

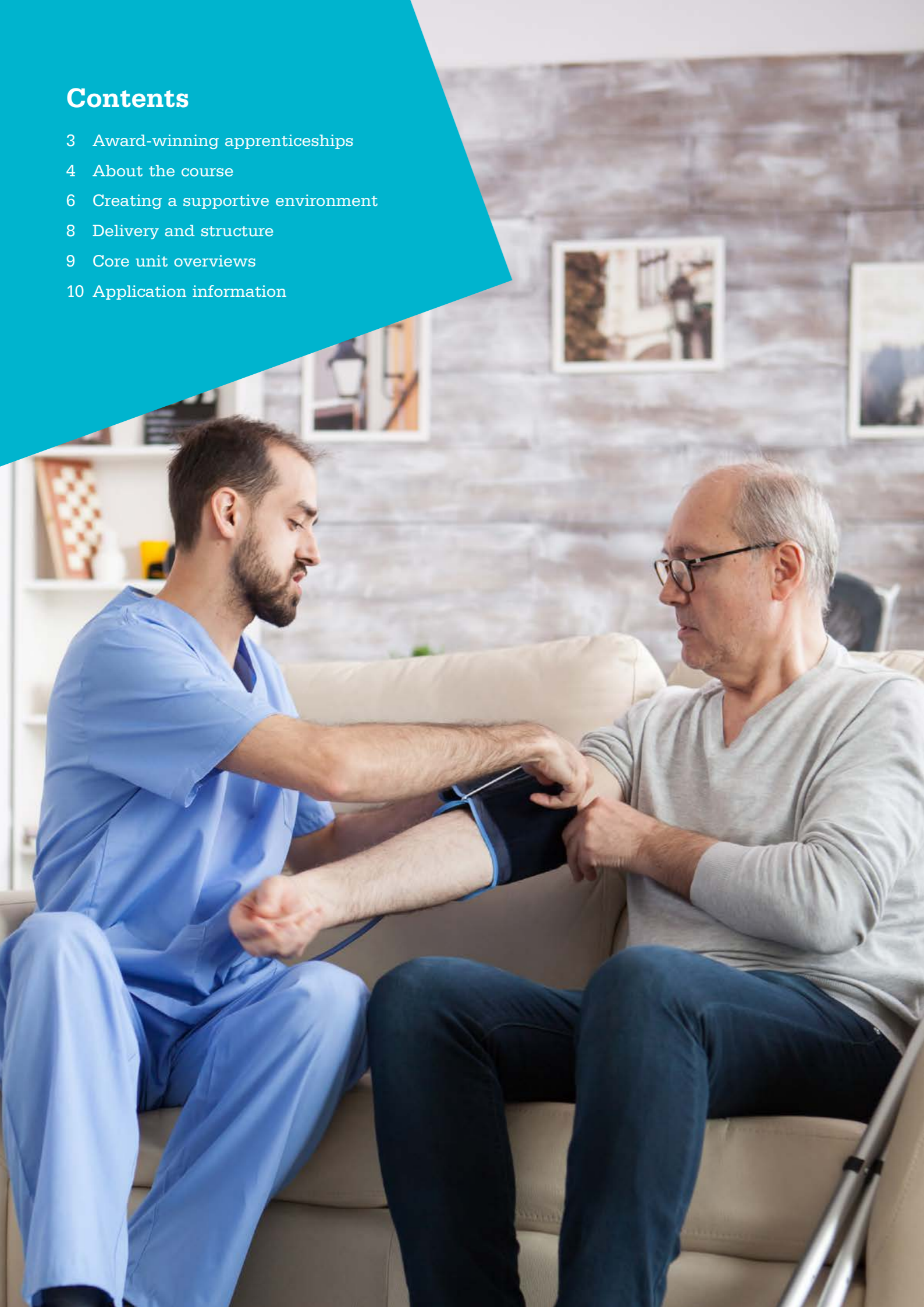
District Nursing

PgDip Apprenticeship



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mmu.ac.uk/apprenticeships

Award-winning apprenticeships

Manchester Metropolitan University is one of the most popular universities in the UK, currently educating over 39,000* students. The University takes its responsibility for creating work-ready graduates very seriously and maintains close industry and sector links.

