome is that all students must evidence, through practice, the meeting of the NMC standards. Each module assessment also is rooted in practice learning and is based upon a work-based project. It is a requirement that all students are supernumerary to the staff establishment for practice-based learning.

**Length:** The overall course is 52 weeks (pro-rata), and of this 45 weeks are programmed, with the remaining 7 weeks taken as leave. These are clearly detailed on the annual course calendar that is provided prior to the commencement of each course. To maintain the theory/practice 50% ratio, the expectation is that full-time students allocate their time as:

- Two days per week in practice placement when they also have two days a week in University.
- Spend up to 15 days in 'alternative practice'.
- Complete a ten week 'consolidation of practice' placement at the end of the course.

Part-time students complete the above pro-rata.

**Location:** Placements are provided by the student's employer.

## **Policies, Standards and Regulations** [www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/public-information](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/public-information)

The course follows the Academic Regulations except where noted below.

This course is subject to the Fitness to Practise Policy & Procedure.

<http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/public-information/student-regulations/>

*Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):* Students with the Community Practitioner Nurse Prescribing V150 NMC qualification or with the V300 Nurse independent/supplementary prescriber NMC qualification (named Non-Medical Prescribing at Leeds Beckett) can apply for and claim RPL for part of the Professional Development in Practice module and can be exempt from the prescribing assessment in this module (V100) if they show evidence of their NMC prescribing qualification and their continued use and CPD in prescribing.

*Requests for credit transfer (RPL):* In order to comply with Nursing and Midwifery Council standards (NMC, 2004), credit transfer can only be for a maximum of one third of the course.

### *All assessments to be passed and pass/fail assessments*

- All components of assessments must be passed at 40% or a pass for pass/fail marking to pass a module. All components of assessment and all modules must be passed to achieve the award.

### *Prescribing exam, Professional Development in Practice module*

- For the Prescribing exam, students must pass all numeracy questions (100% pass mark), plus 80% pass mark overall, with a final mark of pass/fail.
- For the Prescribing exam, students are given 2 opportunities for re-assessment for this component only in view of the pass mark required.
- For students required to repeat the module after failing 3 times the Prescribing exam component only, student are only required to repeat this component and are not required to repeat any other component.

*Mid-point assessment for practice:* There is a summative assessment of practice midway through the course (in module, Professional Development in Practice). The student's Practice Assessor in practice is responsible for assessing this and signs the Confirmation of Student Progression (at the end of semester 1 for full time students or at the end of semester 2 for part time students). If a student does not pass the mid-point assessment in practice and then fails to meet the requirements set in order to retrieve this failed assessment,

this will be reported to the Board of Examiners prior to the student attempting to complete the level. This may mean that the student cannot repeat the practice placement if a new placement cannot be secured. The student would then receive a 'withdraw' not 'repeat' decision.

*Contained award:* Students are eligible for the contained award PG Cert Health Related Studies for the attainment of a minimum of 60 credits at L7 from any of the modules of the target award. If the module has a pass/fail assessment, this will need to be passed, in order to evidence that the student has achieved the required profile for the award.

*Achievement of credit:* The Professional Development in Practice module is linked to the NMC placement requirements of the course (minimum 112.5 days) which includes 15 days alternative placement and 50 days consolidation of practice. This practice time also includes supervision for integrated nurse prescribing. The practice requirement is calculated to be 844 hours of work based learning (practice hours), which have been added to the Learning and Teaching activities. This 20 credit module's 200 notional hours have therefore been exceeded and total 888 hours.

*Attendance monitoring:* Students need to meet and evidence meeting NMC requirements for practice and learning. Attendance monitoring is a requirement of the NMC or employers funding the course. 100% attendance is expected in both University (scheduled online sessions and face-to-face) and in the practice environment. The year planner demonstrates the NMC standard for approved courses maintaining a 50% theory and 50% practice split of student time. Course Leaders will act if they detect any issues relating to attendance requirements not meeting the NMC standards. This may be in the form of support from Services for Students, or where appropriate, using the fitness to practise process. In either case, the University is obliged to communicate with employers regarding student attendance.

## Your Key Contacts

**Course Director:** Paul Mackreth  
**Academic Adviser:** Paul Mackreth  
**Course Administrator:** Sarah Holstead [s.holstead@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:s.holstead@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

**Professional Body:** Nursing and Midwifery Council

**Accreditation/ Recognition Summary:** The course is recognised by the NMC for the purpose of annotating the registration of a qualified nurse with the title of Specialist Practitioner District Nurse and Community Practitioner Prescriber.

