

Specialist Community Public Health Nurse

PGDip Apprenticeship



Contents

- 3 Award-winning degree apprenticeships
- 4 About the programme
- 6 Creating a supportive environment
- 8 Delivery and structure
- 10 Application information



Award-winning degree apprenticeships

Manchester Metropolitan University is one of the most popular universities in the UK, currently educating around 43,000 students (HESA 22-23). The University takes its responsibility for creating work-ready graduates very seriously and maintains close industry and sector links.

Our apprenticeships blend development of best-practice, with academic underpinning and theory. They equip our apprentices with the skills to ensure they are ready to take on the business challenges of tomorrow and make their mark. We develop our programmes in partnership with employers, to meet the needs of healthcare providers and service users.

As pioneers of degree apprenticeships, 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 Post Registration Education Provider of the year 2023. Shortlisted for Apprenticeship Provider of the Year 2024.

3,300
apprentices
on 18 programmes

Leading university provider
for degree apprenticeships

RateMyApprenticeship
Awards 2019 – 2023

92%

merit or distinction at EPA in 2022

130+

apprentices recognised
at regional and national awards

Winner
University of the Year
Multicultural Apprenticeship
Awards 2022 and 2023

600+
Employer partners

★ **Rated** ★
'Outstanding'
by Ofsted 2022

Training Provider of the Year
North West Apprenticeship
Awards 2023

About the programme

The Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (SCPHN) Apprenticeship is an innovative blend of higher education and work-based learning, aimed at developing employees into competent and confident specialist public health nurses.

This occupation is found in the public, independent and private sectors. Health Visitors and School Nurses may be employed in the NHS, local authorities, community interest companies, social enterprises or schools.

Developed with employers, the 13-month programme has been designed to meet the contemporary health and wellbeing needs of individuals, communities and populations, and offers pathways in **Health Visiting** and **School Nursing**.

The SCPHN programme provides two routes:

- With Independent and Supplementary V300 Prescribing
- Without Independent and Supplementary Prescribing

This programme was approved by the NMC in 2024.

The qualification

Depending on the route taken apprentices will be awarded one of the following qualifications along with their Level 7 apprenticeship qualification.

- PG Dip Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (Health Visitor)
- PG Dip Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (Health Visitor) with Independent and Supplementary Prescribing (V300)
- PG Dip Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (School Nurse)
- PG Dip Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (School Nurse) with Independent and Supplementary Prescribing (V300)

Apprentices will be annotated on the NMC Register as a Specialist Community Public Health Nurse, Health Visitor or School Nurse.

Who is the programme for?

This Level 7 programme is suitable for existing nurses and midwives that are looking to further their knowledge and career as School Nurses or Health Visitors.

Specialist Community Public Health Nurses assess the health needs of individuals, families, workplaces and the wider community to promote and protect good health and wellbeing, prevent illness and provide interventions or advice. They support and enable people to make informed choices about how to manage health challenges in order to maximise their quality of life and improve health outcomes. They also focus on deprivation, vulnerability and advocacy, and may work in challenging circumstances within adverse home and working conditions. This can mean working with adults or children in their own home, a healthcare setting or the workplace. Specialist Community Public Health Nurses also contribute to safeguarding children and adults.

Typical job titles may include; Health Visitor, School Nurse, or Community Public Health Nurse.

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 programme, apprentices will be able to:

- Undertake autonomous specialist community public health nursing practice.
- Transform specialist community public health nursing practice through evidence, research, evaluation and translation.

Health Visiting

- Promote human rights and address inequalities of infants, children, parents, carers and families through assessment, surveillance and intervention.
- Improve population health by: enabling, supporting and improving health outcomes of infants, children, parents, carers and families across the life course.
- Advance public health services and promote healthy places, environments and cultures for infants, children, parents, carers and families.
- Lead and collaborate through investment to action and dissemination for infants, children, parents, carers and families.

School Nursing

- Promote human rights and address inequalities of school-aged children, young people and their families through assessment, surveillance and intervention.
- Improve population health by: enabling, supporting and improving health outcomes of school-aged children and young people.
- Advance public health services and promote healthy places, environments and cultures for school-aged children, young people and their families.
- Lead and collaborate through investment to action and dissemination for school-aged children, young people and their families.

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 enhanced Skills Coach will conduct termly reviews with the apprentice and employer, advise on University regulations and procedures, and provide pastoral support.

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 programme 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.

The Brooks building hosts 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, 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

Academic Support

The programme lead is on hand to support employers during the recruitment process and is present at apprentice interviews.

Practice Assessors and Practice Supervisors are also supported through regular forums to tailor content and delivery as well as provide support whilst they have apprentices on programme.

Progress reviews

Our enhanced Skills Coaches support Practice Assessors and Practice Supervisors through regular progress reviews to set, monitor and evaluate apprentice objectives and targets.

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.

Delivery and structure

Based in the state-of-the-art Brooks building, apprentices have access to specialist facilities across all areas of health. Our innovative, vibrant programmes reflect new and emerging research ideologies.

Delivery

The programme is delivered via a combination of blended learning (including face-to-face sessions, virtual sessions and directed study) and placements. Placements are based in the practice area and supported by Practice Assessor and Practice Supervisors as per the Nursing and Midwifery Council (2023) Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment. In line with NMC requirements, the apprenticeship will be made up of 50% theory and 50% practice. It is delivered by a core programme team with a strong focus on supporting apprentices across all aspects of the programme.

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

Advancing Practice Using Research

Provides the opportunity for learners 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.

Assessing Infants and Children (0–5 Years) - Health Visiting

Learners develop the knowledge and skills to undertake holistic assessments of infants and children, make accurate decisions and plan appropriate care.

Assessing Children and Young People (5-19 Years) - School Nursing

Learners to develop the knowledge and skills to undertake holistic assessments of children and young people, make accurate decisions and plan appropriate care.

Empowering Populations to Enhance Health and Well-Being

Considers how learners can enhance the health of individuals and populations via public health approaches. As empowering populations is a key aspect of the school nurse, health visitor and district nurse role, the unit delivery will consist of joint teaching and learning for all three apprenticeships / pathways as well as role specific training.

Foundations of Health Visiting/ Foundations of School Nursing

Learners explore the underpinning foundations of their pathway and develop their knowledge of their role and gain a grounding for their field of practice.

Independent Study Project in Specialist Practice*

For SCPHNs not undertaking the V300 Prescribing route, learners will undertake an individual project agreed between the learner and the Programme Lead. The learner will use this unit to critically explore specific issues related to their area of specialist practice, undertake in-depth analysis of the theoretical aspects and consider how specialist practice could be further developed.



Non Medical Prescribing*

For SCPHNs undertaking the Independent and Supplementary V300 Prescribing route, this unit prepares suitably qualified nurses (NMC registrants**) to become safe and competent independent/supplementary prescribers. It enables nurses to be recommended to the NMC for the V300 qualification. **All elements of assessment must be passed in order to pass the unit.** * *Elective*

**NMC registrants: all applicants must meet the admission and selection criteria in the NMC (2018) Standards for Prescribing Programmes.

*The SCPHN route with either Non-Medical Prescribing (V300) OR with the Independent Study Unit in Specialist Practice, is decided by the employing Trust at the point of application.

Quality Leadership in Action

Critically explores how specialist practitioners enhance their own practice, develop quality services and effectively lead. As leadership underpins all specialist practice, school nurses, health visitors and district nurses will be taught together. However, each pathway will be guided throughout the unit to focus on their own area of specialist practice.

Responding to Contemporary Health Needs in Health Visiting or School Nursing

Enables learners to explore how health visiting/school nursing practice can be developed. There will be an emphasis on contemporary issues, the effectiveness of interventions and working collaboratively with client groups and service providers.

Safeguarding in Public Health Nursing

Explores the issues relevant to protecting children and young people from harm in the home, and wider socio-environmental contexts. School nurses and health visitors will be taught together for this unit, to ensure sharing of knowledge and expertise.

Specialist Practice of Health Visiting or School Nursing

Allows learners to achieve the knowledge, skills and competencies to practice safely and effectively in their area of Specialist Community Public Health Nursing. In order for the learners' practice placements to meet the NMC (2022) standards a wide range of practice experiences are required. Learners must be supported by appropriately qualified practice supervisors, practice assessors and academic assessors (NMC, 2019). Learners must be enrolled on the PgDip Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPHN): Health Visiting programme.

Application information

Entry requirements

It is a requirement of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) that those training to become a Specialist Community Public Health Nurse are already registered nurses on Sub Part 1 of the Nurses NMC register or the Midwives part of the register.

Level 2 English and maths requirements

Applicants must be able to evidence Level 2 English and Maths, prior to starting the programme. 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 programme, applicants will be asked to submit an online application. 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.

Workplace considerations

Workplace infrastructure should be sufficient to fully support the apprentice in working as a trainee Specialist Community Public Health Nurse. Every apprentice will need to be supported by both a Practice Assessor and a Practice Supervisor who are able to assess clinical competency in practice and support the apprentice to develop as a competent Specialist Community Public Health 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. However, apprentices on this programme must be supported by an employer in line with the NMC Standards for Proficiency, which require a balance of 50% practice and 50% theory. SCPHN apprentices must be provided with protected learning time in the placement environment.

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.

Qualifications awarded

All successful graduates receive a Level 7 apprenticeship certificate along with one of the following awards:

- PG Dip Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (Health Visitor)
- PG Dip Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (Health Visitor) with Independent and Supplementary Prescribing (V300)
- PG Dip Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (School Nurse)
- PG Dip Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (School Nurse) with Independent and Supplementary Prescribing (V300)

If independent/supplementary prescribing (V300) is successfully passed, but the award/specialist practice qualification is failed, learners will not receive either qualification.

This programme enables apprentices to obtain registration on the SCPHN part of the NMC register as a Health Visitor or a School Nurse.

Employer next steps

If you would like to discuss how this programme 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 always wanted to be a nurse, though I came to nursing quite late as I had my family first. I went back to college and did the Access to Higher Education course, followed by my nursing degree.

I think there's a common misconception that school nurses are just a nit nurse, or just give vaccines, but they can really make a difference to children and young people. At a drop-in clinic in a school, you can see all sorts of different cases. You have to keep your knowledge really current. I think the value of the school nurse is massive and we should be shouting it from the rooftops.

When it came to choosing a public health need for our empowerment project, I knew that LGBTQIA+ young people are at massive risk of health inequalities. They often don't seek support and advice from healthcare professionals for fear of discrimination. I thought, if we can change that perception while they're in their teenage years, or younger, then we create healthy habits for life. If we could create a more inclusive service where they are getting good quality care and advice, we could make a huge difference.

I worked with a high school that had a LGBTQIA+ support group, and generally had a fantastic, inclusive environment. I explained the role of a school nurse to the group and outlined my project idea. I then went back several times and completed focus groups to find out what students really wanted from their school nurse. Often it was just someone to talk to. We decided we needed a toolkit, and they told me exactly what they wanted in it. I put it together and they made changes. Teenagers will just tell you how it is, and it was fantastic to get that brutally honest feedback. It meant that it was tailored to be exactly what they wanted and needed.

I don't have any lived experience of being LGBTQIA+, I didn't understand the complexities, so it was important to me that the students shaped the toolkit. The project made a huge difference to Stockport's school nurses. It's really changed how they support young people.



Parts of my project are now being used in a national toolkit that will be made available to school nurses across the UK. Without the Level 7 Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (SCPHN) apprenticeship and the apprenticeship team, there's no way I would have been able to do this Empowerment Project. I wouldn't have known where to start. At the beginning of the process, I thought this isn't going to make any difference, what's me doing this little project going to do? But it's had a huge impact and I think I underestimated just how much of a difference it could make.

I would definitely recommend doing an apprenticeship. I really enjoyed it. The team are brilliant, my skills coach was fantastic. There are lots of opportunities to raise any concerns. Everybody worked so well together. It's a fantastic example of that sort of partnership, working to get the best from everybody.

Rachel Donnelly

Specialist Community Public Health Nurse
(School Nurse) Apprentice
Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

Get in touch

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

- Digital and Technology
- Business, HR and Management
- Science
- Health and Social Care

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

 [@mmuaapprentice](https://twitter.com/mmuaapprentice)

 [MMUApprenticeships](https://www.facebook.com/MMUApprenticeships)

 [Degree Apprenticeships at Manchester Metropolitan University](https://www.linkedin.com/company/degree-apprenticeships-at-manchester-metropolitan-university)

 [Degree Apprenticeships at Manchester Met](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

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

We are committed to ensuring that all of our materials are accessible. This brochure is available in a range of formats, such as large print, on request via marketing@mmu.ac.uk