Our apprenticeships are practice-focused. They equip our apprentices with the skills to ensure they are ready to take on the challenges of tomorrow and make their mark. We develop our courses in partnership with employers, to meet the needs of healthcare providers and individuals.

As degree and postgraduate apprenticeship pioneers, we have become industry leaders, allowing us to build unrivalled partnerships with some of the UK's largest employers and innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

**Nursing
Times**

* HESA data 2020/21, includes students on distance learning and accredited courses at partner institutions

2,400
apprentices
on 18 programmes

**Top university
in the UK**
for degree apprenticeships

RateMyApprenticeship
Awards 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022

92%

merit or distinction
at EPA in 2022

110+

apprentices
recognised
at regional and
national awards

Winner
**University
of the Year**
at the Multicultural
Apprenticeship Awards 2022

540+
Employer
partners

★ Rated ★
'Outstanding'

by Ofsted 2018 and 2022

**Training Provider
of the Year**
North West Apprenticeship
Awards 2023

About the course

District Nursing PgDip Apprenticeship

The District Nursing PgDip Apprenticeship is an innovative blend of higher education and work-based learning, aimed at developing employees into competent and confident specialist nurses.

Developed with employers, this 12-month course has been designed to meet the contemporary health and wellbeing needs of individuals, communities and populations. The course prepares apprentices for the changing face of community nursing. Apprentices will strengthen their leadership attributes; become skilful specialist practitioners; and learn how to lead and bring about change in their practice environments.

This course is designed to provide apprentices with the required knowledge, skills and behaviours to work as a Specialist District Nurse. It enables apprentices to obtain registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as a District Nurse with integrated independent prescribing.

The qualification

Apprentices will qualify with a Postgraduate Diploma in District Nursing with Integrated Independent Prescribing and a Level 7 apprenticeship qualification.

Who is the course for?

This Level 7 course is suitable for existing nurses that are looking to further their knowledge and career in caring for patients with a wide range of health conditions.

In their daily work, District Nurses interact with patients, their carers and relatives as well as a wide variety of health and social care professionals including GPs, social workers and hospital staff. District Nurses work with adults of all ages and communities. They work across numerous different organisations and settings, for example; primary care, social care, third sector organisations, hospitals including mental health hospitals, hospices, prisons and other community services to ensure that patients get the right care, at the right time.

District Nurses will be responsible for their own work as an autonomous, independent practitioner, while contributing and leading collaborative work with other health and care professionals. In addition, the occupation will be responsible for a caseload of patients and the team responsible for delivering care to that caseload.

Core skills, knowledge and behaviours

Apprenticeships develop a core set of skills, knowledge and behaviours relevant to the course specialism. On successful completion of the course, apprentices will be able to:

- Provide advanced case management for people with highly complex unpredictable needs, including those nearing and at the end of their lives.
- Holistically assess health needs and make diagnostic decisions for people, including those nearing and at the end of their lives with highly complex unpredictable needs.
- Lead a team to manage a complex, dynamic and unpredictable caseload.
- Take responsibility and accountability for care delivery, anticipate care planning to avoid unnecessary admission and facilitate timely discharge.

- Promote health education and self-care to individuals to achieve their health outcomes.
- Proactively lead, engage, challenge and empower the team in quality assurance, service improvement and change management.
- Develop practice to respond to the public and community health needs.
- Participate in and undertake research and evaluation to improve care and services for people and communities.
- Develop and implement risk assessments and management strategies taking into account people's views, choices and responsibilities, while promoting the safeguarding of individuals, carers and staff.
- Manage increasing demands on the service, deliver and manage change to meet the evolving shape of services through flexibility, innovation, strategic and operational clinical leadership.



Creating a supportive environment

In order to create an environment where apprentices will be able to achieve successful outcomes, both academically and within their organisations, the University has put in place a wide range of support.

Apprentices

Dedicated skills coach

A dedicated Skills Coach will conduct termly reviews with the apprentice and employer, advise on University regulations and procedures, and provide pastoral support. Skills coaches for this course are all qualified district nurses.

Personal learning plan

Where additional learning support requirements are identified, they will be met through a Personal Learning Plan.

University services

Full access to University services – including disability services, wellbeing, the library, IT services and sports facilities.

Online study environment

Study materials can be accessed 24/7 via our online study environment, Moodle. Our course is designed to support learners who live and work outside of the north-west. Moodle enables apprentices to access reading lists, download journal articles, contribute to online discussion groups, email tutors, listen to podcasts and submit assignments.

Cutting-edge facilities

The Faculty of Health and Education is based in the state-of-the-art Brooks building.

Inside the Brooks building are outstanding specialist facilities across all areas of health, psychology, social care, and education. This includes a simulation suite, nursing ward, VR room and skills rooms to simulate a health and social care setting.

University Library

The main University Library is located on the All Saints Campus and is open 24/7 during the academic year.

The Library provides access to a wide range of books, texts, journals, and business information and statistics. It also runs a number of workshops for mature students on study and research skills.

Many of the Library's resources are available online. For example, apprentices can search the Library catalogue, renew and reserve books, and download journal articles and research information.

Employers, practice assessors and practice supervisors

Apprenticeships team support

The Manchester Met Apprenticeships Team is available to support employers throughout the apprenticeships process, including:

- Holding meetings with staff and managers to understand operational challenges and training needs.
- A dedicated account manager, providing a single point of contact with the University.
- Working in partnership to tailor content and delivery.
- Sending regular reports of apprentice progress.

Progress reviews

Practice Assessors and Practice Supervisors are supported through regular progress reviews to set, monitor and evaluate objectives and targets.

Delivery and structure

Based in the state-of-the-art Brooks building, on Manchester Met's award-winning development, apprentices have access to specialist facilities across all areas of health. Our innovative, vibrant courses reflect new and emerging research ideologies.

Delivery

Delivered via a combination of blended learning (including face-to-face sessions, virtual sessions and directed study) and placements. These are based in the practice area and supported by Practice Assessors and Practice Supervisors as per the Nursing and Midwifery Council (2018) Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment. In line with NMC requirements, the course will be made up of 50% theory and 50% practice. It is delivered by a core course team with a strong focus on supporting apprentices across all aspects of the course.

Assessment

The units on this apprenticeship will be assessed through a wide range of methods that are designed to meet a range of learning styles.

As well as academic assessment, apprentices will complete an ePortfolio to record their work-based development.

Core unit overviews

Contemporary issues in district nursing

This unit enables apprentices to explore contemporary issues of relevance to district nursing practice. It locates district nursing work within a context of evolving models of service delivery and examines district nurses' contributions to the implementation of government and professional policy and initiatives.

Physical examination skills

This unit will equip apprentices with the necessary skills and knowledge to take a clinical history, perform an examination of the main body systems and arrive at a clinically reasoned differential diagnosis using a red flag approach.

Foundations of district nursing

This unit helps apprentices to explore the leadership role of the District Nurse in relation to care management, provision and service development. It offers opportunities for apprentices to examine the evidence base of district nursing interventions, pertinent to the management of care for patients with long-term/life-limiting conditions, end of life and mental wellbeing and to explore the role of the District Nurse in service development/innovation.

Developing quality leadership in specialist practice

In this unit, apprentices acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to lead and develop professional practice and work flexibly and collaboratively within a health/social care environment.

Advancing practice through research

This unit provides the opportunity for apprentices to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the research process, apply related skills to an area of practice and make valid proposals regarding the value of knowledge gained.

Empowering populations to enhance health and wellbeing

This unit explores factors that affect health, how this influences work to promote health in general, and how this might shape the apprentices' own practice.

V300 Non-medical Prescribing (V300)

This unit prepares suitably qualified nurses to become safe and competent independent/supplementary prescribers. It enables nurses to be recommended to the NMC for the V300 qualification.

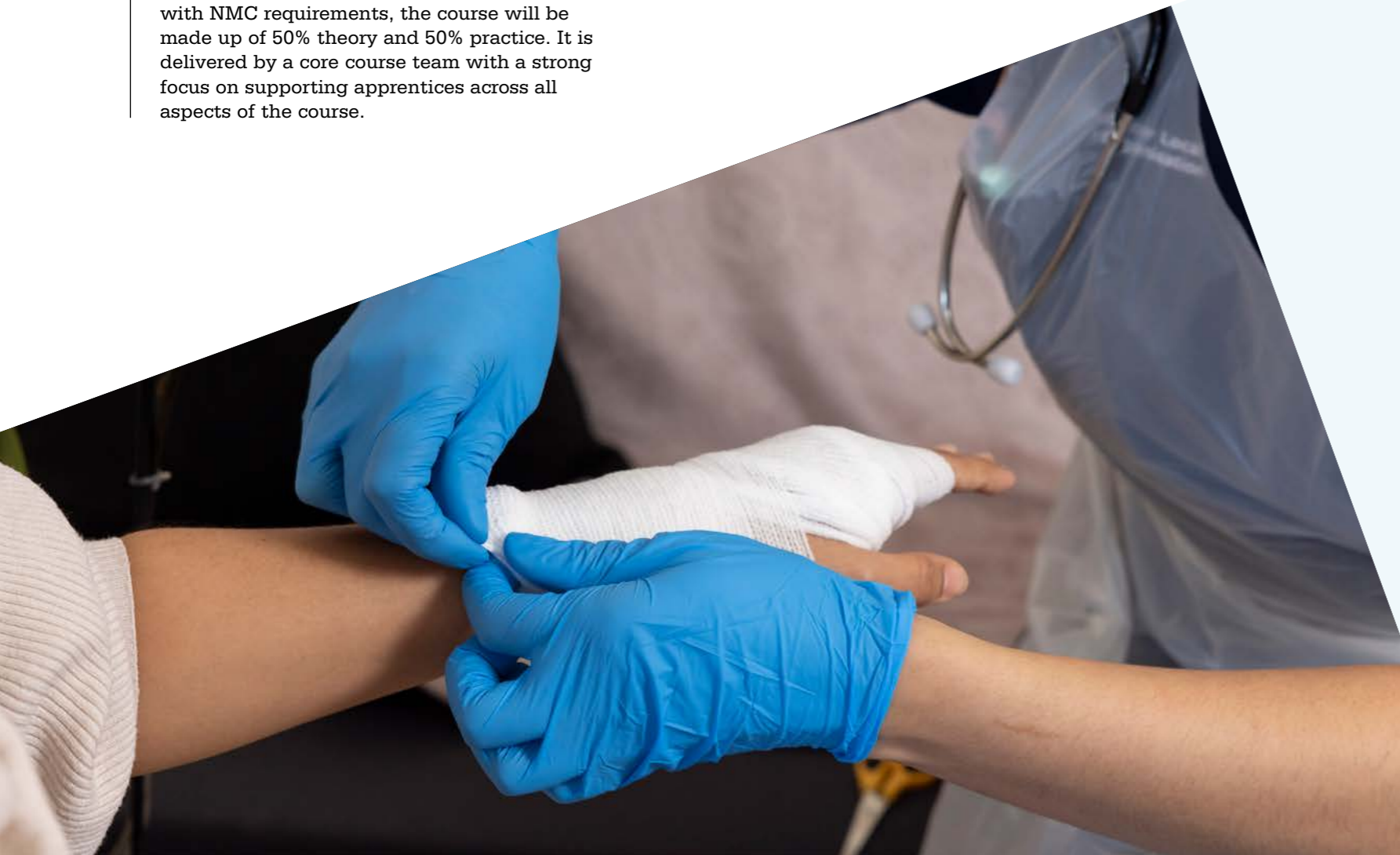
Independent study project*

This unit enables the learner to develop their advanced practice knowledge base in a chosen, relevant area of District Nursing.

*This unit will only be taken if the apprentice has V300 qualification at level 6.

Specialist practice of district nursing

In this unit apprentices achieve the knowledge, skills and clinical competencies to practise safely and effectively in their area of community specialist practice.



Application information

Entry requirements

It is a requirement of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) that those training to become a District Nurse are already registered nurses on Part 1 of the NMC register.

Level 2 English and maths requirements

Applicants must be able to evidence Level 2 English and Maths, prior to starting the course. This could be Functional Skills Level 2 or GCSEs grades 9 - 4/A* - C.

How to apply

Once an employer has confirmed that they will support their apprentice(s) on the course, we will issue an application pack to interested applicants. The application form enables us to build up a picture of the candidate, their experience and the knowledge and skill areas they are looking to develop. We recommend that a CV is included, with a complete work history, and that the personal statement is used to highlight management strengths and work achievements.

Workplace considerations

Workplace infrastructure should be sufficient to fully support the apprentice in working as a trainee District Nurse. Consideration also needs to be given as to whether the apprentice will be working in a new or emerging role within the workplace. Apprentices will need to be supported by a suitably qualified workplace mentor who is able to assess clinical competency in practice and support the apprentice to develop as a competent District Nurse.

Off-the-job training

Apprenticeship funding rules state that apprentices should spend at least 6 hours per week of their working time on developing relevant skills, knowledge and behaviours. This means that apprentices must undertake University tuition, online learning and assessments in combination with a range of other eligible activities undertaken in the workplace.

These can include, but are not limited to:

- Developing evidence, undertaking reflective practice and gathering peer feedback towards the achievement of the skills and behaviours included in the District Nursing Apprenticeship Standard;
- Shadowing or mentoring of colleagues in their organisation or another organisation;
- Formal or informal training relevant to the apprenticeship.

Apprentices on this course must be supported by an employer in line with the NMC Standards for Proficiency, which require a balance of 50% practice and 50% theory.

Employer next steps

If you would like to discuss how this course could work for your organisation, or if you have any further questions, please contact our dedicated Apprenticeships Team.

E: apprenticeships-employer@mmu.ac.uk

T: 0161 247 3720

I had a career change to nursing in my late 40s, and always knew that district nursing was what I wanted to specialise in. Studying on the District Nursing Degree Apprenticeship has made me question a lot of things that I thought I knew and see things through slightly different eyes.

I'm better able to appreciate the complexity of some patients whereas before I might have walked in, done the task and not assessed the wider picture. It's taught me the value of seeing the whole person and of using my role as social prescriber, not just a medical nurse to support patients' wellbeing, and increase my levels of care.

In May this year I published an article in the British Journal of Community Nursing that was based on work I completed for a university assignment. Besides the personal pride in seeing my words in print, I feel like I am contributing to the profession because it's so important that we constantly review and research new information that could be of a positive benefit to our patients.



Debora Jackson,
District Nursing Degree Apprentice,
Northern Care Alliance

Get in touch

Our growing portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate apprenticeships include programmes in the following areas:

- digital and technology
- digital marketing, creative design and UX
- health and social care
- leadership, management and HR
- retail

If you think one of our programmes could work for your organisation, please get in touch. We will be happy to provide further information and guide you through the next steps.

Contact us:

Apprenticeships team

E: apprenticeships-employer@mmu.ac.uk

T: 0161 247 3720

W: mmu.ac.uk/apprenticeships

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 [manmetuni](https://www.instagram.com/manmetuni)

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