The NMC's current Covid-19 information for students is available here:

[www.nmc.org.uk/news/coronavirus/information-for-students-and-educators/](http://www.nmc.org.uk/news/coronavirus/information-for-students-and-educators/)

## Course Overview

### Aims

This is a course for registered nurses (Adult field of nursing) who wish to specialise within an area of Community Practice, District Nursing. Students will have consolidated their pre-registration nursing outcomes and gained a deeper understanding in relevant professional practice prior to joining the course. This is a postgraduate course that enables graduates to record on their NMC register the title of Specialist Practitioner in District Nursing (NMC 2001) and V100 Community Practitioner Nurse Prescribing (NMC 2006). Obtaining these professional qualifications allow for enhanced employment opportunities as a Specialist in community nursing practice. As such the course is rooted in facilitating the achievement of meeting NMC Standards (2001 and 2006) for safe and effective Specialist Practice. The course framework therefore adheres to these standards that are used as a basis for assessment of practice, grouped into four domains: clinical practice; care and programme management; clinical practice leadership; and clinical practice development.

Specialist Practitioners need to learn the skills required to be responsive to both individuals and population groups. These include providing an all-embracing community-wide perspective of needs, forming multi-agency perspectives and the ability to lead and manage teams of nurses within their communities. Inevitably this should also include influencing the commissioning and procurement of services and monitoring/evaluating outcomes to ensure sustainability of resources. The course therefore prepares the practitioner to build upon alliances with a range of people and groups, such as individuals with health needs, families, communities, national and local governments, education providers, business and industry, voluntary, faith and charitable organisations. The overall aim is to improve the health of the people within communities through addressing health inequality and social injustice. This can only be done through integrated working and through dialogue.

Common core modules, shared across health disciplines, enable students to acquire greater understanding of each other's roles, shared challenges and opportunities to identify and respond to health needs collaboratively. Specialist focus modules enable students to explore the nuances of their chosen field of practice.

### Course Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, successful students are able to:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding and application of skills, knowledge and abilities to make a valuable contribution to improving community health and wellbeing.
- Lead, manage and influence service improvement that is underpinned by theory and reflexive recognition of the context in delivering a range of primary and community services.
- Critically evaluate the breadth of the Specialist role and examine the scope for safe innovative care and effective practice.
- Synthesise new knowledge into practice in order to achieve NMC (2001 and 2006) standards for practice.
- Be able to deal with complex issues systematically and creatively to make sound and safe decisions.
- Demonstrate personal responsibility and a higher level (NMC, 2001) of professional accountability.

## Teaching and Learning Activities and Your Modules

2020/21 location of delivery: blended delivery - online and City Campus

Also see: [Leedsbeckett.ac.uk HCS2020Teaching](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk/HCS2020Teaching)

It is currently planned for 2020-21 that the induction and lectures and seminars will be delivered online. Any clinical sessions on campus will be taught in PPE, provided by the School. This delivery will be kept under review for the remainder of the year and students will be informed of changes as soon as possible.

For semester 1 delivery, we are planning that lectures will be delivered as timetabled in module handbooks, delivered synchronously. Full use of MyBeckett (virtual learning environment) will be used to support online delivery. Students will be offered tutorials via telephone, Skype, MS Teams or if requested, will be provided face-to-face on campus.

Access to a personal digital device to enable participation in digital and online learning, teaching and assessment is essential (see part one, Course fees section for more details). Online delivery may use a variety of platforms including Skype for Business and MS Teams. Other platforms may be used for specific activities. Support is available from the University to enable you to use platforms or software that you are unfamiliar with; you can download Microsoft Office onto your device by logging into your Office 365 portal from the IT tab on [MyBeckett](#) and you can obtain IT Support here: [https://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/it\\_support](https://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/it_support). Online assessments may require you to download software prior to the exams and this will usually require up-to-date operating systems. You will receive guidance on managing your independent study hours for each module undertaken.

Mid-career study is an opportunity to stand back and reflect upon approaches to nursing practice. To facilitate the transition between busy day to day nursing practice and formal postgraduate study a one week induction programme is offered. This assists in the orientation of online systems and the campus, allows time for the student registration process, provides opportunities to create and form groups and is the commencement of course, professional and University relationships. . Delivery of the course is blended, with face-to-face and online activities.

### *Experiential learning in developing specialist practice*

Assessment, learning and teaching activities embrace a student-centred philosophy and are designed around the principles of progressive lifelong learning and the development of [postgraduate skills](#). Students enter their course as experienced 'expert' nurses and then become 'novices' in their journey in meeting their new standards for specialist nursing practice (Benner 1982; NMC, 2001 and 2006). They form a strong professional and course identity in working as a peer group in classroom based and work-based tasks. This process is facilitated by a Course Leader/ Personal Tutor who is a specialist in the field of practice, together with a practice-based Practice Assessor. One of the first tasks students and the course team undertake is the formation of the tripartite relationship between these three agencies. This supports the one to one recognition of a student's individual learning needs together with their learning strengths. The tripartite relationship is supported by the e-portfolio which provides a means by which students can share and develop their reflective work with tutors and Practice Assessor.

### *Modular learning*

Modular learning and assessment are rooted in work-based discussion and the development of work-based projects. These are designed to bridge the theory/practice gap. The course team divides modules between 'core' (that all community nursing students undertake) and 'specialist' (that specifically focus on one chosen field of practice), and there are no elective modules. Modular learning develops in-depth knowledge and an understanding of shared challenges in practice. This in turn leads to increased respect for the role of other health and community care practitioners, working in diverse long term care and public health settings, promoting improved inter-professional co-operation.

