

Course Information Document: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2025/26

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	Foundation Degree (FdSc) Nursing Associate
Award type	Single Honours
Mode of study	Full-time Part-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 5
Normal length of the programme	2 years Nursing and Midwifery Council (2018) stipulate that the programme can be no less than 2 years and must equate to 2,300 hours.
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Hospital - Nursing & Midwifery Keele Campus Telford College
Accreditation (if applicable)	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE)
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS); Institute for Apprenticeships, Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
Tuition Fees	UK students: Fee for 2025/26: The employer pays all course fees and no fees are charged to apprentice students. Programme price is set at the maximum funding band for this apprenticeship standard set by the Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA) which is a government non-departmental body sponsored by the Department for Education (DFE). We reserve the right to increase price in future. Fees will be paid by the employer on behalf of the apprentice using Levy or co-funding arrangements. At no point must any costs for the course be passed to the apprentice. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-funding-from-may-2017 A full breakdown of costs is set out in the training plan.

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

2. What is a Foundation Degree?

A Foundation Degree is a qualification equivalent to the first two years of a Bachelor Degree programme. Foundation Degrees are normally focused on specific professions and were developed as a need was recognised for intermediate higher education qualifications that combined vocational and academic elements.

The two-year Foundation Degree described in this document allows you to focus exclusively on Nursing Associate practice. The degree consists of 120 credits at Level 4, and 120 credits at Level 5.

3. Overview of the Programme

The Foundation Degree Nursing Associate (FdSc NA) role is the most significant change in nursing for many years, and relates to the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan (NHS England, 2023).

The NA role is regulated by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and 'Nursing Associate' is a protected title. NA students who successfully achieve the programme requirements are eligible to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) within 5 years of programme completion. The registered NA will be able to undertake a wide range of nursing duties, including administration of medicines.

As a key University partner to University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust, Midlands Partnership University NHS Trust, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital and other local healthcare organisations, the School of Nursing and Midwifery has developed this NA FdSc to be available either through an apprenticeship route (supported by the employer) or direct entry (non-apprenticeship) route.

The Nursing & Midwifery Council provide an education framework for a two-year Foundation Degree for Nursing Associates setting out the knowledge, skills and behaviours to be achieved (NMC, 2018a). The Apprenticeship Standards from Skills for Health (Department of Education) determine the occupational standard with an integrated End point Assessment (EPA).

This two-year programme has been designed to meet the NMC Nursing Associates proficiencies (2018) and enable the FdSc NA student to acquire the knowledge, skills, and behaviours required to successfully qualify as a Nursing Associate.

- **Platform 1:** Being an accountable professional
- **Platform 2:** Promoting health and preventing ill health
- **Platform 3:** Provide and monitor care
- **Platform 4:** Working in teams
- **Platform 5:** Improving safety and quality of care
- **Platform 6:** Contributing to integrated care
- **Annex A:** Communication and relationship management skills
- **Annex B:** Procedures to be undertaken by the Nursing Associate

During the programme all FdSc NA students will undertake the equivalent of two days per week of study.

Apprenticeship students will also undertake a minimum of one day per week as protected learning time and a minimum of 460 hours in a range of practice settings in clinical placement. This will total a minimum of 1150 hours including the base area and other alternative placements which provides the student Nursing Associate with experience across the lifespan and in a variety of settings, which may include adult, child, mental health and learning disability services.

Direct entry (non-apprenticeship) students will also undertake a minimum of two days a week in clinical practice over the course of 8 placements blocks covering the 2-year duration of the programme, totalling a minimum of 1150 hours.

The programme will include both theory and practice modules to support your learning, and this will be monitored by four progress review (tripartite meetings) per year where an academic representative and yourself will meet together to ensure that you are progressing well and are having the support you need to continue to make progress.

Apprentices will also have a representative from the employed area present.

During the programme, all students will have nine weeks of non-teaching time where annual leave can be taken. For apprenticeship students this must be in agreement with your employer and as per the course plan. You will not normally be able to take annual leave, which will affect your attendance during theoretical aspects of the programme.

Differences to Programme	Direct- Entry (self-funding)	Apprenticeship
Admission	Through Keele Website application link	Through application to an employing organisation and joint interview with provider and employer. Written contractual agreements between you and the employer. Please see link below for further information Apprenticeships - Keele University
Funding	Course Fees paid by you	Course fees paid by your employing organisation
Contracts	You are not contracted by an employer	As an employee, you will have a contract in place for the duration of the programme which will determine the terms and conditions of employment e.g. Paid annual leave entitlement and any additional hours as required by the terms and conditions of employment, occupational Health, DBS and uniform provision.
Practice Experience	Placements are organised by the School of Nursing and Midwifery in conjunction with practice partners	Placements are organised by the employing organisation. Regular tripartite meetings between your employing organisation, the School and you monitor progress and quality of experience, as an employee and student.
Elective Practice Experiences	There may be opportunities for an elective placement, to be discussed with your Academic Mentor/ Programme Lead.	Electives including opportunities for international electives are at the discretion of the employer.
Exit Award (in the event of failure to complete the programme)	As per table in the section on Final and Intermediate Awards	As per table in the section on Final and Intermediate Awards and in agreement with the employing organisation
End of Programme	On successful completion of the programme you receive a FdSc Nursing Associate award and are eligible to apply to the NMC for Nursing Associate Registration	On successful completion of the programme you receive a FdSc Nursing Associate award and are eligible to apply to the NMC for Nursing Associate Registration. To complete the apprenticeship element of the programme you will also need to complete the nursing apprenticeship integrated End-Point Assessment. This requires successful completion of your programme through the award board and registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. This process is overseen by an Independent End Point Assessor. Please click on the following link for more details: st0827_v12_nursing_associate_l5_fully-integrated-ap_for-publication_adjustment_0302022-1.pdf

4. Aims of the programme

The intended learning aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- meet the NMC (2018) Standards of proficiency for Nursing Associates
- demonstrate competence in Nursing Associate Practice, delivering safe and effective person centred care across the lifespan in a range of settings
- learn and apply the knowledge skills and behaviours required to meet the Standards of Proficiency for Nursing Associates

- apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council as a registered Nursing Associate
- prepare for the End-point Assessment required to complete the Apprenticeship Standard (apprentice students only).
- develop knowledge and critical understanding of the established principles in your field of study, and understanding of the limits of your knowledge
- gain knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in Nursing Associate Practice and the ability to use established techniques to undertake critical analysis of information in order to propose solutions
- evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems and to apply these in a work context
- apply your knowledge and skills to new situations, including in the workplace
- demonstrate effective communication skills in a variety of forms and for a range of audiences.

5. What you will learn

Studying Nursing at Keele

Nursing Associate programme at Keele is a generic programme, linking to all fields of nursing; Adult, Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Children's Nursing, delivering high-quality education, which is evidenced by a range of quality-monitoring processes:

- Good Ofsted Apprenticeship & Skills Provision (2023)
- 1st in UK for Student Crowd University Awards, Britain's Best University
- Top 10 UK (2025) for Nursing and Midwifery Schools.
- 12th In Nursing UK for the Complete University guide (2023)
- 4th in Nursing -Times league Table- (2nd in England) (2024)
- Keele University: awarded Gold in the Teaching and Excellence Framework (2023). Athena Swan Bronze Award

Preparation for nursing associate practice encompasses learning in the spheres of knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours. Content is driven by the NMC Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education and QAA Academic and Practitioner Standards for Nursing (NMC 2018, QAA, 2018). The programme builds in terms of academic level, professional responsibility and technical complexity throughout the programme with key themes threaded throughout.

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding (based on the six NMC Platforms and Annexes, NMC, 2018a)

Successful students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding to meet all outcome statements provided in the NMC Standards of Proficiency Platforms and Annexes (NMC, 2018a) and the Apprenticeship Standard:

Platform 1 Being an accountable professional

- Nursing Associates act in the best interests of people, putting them first and providing nursing care that is person-centred, safe and compassionate, they act professionally at all times and use their knowledge and experience to make evidence based decisions and solve problems. They recognise and work within limits of their competence and are responsible for their actions.

Platform 2 Promoting health and preventing ill health

- Nursing Associates play a role in supporting people to improve and maintain their mental, physical, behavioural health and well-being. They are actively involved in the prevention of and protection of disease and ill health, and engage in public health, community development and in the reduction of health inequalities.

Platform 3 Provide and monitor care

- Nursing Associates provide compassionate, safe and effective care and support to people in a range of care settings. They monitor the condition and health needs of people within their care on a continual basis in partnership with people, families and carers. they contribute to ongoing assessment and can recognise when it is necessary to refer to others to reassessment

Platform 4 Working in teams

- Nursing Associates play an active role as members of interdisciplinary teams, collaborating and communicating effectively with nurses, a range of other health and care professionals and lay carers.

Platform 5 Improving safety and quality of care

- Nursing Associates improve the quality of care by contributing to the continuous monitoring of people's experience of care. They identify risks to safety or experience and take appropriate action, putting the best interests, needs and preferences of people first.

Platform 6 Contributing to integrated care

- Nursing Associates contribute to the provision of care for people, including those with complex needs. They understand the roles of a range of professionals and carers from other organisations and settings who may be participating in the care of a person and their family, and their responsibilities in relation to communication and collaboration.

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to demonstrate subject specific skills in the Standards of Proficiency for Nursing Associates (NMC, 2018) in conjunction with the Apprenticeship Standard:

Annexe A Communication and relationship management skills

- The ability to communicate effectively, with sensitivity and compassion, and to manage relationships with people is central to the provision of high quality person-centred care.
- The NMC skills annexe provides a set of competencies, which must be demonstrated in practice settings across a range of settings and adapted to meet the needs of people across their lifespan.
- Nursing Associates will be able to demonstrate a diverse range of communication skills and strategies to ensure that individuals, their families and carers are supported to be actively involved in their own care wherever appropriate, and that they are kept informed and well prepared.
- Cultural awareness will be demonstrated when caring for people and to ensure that the needs, priorities, expertise and preferences of people are always valued and taken into account.
- The Nursing Associate will be able to make reasonable adjustments with people with special communication needs or those with a disability. They will be able to share and provide information in a way that promotes good health and health outcomes and does not prevent people from having equal access to the highest quality of care.
- The Nursing Associate will be able to demonstrate those communication skills identified by the NMC Standards of Proficiency Skills Annex A (<https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/education-standards/nursing-associates-proficiency-standards.pdf>)

Annexe B Procedures to be undertaken by the Nursing Associate

- Nursing Associates will be able to demonstrate an awareness of how requirements for procedures may vary across different health and care settings.
- As the Nursing Associate role is generic, student Nursing Associates will be able to demonstrate the ability to carry out procedures in an appropriate context, and there is no expectation that this must be demonstrated in every health and care setting.
- Simulation will be used to learn and demonstrate competence in skills.
- Nursing Associates will demonstrate the application of an evidence base to all procedures.
- They will carry out the procedures safely, effectively, with sensitivity and compassion in the provision of patient-centred care.
- They will demonstrate an awareness of variations required for different practice settings and for people across the lifespan. They will be carried out in a way that reflects cultural awareness and ensures that the needs, priorities, expertise and preferences of people are always valued and taken into account.
- The Nursing Associate will be able to demonstrate those procedures identified by the NMC Standards of Proficiency Skills Annex B <https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/education-standards/nursing-associates-proficiency-standards.pdf>

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful Nursing Associates will be able to:

- be caring, compassionate, honest, conscientious and committed
- treat people with dignity, respecting an individual's diversity, beliefs, culture, needs, values, privacy and preferences
- show respect and empathy for those with whom you work
- have the courage to challenge areas of concern
- be adaptable, reliable and consistent, show discretion, resilience and self-awareness

- use qualities necessary for working in situations that require personal responsibility and decision-making
- undertake further training, develop existing skills and acquire new competencies
- demonstrate a range of generic skills, attitudes and capabilities that will promote and sustain life-long learning
- use study and research skills to inform practice
- learn independently
- use digital literacy with confidence
- learn through the use of reflective practice

Keele Graduate Attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social and ethical responsibility**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

6. How is the programme taught?

The programme will include both theory and practice modules and a variety of learning and teaching methods will be used to support your learning.

The curriculum model is based on the NMC (2018) Nursing Associate Standards of Proficiency platforms and aims to develop a learner who is empowered in taking forward their new role through practice learning experiences and underpinning knowledge. Professionalism and communication skills are also key aspects of the role, which will support nurses, and others to deliver a high standard of care commensurate with the expectations of Keele University (see curriculum model).

FdSc NA Course Structure

The School of Nursing and Midwifery embraces the [Keele Learning Principles](#) and further addresses specific learning needs of students undertaking a programme of study leading to professional registration.

The programme will prepare a registered Nursing Associate who can contribute positively to meeting the health needs of individuals, families and communities, the teaching and learning processes will focus on the integration and application of theory to nursing associate practice. Consequently, you will develop the ability to critically reflect on practice and respond pro-actively to change whilst maintaining high quality standards of care. To further facilitate this, we follow the Keele adult learning principles:

- Stimulation of curiosity; learning through problem-solving and experience:
- Students take responsibility for their own learning.
- Students integrate knowledge and understanding that spans disciplinary borders.
- Students develop community-orientation whereby you learn to understand and apply knowledge of personal, community and population health needs when delivering care.
- Explicit development of clinical skills and competence.

The curriculum design is underpinned by scaffolded learning based on the work of Bruner (1976) influenced by the theorist Vygotsky. In the field of education, the term 'scaffolding' refers to a process in which teachers model or demonstrate how to solve a problem, and then step back, offering support as needed. You will develop as independent critical thinkers through the use of enquiry-based learning and flipped classroom techniques, where learners assess what they can do independently and then build on their knowledge through a range of guided learning activities. The characteristics of andragogy (Knowles 1984) underpin how you will learn:

Self-Concept - As a person matures their self-concept moves from one of being a dependent personality toward one of being a self-directed human being.

Adult Learner Experience - As a person matures they accumulate a growing reservoir of experience that becomes an increasing resource for learning.

Readiness to learn - As a person matures their readiness to learn becomes oriented increasingly to the developmental tasks of his/her social roles.

Orientation to Learning - As a person matures their time perspective changes from one of postponed application of knowledge to immediacy of application. As an orientation toward learning shifts from one of subject- centeredness to one of problem centeredness.

Motivation to Learn - As a person matures the motivation to learn is internal.

Learning through experience is underpinned by Kolb's experiential learning theory (Kolb 1984) of learning by doing and reflecting on this process. To prepare a practitioner who is able to contribute positively to delivering the health needs of communities, the educational and learning process will concern itself with the integration and application of theory to practice. Consequently, you will develop the ability to reflect critically on practice and respond proactively to change, whilst maintaining quality within care.

Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter and level of the module. Methods allow for a blended approach to programme delivery, with some educational delivery taking place online with some small group teaching, and clinical based simulation settings.

They include the following:

- **Practice learning:** you will engage in both clinical and simulated practice to develop your clinical and nursing skills across a range of practice environments, which reflects the diversity of clinical practice experiences in the your field of nursing.
- Learning in clinical practice is an essential and significant component of the programme.
- **Lead lectures:** the lecturer will impart information, stimulate interest and provide a medium for the considered application of theory to practice and provide you with a framework and context for further reading and independent study, to broaden and deepen their existing professional knowledge and understanding of the core principles of nursing.
- **Tutor-led tutorials:** the lecturer will focus on a topic of interest and relevance to the module with in-depth discussion in a small group to further develop your confidence, competence and communication skills. Tutorials will be arranged as both individual and small group sessions with an emphasis on your individual development and opportunity given to:
 - Explore specific learning intentions and/or any difficulties.
 - Provide formative feedback and clarification of learning.
 - Create a climate for learning through structured reflection on practice and the inter-relationship with knowledge, research and evidence - based practice.
 - Provide effective support for you. Field-specific learning.
- **Student-led tutorials:** Students will lead the discussion on a topic within a small group or on a one to one basis.
- **Problem-solving scenarios:** case-based scenarios will be used to focus students' attention and develop their problem solving skills to facilitate linking of theory and practice.
- **Case study presentations:** the lecturer and/or students will present a specific case and use this as a vehicle for discussion and critical analysis.
- **Small group work:** students learn together whilst working on a focused activity.
- **Service user involvement:** fields of nursing and topic areas will determine a variety of methods and levels of service user involvement enabling the student to develop their practice to fully engage with the service user with all aspects of their care, realising the impact interactions have upon individuals whilst receiving health care and focusing on person-centred care.
- **Blended learning approaches:** the University's virtual learning environment will be used to facilitate online discussions, 'blogs', conditional release tasks and access to a wide range of learning resources and research tools.
- **Seminars and small group presentations:** Small group work will be facilitated to promote independent study in achieving the learning outcomes.
- **Inter-professional learning:** you have opportunities to focus on health-related scenarios and practice learning working within inter-professional groups of students to facilitate your understanding of each other's roles and how you might communicate and work together as practitioners in partnership in the future to support and improve people's experiences of health and social care.
- **Independent study:** you will be self-directed in relation to the various study demands of each module and its assessment. This is particularly relevant to portfolio development and the dissertation in the final module.
- **Simulation:** will expose students to a range of skills within a simulated environment. In your programme you will sometimes be expected to role play and engage in simulated clinical scenarios with other students, such as the practice and observation of practical skills in physical contact with other students. For some specific practices, this may necessitate modification of dress - e.g., to shorts and t-shirt. These activities will be conducted in a professional, safe, respectful and culturally sensitive way, under the supervision of academic staff, according to a defined protocol.

These learning and teaching methods enable you to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme in a variety of ways. For example:

- Lead lectures and independent study enable students to broaden and deepen their existing professional knowledge and understanding of the core principles of nursing associate practice.
- Lecturer and student-led tutorials and small group work enable students to explore a topic to considerable depth and to rationalise their opinions and actions within the safe, but challenging company of their peers. This further develops students' confidence, competence and communication skills.
- Case studies and case-based problem-solving scenarios facilitate linking of theory and practice; they

encourage critical analysis and evidence-based discussion as students are drawn into the rhetoric / reality debate that such scenarios often generate.

- Web-based learning facilitates breadth and depth of learning as participants engage in critical and challenging discussion with a large, multi-professional audience. Furthermore, communication skills are enhanced as students learn the nuances of web based communication with practitioners from a variety of disciplines.
- Simulated activities allow students to practice skills, self-assess their knowledge, understanding and clinical skills alongside their ability to reflect in action, problem solve, and make decisions which in turn should build their competence and confidence.
- Service user involvement will facilitate the students' awareness of how they interact and involve the person with care delivery and the significance of meaningful involvement throughout a person's interaction with healthcare across a variety of services and organisations.
- Clinical learning offers the opportunity for students to bring all their learning together and actually undertake nursing practice under supervision.

Apart from these formal activities, you will also be provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs you may have, with your Academic Mentor or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

It is very important that you attend for your theory and practice learning as indicated on your programme of studies. The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) (2018a, b) Nursing; NMC (2019) Midwifery, stipulate a minimum number of clinical practice hours required for registration of new registrants. Your programme has been developed to ensure that you meet this requirement of the NMC. Any non-attendance without good cause will result in disciplinary action and may prevent registration at course end if NMC clinical practice hours are not met. Regardless of the nature of absence, the minimum number of hours must be achieved before you can complete the programme. Students studying a professional programme under the NMC Standards **must** achieve the professional requirements for progression. For some NMC programmes, theoretical outstanding assessments must be successfully achieved and confirmed within 12 weeks of entering the next part of the programme. The 12-week period includes holidays and any absences. Reasonable adjustments may apply for students with a disability.

7. Teaching Staff

All current teaching staff hold active NMC registration as either a nurse or midwife; those from other Schools who contribute to the programme are registered with the appropriate professional body. The majority of staff have recordable teaching qualifications or are working towards achievement of this. Moreover, they have extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level and many are external examiners at other universities. Some staff have dual qualifications. Staff are actively encouraged to hold honorary contracts with health care provider organisations and to utilise this to ensure they remain updated with contemporary issues within their own field. A number of staff have additional roles or memberships with external organisations for example, NMC Reviewers, External Advisors to other HEIs, Journal reviewers, Member of NHS Ethics Committee, Supervisor of Midwives, Local Provider Committees and charitable organisations.

The School has a significant number of staff who hold PhDs and Professional Doctorates, with a number of staff currently studying at doctorate level. The School has a robust professional development strategy, which includes an annual research and scholarship programme, alongside annual appraisal and personal development planning. A number of staff have Fellowship or Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (HEA) and many staff are working towards this. Staff are actively involved in research across the School and belong to one or more of the Faculty Research Themes (FReT) groups.

Honorary lecturers, visiting lecturers and leading clinicians are integral to the delivery of modules within the programme and are utilised where appropriate.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

8. What is the structure of the Programme?

As a Student Nursing Associate, you can expect, over the two-year programme, to have a minimum of 2,300 hours devoted to structured learning activities, equally divided between theory and practice.

Apprenticeship Route:

This programme adheres to the programme hours related to the NMC's option B (NMC, 2018) work-based

learning route, where the learner is:

- released for at least 20% of the programme for academic study.
- released for at least 20% of the programme for protected time in external placements enabling them to develop the breadth of experience for a generic role.
- provided with protected learning time for the remaining programme hours
- The remainder of the week allows FdSc NA to work in an employed setting.

Apprentices:

NMC Option B

Total hours for NMC approved programmes for FdSc NA

Theoretical hours NMC Standard 3.5.2.1:

University hours:

Part 1- Week 1- 37.5 hours + 15hrs per week x 42 = 667.5 hours

Part 2- 15 hours per week x 43 = 645 hours = **1,312.5** hours in total in university

Practice Hours Standard 3.5.2.2:

Protected learning time:

Part 1 -7.5hrs per week x 32 weeks = 240hrs + 22.5hrs x 10 weeks external placement = 225hrs (+ additional 4 weeks at 37.5hrs = 150hrs) =615 hours in total in practice

Part 2- 7.5hrs per week x 32 weeks = 240hrs + 22.5hrs x 11 weeks external placement = 247.5hrs (+ additional 4 weeks at 37.5hrs = 150hrs) = 637.5 hours in total practice

Total across 2-year = 1252.5 hours in practice

For apprenticeship students this includes exposure to alternative placements. These are blocks of practice away from your employed (base) area, which may be between one and six weeks in length and contribute to 460 hours over the two years.

<https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/education-standards/nursing-associates-protected-learning-time-supporting-information.pdf>

Direct Entry:

NMC Option A: This programme adheres to the NMC's option A (NMC, 2018) whereby students are supernumerary when they are learning in practice:

Total hours for NMC approved programmes for FdSc NA

Theoretical hours NMC Standard 3.5.2.1:

University hours:

Part 1- Week 1- 37.5 hours + 15hrs per week x 42 = 667.5 hours

Part 2- 15 hours per week x 43 = 645 hours = 1,372.5 hours in total in university

Practice Hours Standard 3.5.2.2

Protected learning time:

Part 1- 22.5 per week x 4 weeks = 90 + 15hrs per week x 37 weeks = 555 = 645 hours in total in practice

Part 2- 15hrs per week x 42 weeks = 630 hours in total practice

Total across 2-year = 1,275 hours in practice

Direct entry students will have a min of 8 placement blocks over the 2-year period. These will be organised by the SNaM Placement team.

[nursing-associates-protected-learning-time-supporting-information.pdf](https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/education-standards/nursing-associates-protected-learning-time-supporting-information.pdf)

You will be engaged in learning for typically, two days per week over a two-year period facilitated by the School of Nursing and Midwifery, based at either Keele campus or Telford College. The remainder of programme time will be spent in practice learning including some protected learning time. For apprentices, this will enable you to

continue to be employed as well as studying for your foundation degree.

There are nine weeks in the course plan of non-teaching time each year where annual leave can be scheduled.

All students are not expected to have placements in each field of nursing, but should through their education programme benefit from experience with adult, children, and patients / service users with mental health conditions and learning disabilities (NMC, 2018).

The programme will comprise of 8 modules of 15 credits (NUR 10047-10050 & NUR 20141-20144), and 4 modules of 30 credits (NACP1-4). All modules are compulsory and must be passed.:

- Year One: 120 credits @ Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level 4
- Year Two: 120 credits @ FHEQ Level 5

Apprenticeship: [FdSc Apprenticeship Course Structure \(NMC Option B\).pdf](#)

Direct entry (non-apprenticeship): [FdSc Apprenticeship Course Structure \(NMC Option A\).pdf](#)

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 4	120	0	0
Level 5	120	0	0

Module Lists

Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Fundamentals of Nursing Associate Practice	NUR-10047	15	Trimester 1
Nursing Associate Clinical Practice 1	NUR-10051	30	Trimester 1-2
Skills for Academic Learning and Professional Practice	NUR-10048	15	Trimester 2
Medicines Management in Nursing Associate Practice	NUR-10049	15	Trimester 2-3
Nursing Associate Clinical Practice 2	NUR-10052	30	Trimester 2-3
Applied Biological Science	NUR-10050	15	Trimester 3

Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Enhancing Nursing Associate Practice	NUR-20141	15	Trimester 1
Health and Wellbeing in Nursing Associate Practice	NUR-20142	15	Trimester 1-2
Nursing Associate Clinical Practice 3	NUR-20145	30	Trimester 1-2
Leadership and Team Working in Nursing Associate Practice	NUR-20144	15	Trimester 2-3
Nursing Associate Clinical Practice 4	NUR-20146	30	Trimester 2-3
Safety and Quality in Nursing Associate Practice	NUR-20143	15	Trimester 3

Practice Learning

You will be supported by a supervisor/assessor in practice who will oversee and assess your practice learning. The majority of your practice learning will take place in your employing organisation. You will be required to undertake alternative placements in other areas across the lifespan and in a variety of settings, these may include gaining experience in a range of settings in the hospital, close to home, and at home.

Examples of employed areas / placements for FDSc NA		
- NHS and independent sector - adult, children's and young people) - Paramedic services - Emergency Assessment Units (community hospital settings) - Mental health in-patient services - Learning disability inpatient services	- Hospice (adult and child) - Primary Care - General practice and general practice nurses. - Respite care with nursing service - Mental health crisis house with nursing services - Mental Health community outreach teams - Re-ablement services (nursing) - School Nursing - Substance misuse services - Community learning disability services integrated teams - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) - Public Health England nursing services - (Out-patient Clinics)	- Nursing homes - District and Community Nursing services - Assisted living for people with learning disabilities - Supported living services - Children's domiciliary care services - Older Person Services (Community Mental Health Team) - Paediatric nursing services - Health visiting services - Community palliative care teams (child and adult) - Charitable end of life services e.g. Macmillan - Community mental health teams (adult and child) - Perinatal mental health teams - Early Intervention for psychosis teams - Offender health care units

Practice learning in alternative placements will enable FDSc NA students to gain experience in caring for people across the lifespan. These placements will consist of a minimum of 460 hours overall, in short blocks of normally one to six weeks, and may include several different fields of nursing practice, to enhance experience.

Practice Learning

You will be supported by a supervisor/assessor in practice who will oversee and assess your practice learning. For apprentices the majority of your practice learning will take place in your employing organisation. You will be required to undertake alternative placements in other areas across the lifespan and in a variety of settings, these may include gaining experience in a range of settings.

9. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

Foundation Degree Nursing Associate	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher Achievement of this award will enable you to be eligible to register with the NMC as a Nursing Associate, and practise as a Nursing Associate.
Certificate in Higher Education in Healthcare Studies	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher <i>NB:</i> the title of any such award will not include the title Nursing Associate. This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the NMC and recipients are not entitled to practise as a Nursing Associate.

Apprenticeship specific requirements: If an apprenticeship student is unable to complete their programme at any stage, their employment contract with their employing organisation may end. Any exit award will need to be in agreement with the employing organisation.

10. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The assessment strategy reflects the aims and philosophy of the programme whereby student Nursing Associates engage in educational activities that integrate the theory and practice of contemporary nursing and enable them to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours for professional competence. A range of assessments reflects the requirements of professional, regulatory and statutory bodies (NMC 2018; QAA 2018) and University Regulations, and is informed by service-users, clinical colleagues, students and the course development team.

The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- Continuous assessment of practice
- Assessments of an 'episode of care' in practice settings conducted by practice assessors.
- Practical examinations.
- Reflective accounts.
- Examinations in different formats test your knowledge and understanding of the subject. You will have an opportunity to test your numeracy and medicines management skills through the use of an online learning package. Examinations may consist of essay, short answer and/or multiple choice questions. These are normally undertaken in an online format.
- Essays allow you to demonstrate your ability to articulate ideas clearly using argument and reasoning skills and with close reference to the contexts and critical concepts covered in the modules. Essays also develop and demonstrate research and presentation skills (including appropriate scholarly referencing).
- Class tests taken online via the Keele Learning Environment (KLE) assess your subject knowledge and your ability to apply it in a more structured and focused way.
- Oral and poster presentations and reports assess individual students' subject knowledge and understanding. They also test their ability to work effectively as members of a team, to communicate what they know orally and visually, and to reflect on these processes as part of their own personal development.
- Peer assessment: In some cases students will be involved in marking other students' work, usually with a prescriptive marking guide. This helps you to appreciate where marks are gained and lost and gives you the opportunity to see the common mistakes made by other students.

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments usually within five working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

Assessments are specified at the level ascribed to individual modules and reflect the increasing specificity and complexity of the learning outcomes that you will be required to achieve for the progression points. The schedule of assessments has been structured to give you maximum opportunity to link your theoretical learning to your practice development. By fixing the submissions of theoretical assessments, the aim is to enable you to organise the workload and learning effectively. Formative assessment is a requirement of the programme and feedback provided will be invaluable for students' learning and progression.

Clear guidance on all assessments will be given to you within assessment briefs and support will be available for you. Detailed, constructive and timely feedback will identify your areas of strength and areas for further improvement. You will be encouraged to reflect on your theoretical and practical learning using reflection to assess your own development. This will enable you to become a more independent learner as you progress through your programme and build a sound foundation for autonomous practice.

Assessments have also been designed to facilitate the development of transferable skills that can be utilised in placement for the benefit of service users, relatives, carers and the student themselves. Similarly, the assessments will offer students the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge, evidence - based practice and application of their developing research skills (i.e. literature searching and reviewing, application and critique of research methods and evaluation of evidence). In accordance with the University and School's marking criteria, the minimum pass mark for all summative assessments is 40% (pass). Failure to achieve a pass mark at the first attempt will lead to an automatic reassessment, in this instance the maximum mark awarded for this assessment will be 40%.

To successfully complete the award and apply for entry to the professional register students must successfully achieve in each of the following areas:

- Summative module assessments
- Professional conduct
- Good health and good character.
- Achievement of theory and practice hours as per the professional requirements of the programme.

Management of the assessment process will be in accordance with the University academic regulations.

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time (synchronous- (in-situ or online) or asynchronous) is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

For the Nursing Associate programme it has been calculated on the basis of a typical student working 37.5 hours per week across 43 weeks per year.

As required by the Nursing & Midwifery Council (2018a), a total of approximately 2,300 hours is devoted to structured learning activities across the two years of the programme. This comprises the following:

- Practice learning will consist of a minimum of 1,150 hours overall.
- Theory / guided study totals 1,150 hours overall.

12. Accreditation

Progression

You should note that to be awarded Registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council you must pass all the assessments within all your modules, for each part of the programme and achieve a minimum standard of a pass grade or 40%. **All modules are compulsory and are to be undertaken in sequence. Entry to a subsequent part (year) of the programme is dependent on successful completion of the previous part (year) and achievement of the progression point. If you have not completed the required assessment components, you may not progress to the next year of the programme.** Your progress will be reviewed to determine the support to study you require. There is no such provision for outstanding practice assessments. If you do not complete the required practice assessment with a specific part of the programme, you may be required to take a period leave and return to an agreed point within the following cohort.

This programme is accredited by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). This programme also meets the apprenticeship standard of the Institute of Apprenticeships. Please note the following:

Regulations: Your programme has professional accreditation and there are specific regulations, which you have to agree to abide by, which are detailed in the Annex at the end of this document.

13. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed

in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

14. Other Learning Opportunities

Practice Quality Monitoring

An audit process is in place to ensure the maintenance of educational standards in practice as part of our practice placement quality systems. The Practice Placement Quality Lead Lecturer and Clinical Placement Facilitators' / Practice Education Facilitator meetings oversee implementation of the NMC standards for student supervision and assessment in practice (NMC 2018c) in partnership.

You will be supported in practice by a named supervisor in line with Standards to Support Learning and Assessment in Practice (NMC 2018), and you will be assessed by a named Practice Assessor and Academic Assessor.

There are sufficient supervisors to support the number of students on Nursing Associate programmes, and a rolling programme of supervisor / assessor education and updates ensures that there will also be sufficient supervisors to meet future student FdSc NA numbers and meet NMC quality standards. Preparation of supervisors for the curriculum is ongoing. General information about the structure and content of the FdSc Nursing Associate programme has already been incorporated into existing assessor and supervisor updates (Standard 4 NMC 2010). Moderation of practice assessment documents is undertaken on a regular basis to ensure compliance with NMC standards and University Regulations. External Examiners regularly visit placement areas as part of their external moderation responsibility.

Apprenticeship programmes are also overseen by OFSTED, who may visit placement areas to review the quality of the education learning experience for FdSc NA students.

Working in partnership with placement providers, practice supervisor / practice assessor learning in practice update registers are sent to enable providers to maintain their prepared practice supervisor and practice assessor databases. Managers use the organisation appraisal system as part of their contractual obligation to ensure their supervisors receive ongoing support to continue in their role as a practice supervisor or practice assessor.

Inter-professional Learning in the Pre-Registration Curriculum

Partnership and co-operation at all levels is fundamental in 21st Century health and social care systems to ensure a seamless service to meet people's healthcare needs. Inter-professional education is seen as giving everyone working in the health sector the skills and knowledge to respond effectively to the individual needs of the patients (NHSE, 2014).

It has been recognised that team working, integration and workforce flexibility could only be achieved if there was widespread recognition and respect for the specialist base of each profession. Therefore, inter-professional education has developed over the years in the UK to:

- Modify negative attitudes and perceptions.
- Remedy failures in the trust and communication between professionals.
- Reinforce collaborative competence.
- Secure collaboration to implement policies, to impose services and to effect change.
- Cope with problems that exceed the capacity of any one profession.
- Enhance job satisfaction and ease stress.
- Create a more flexible workforce.
- Counter reductionism and fragmentation as professions proliferate in response to technical advance.
- Integrate specialist and holistic care.

At Keele University, the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences is committed to inter-professional education in both principle and practice. We are in a fortunate position as an HEI to have educational provision for nurse, midwife, nursing associate, physiotherapist, radiographer, medical, pharmacist, paramedic and bio-medical science students, all of whom participate in the online IPE strategy for the Faculty. IPE permeates throughout the two years of the Nursing Associate programme.

Please see website for more details <http://www.keele.ac.uk/health/inter-professionaleducation/>

Internationalisation

The School of Nursing and Midwifery has been proactive in developing the international perspective and has a growing focus with well-established partnerships with a number of institutions as outlined in Table 1 (see school website for more information <http://www.keele.ac.uk/nursingandmidwifery/international/>). These enable both staff and student opportunities for exchanges and electives. Students on the Nursing Associate programme will explore global health issues, international health targets and international health care policies within the curriculum using a variety of learning and teaching methods. In addition to this, students will be given the

opportunity to undertake an international placement either in one of the School's link institutions, via a recognised placement organisation or following appropriate approval processes, a placement they have identified. This is a self funded placement. Students wishing to undertake a international elective must follow the School processes outlined by the School International Director.

Apprenticeship Specific Requirements: Placement experiences for apprenticeship students will be led by the employing organisation. Opportunities for electives and international experiences outside of these arrangements must be discussed with your employer first.

The School also welcomes a number of students from other countries to spend a period of study here, which has evaluated extremely positively and benefits the student group as a whole. An annual event is scheduled where health care students within the Faculty reflect on their international experiences as part of the "Keele International Festival".

Table 1. International Placements and links from previous years

Country	Organisation
Australia	Queensland Health, Gold Coast Hospital
Canada	York University and hospitals in Toronto
Turkey	Ankara University - Agreement for Teaching Mobility & Student Mobility.
Sweden	University of Gothenburg - Agreement Teaching Mobility/Admin Mobility/Student Mobility
Iceland	Agreement Teaching Mobility
Range of countries for example Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania	Work the World Organisation, or 'Mindmygapyear'
Spain	University Nebrija Madrid
Bahrain	The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Medical University of Bahrain

15. Additional Costs

Apart from additional costs for textbooks, inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation Nursing Associate students should be aware of the following additional costs: (moved from another section)

Apprentices: placement travel costs will be managed by your employing organisations' travel policy.

Direct entry (non-apprentices) students: are required to undertake a minimum of 1,150 hours in clinical practice over the duration of a two-year course. Your geographical location, when possible, is considered when allocating to clinical placements and, whilst efforts are made to limit your travel, it is not possible to guarantee that placements will be locations, and you may be required to travel up to 50-mile radius for your placements. Expenses may be claimed in accordance with information from the NHS Learning support fund guidelines.

Apart from additional costs for textbooks, inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation Nursing Associate students should be aware of the following additional costs:

Apprentices: placement travel costs will be managed by your employing organisations' travel policy.

Direct entry (non-apprentices) students: are required to undertake a minimum of 1,150 hours in clinical practice over the duration of a two-year course. Your geographical location, when possible, is considered when allocating to clinical placements and, whilst efforts are made to limit your travel, it is not possible to guarantee that placements will be a nearby location, and you may be required to travel up to 50-mile radius for your placements. Expenses may be claimed in accordance with information from the NHS Learning support fund guidelines.

Uniform

Smart presentation is an important aspect of being a student on the FdSc NA programme; it is as a professional requirement. It is important that you are identifiable in clinical areas, therefore a name badge needs to be worn.

Apprenticeship Students: Employers will cover the cost of uniform. Any replacement uniform costs will need

to be paid for by your employer and could be in the region of £60-80. Employers will cover the cost of name badges, approx. £5 for apprenticeship students.

Direct entry students: will be supplied with appropriate uniform (two sets, top and trousers), you may purchase extra uniform to adhere to university uniform policy from our designated supplier if you choose to. Students will be supplied with a name badge. This is free in the first instance, but there will be a cost of approx. £5 to replace a lost or damaged badge.

All students will need to provide your own appropriate footwear for placements as per the School Uniform Policy, and it is recommended that you purchase a fob watch. You are advised to review and ensure that you can adhere to the school uniforms policy.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

Clearance for an enhanced DBS check is mandatory.

Apprenticeship specific requirements: apprentices need to provide evidence to the university apprenticeship team that this has been completed, and the annual update.

Direct entry students will be provided with instructions on how to apply for a DBS check, including a link to apply via a company called UCheck. There is also an online DBS update service to sign up for once the DBS certificate has been received, which allows checking of your DBS status and keeps your DBS certificate up to date online. Approximate costs are an initial £49.20 for the enhanced DBS check, plus £13 per year for the update service.

*The current costs for a DBS check are detailed on the additional costs webpage:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/tuitionfeesandfunding/undergraduatetuitionfees/additionalcosts>

Occupational Health Clearance

Apprentices. You will receive Occupational Health clearance via their employer.

Direct entry students. The commencement of your course will depend upon a health fitness report being provided by the University's Occupational Health Service. As part of this process, you **MUST** complete a health questionnaire, prior to the start of your programme and undertake as necessary immunisations or blood tests to meet practice learning requirements. You will be responsible for any fee that may be required by your GP and any OH costs including non-attendance.

ID Cards

All students: Identification cards are required in some clinical placement areas. These are initially provided free of charge. However in the event that you misplace your ID card, you will be required to replace this at cost, typically £5.

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative. Where additional costs are in direct control of the University we will ensure increases do not exceed 5%.

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

Activity	Direct Entry (self funding) Estimated Costs	Estimated Cost Apprenticeship Students
Travel as outlined	£ dependent on placement	£ dependent on your employing organisation
Uniform	£60-80 including VAT & postage	£60-80 including VAT & postage paid by the employing organisation
ID Card	Students will need to apply for an ID card for their allocated placement organisation. This is free in the first instance, but there will be a charge of £5 to replace a lost or damaged card.	Paid for by the employing organisation
Name Badges	Students will be supplied with a name badge. This is free in the first instance, but there will be a charge of approx. £5 to replace a lost or damaged badge.	Paid for by the employing organisation
Register to the DBS Update Service (13-14 per year)	£50.60	Paid for by the employing organisation
Enhanced DBS Check (Only applicable to students who do not register to the Update Service in time) (£47.20 per check*)	£47.20* per new DBS check	Paid for by the employing organisation, evidence to be provided and is the responsibility of the employer and employee
OH Clearance - as outlined above	£- dependent on circumstances	Paid for by the employing organisation
Total estimated additional costs	£167.80 - £197.80 excluding potential travel and OH costs	N/A excluding potential travel costs

16. Annex - Programme-specific regulations

Programme Regulations: Nursing Associate

Final Award and Award Titles	Foundation Degree (FdSc) Nursing Associate
Intermediate Award(s)	Certificate in Higher Education in Healthcare Studies
Last modified	July 2025: DBS and OH information added September 2025: Repeat year text clarification (Variation)
Programme Specification	https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications

The University's Academic Regulations which can be found on the Keele University website (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>)[1] apply to and regulate the programme, other than in instances where the specific programme regulations listed below over-ride them. These programme regulations list:

- *Exemptions* which are characterised by the omission of the relevant regulation.
- *Variations* which are characterised by the replacement of part of the regulation with alternative wording.
- *Additional Requirements* which set out what additional rules that apply to students in relation to this programme.

The following **exemptions, variations** and **additional requirements** to the University regulations have been checked by Academic Services and have been approved by the Faculty Education Committee.

A) EXEMPTIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where an exemption from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

For the whole duration of their studies, students on this Programme are exempt from the following regulations:

- **No exemptions apply.**

B) VARIATIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where a variation from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

Feedback on assessments is greater than 15 working days (Regulation D1.11.1)

This programme varies from Regulation C3 Bachelors Degree (Section 7)

- A student must be successful in all summative assessments
- All modules must be successfully completed
- There will be no compensation or condonement awarded for modules on the FDS Sc NA programme (NMC, 2018).
- A student who has failed an assessment at two attempts with no exceptional circumstances will be reviewed at a School Progression Panel, on one occasion only, and, if deemed appropriate, will be awarded a further assessment attempt.
- Practice assessments and competencies: Students are not able to proceed to the next year of study if they have not completed the part of the programme as set out in the NMC standards (2018) 7.5 -A nominated practice assessor works in partnership with the nominated academic assessor to evaluate and recommend the student for progression for each part of the programme, in line with programme standards and local and national policies.

Regulation D2 (1.1.4, 1.2.4 and 1.6.4): the repeat year options outlined in the regulation will be subject to approval by the Progression and Award Board. In making decisions, the Progression and Award Board will offer repeat options based on the prospect of the student progressing or completing the failed modules or assessments. