



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

MMedSci Advanced Nursing Studies

ONLINE – INTERACTIVE – INTERNATIONAL

The programme

This Masters programme is conducted entirely over the Internet, with no travel or attendance requirements. It is therefore appropriate for any suitably qualified applicant who wishes to undertake postgraduate studies in Nursing wherever they might be located.

The University of Sheffield has had a longstanding interest in Nursing practice around the world and has fostered many international links and contacts. This programme provides opportunities for Nurses to compare their own experiences with those in different cultural settings and reflect on the implications for perceived best practice.

The course aims to be international and encourages applications from Nurses practicing in a broad range of specialities, cultures and health systems

Aims

The programme aims to:

1. Provide a flexible programme of targeted education tailored to suit the needs of nurses who are, or intend to become, engaged in advanced nursing practice
2. Build on participants' existing experience, knowledge and domain speciality
3. Develop each participant's critical faculties, analytical abilities and intellectual curiosity
4. Enable students to engage critically with and contribute to research and advanced scholarship in their particular fields

Structure

Four 15 credit taught units are taken in each of the first two years (two simultaneously in each semester). The whole of the third year is taken up by an individual research project supported by University staff and written up as a dissertation worth 60 credits.

Length of course

The course is normally conducted part-time over a three year period by online distance learning starting in September of each year. Each academic year consists of 30 study weeks and is split into two semesters lasting 15 study weeks each.

Closing date for applications

The closing date for applications is the end of June preceding commencement of the course. Application is online – follow the links from the programme web pages.

Entry requirements

- Bachelor's degree normally expected, although accreditation of prior learning for Masters level study is possible.
- Applicants must be qualified and registered nurses with significant experience of working in the profession.
- Access to a PC with a suitable Internet connection
- Basic computer literacy and familiarity with the Internet
- Ability to use the English language must meet the minimum levels set (IELTS 6.5 or equivalent).

Fees

The **annual fee** for the academic year commencing in September 2010 has been set at £1622 (UK pounds). Please note that the University of Sheffield does reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study.

Contact us:

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Further information: www.shef.ac.uk/snm/online

MMedSci Advanced Nursing Studies units

Contemporary issues in health care

The focus of the unit is on exploring a range of contemporary issues that impinge on advanced nursing practice, acknowledging that perceptions and ramifications of such issues will vary dependent on local circumstances. Students will firstly identify, then critically examine the implications of local and global issues with respect to their own sphere of practice. Allowing the student group to select issues with the greatest relevance, immediacy and importance to their own practice encourages involvement and promotes ownership of the resultant discussions.

Becoming a reflective practitioner

This module examines the accepted dominant tradition which sees rational, explicit and articulate understanding as the core ingredient in informing professional knowledge and practice. It aims to encourage critical thinking about professional knowledge and practice to allow the intricacies and complexities of professional work to be better understood. What is seen to be fundamental to the development of the reflective practitioner is the gaining of personal and professional insights through the critical analysis of, and challenge to, the practitioner's own work, which, in consequence, empowers them to seek different solutions to practice problems

Leadership and service development

This unit is designed for health care professionals who are advancing and developing services in health and social care communities. It will enable each student to explore the underpinning knowledge and skills relating to leadership and teamwork and to consider how empowerment, personal influence and collaborative practice affect the patient/client experience. Strategies required for the effective evaluation of service provision and the pursuit of quality in health and social care provision will be critically examined.

Managing change in health care

Change is a certainty throughout life. Building upon the foundations laid in the reflective practice unit, this unit offers the opportunity to critically evaluate and reflect upon change survival and growth utilising life and work experiences to demonstrate self-awareness and synergy. Students will critically evaluate change from different perspectives: organisational approaches and issues within change management; the individual response to change events; and the personal need to develop and change.

Information and communication in health care

This unit will examine a range of theoretical and practical issues related to information handling and communication strategies in healthcare. It will prepare students to analyse and assess the impact of print, broadcast and internet communication employed in healthcare. The conflict between data access and data protection in the effective delivery of a data-intensive healthcare environment will be explored. The student will investigate both the process of preparing written material for publication in an academic journal and the nature of academic publication itself.

Health promotion and education in practice

Being a health educator and engaging with the diverse set of practices that incorporate health promotion is a vital aspect of nursing practice. This unit enables Nurses and Midwives to explore the health promotion and education aspect of their clinical practice. The unit looks at the theoretical base for health promotion and analyses the models and concepts of health promotion and education - including individual, social and population level activity. It also enables students to explore the related sociological and psychological elements of health behaviour and critically assess the manner in which these may be applied to individual clients or specific target groups. The impact of health policy and epidemiology upon health promotion and education is also critically explored.

Research methodology

This unit will introduce students to the purpose and principles of qualitative and quantitative research together with its application to relevant areas of practice. The meanings of research terminology will be explored and methodological techniques and practices associated with data collection and analysis will be examined. Students will explore the ethical and social implications of planning and undertaking research. They will develop the knowledge and skills needed to critically appraise, and effectively evaluate, the quality of research and its contribution to the subject-specific knowledge base.

Research design and application

Through planning and designing their own research projects, students undertaking this unit will be exposed to a range of intellectual and philosophical influences underpinning research. The practical challenges encountered in doing research will be identified and students will be encouraged to explore ways of managing and resolving such challenges. The importance of conducting data gathering in an ethically sound manner, sensitive to the needs of research subjects, will be emphasised. Students will acquire skills in critical self-scrutiny and active reflexivity through examining the researcher's role and relationship with research subjects

Research dissertation

This unit gives students an opportunity to undertake a substantial personal research project. The research topic must be relevant to the scope of the course and must be realistically achievable within the time and resources available. Students are encouraged to work up a concept based on an area of particular interest and/or relevance to themselves. The subject and methodological approach will be agreed between each individual student and their tutor(s) and will normally be based on those worked up in the preceding Research Design and Application unit. The completed work will be written up in the form of a dissertation

Further information:

www.shef.ac.uk/snm/online