Modules are purposely delivered to ensure that, by the end of the course, students produce for assessment a document that clearly evidences the meeting of NMC standards for specialist practice (2001 and 2006): the PebblePad e-portfolio. Each module challenges students to complete tasks and activities via lectures, seminars, simulated learning, and pre/post-classroom activities. The specific activities depend on modules undertaken, but artefacts and evidence from these sessions can be used in the e-portfolio. Throughout the course there is a focus on encouraging increasing independence and advancing academic skills, and the e-portfolio is central to this process as it allows for student self-assessment, planning of learning, the production of evidence to meet learning plans and ultimately their ability to confirm that they, under the supervision and assessment of a Practice Assessor, have met their own learning plans. At the end of the course, students are provided with ongoing alumni-access to their e-portfolio and its contents on a 'free for life' basis allowing them to continue to use it for ongoing Continuing Professional Development and to support NMC professional revalidation processes for nurses.

### **Clinical Skills Suite**

In order that the Clinical Skills Suite can be used safely, some extra health and safety rules have been put in place. Students must self-assess prior to coming on campus for each session and must not attend if unwell; students must comply with the risk assessment guidance; and students must sign in and out of the Suite to ensure contract tracing is possible, if necessary. The course team will ensure continued risk assessment/compliance with PHE guidelines; will provide PPE for clinical teaching/practical skills purposes; will limit student numbers for physical distancing and reduced contact; and will provide clear and current guidance and risk assessments to students prior to and when accessing the Suite.

### **Level 7 core modules**

Common core modules

- Building Community Capacity in Public Health
- Understanding Social Research and Evaluation
- Leadership, Management and Enterprise
- Therapeutic Relationships for Health Care Practitioners

Specialist focus District Nursing modules

- Getting it right for adults with complex care needs
- Professional Development in Practice (including the prescribing component, V100)

<b>Full time Year 1</b>	
Semester 1	Core
Building Community Capacity in Public Health	Y
Getting it right for adults with complex care needs	Y
Therapeutic Relationships for Health Care Practitioners	Y
Professional Development in Practice	Y
Semester 2	Core
Leadership, Management and Enterprise	Y
Understanding Social Research and Evaluation	Y
Professional Development in Practice (continues from semester 1)	Y

<b>Part-time Year 1</b>	
Semester 1	Core
Building Community Capacity in Public Health	Y
Getting it right for adults with complex care needs	Y
Professional Development in Practice	Y
Semester 2	Core
Understanding Social Research and Evaluation	Y
Professional Development in Practice (Continues from semester 1)	Y

<b>Part-time Year 2</b>	
Semester 1	Core
Therapeutic Relationships for Health Care Practitioners	Y
Professional Development in Practice	Y
Semester 2	Core
Leadership, Management and Enterprise	Y
Professional Development in Practice (continues from Semester 1)	Y

## Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules. A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, comprising teaching, learning and assessment, placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

### Assessment

On this course students are assessed through coursework, an examination, a portfolio for practice and practical skills assessments. Students are assessed in practice.

### Workload



The notional hours have been exceeded due to placement hours requirement.

Overall Workload for the Course	Hours
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	211
Independent Study	493
Placement	844
Total	1548

## Learning Support Arrangements (School/course)

In line with the University's expectations the programme operates an Academic Advisor system. All students are allocated to an Academic Advisor who is the first point of contact for non-academic/module related pastoral support. Students enrolled on the programme will be supported throughout their studies by the same Academic Advisor (where possible) and the course team. Academic Advisors use a variety of ways to arrange meetings with their students which may include tutor arranged appointments and student arranged appointments online or face-to-face where appropriate and safe to do so.

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to university specialist support services as appropriate. They can also arrange for a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript on your behalf. You may also like to contact your Course Representative or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course related questions.

Details of how students will be supported to engage with online content and assessment on the course will be covered at induction and detailed in your module handbooks, available on MyBeckett. You will be guided to the support available from the University to help with unfamiliar software or platforms for your modules. You will also be guided to our usual online resources, such as the Skills for Learning and the Library resources, and to the support provided by the Library Academic Support team. You will receive guidance on managing your independent study hours for each module undertaken.

Your course team and the School of Health and Community Studies are committed to ensuring that you continue to have opportunities to access the learning and wellbeing support that you need over the coming year. Your Academic Advisor and Course Leader are available to help with any questions regarding your learning support arrangements in 2020/21.

### Useful links

IT support: [https://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/it\\_support](https://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/it_support)

Skills for Learning: <https://skillsforlearning.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/>

Library: <https://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/home>

Library skills and subject support: [https://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/subject\\_support](https://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/subject_support)

Disability Advice: [www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/disability-advice/](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/disability-advice/)

University Covid-19 guidance: [www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/COVID19/](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/COVID19/)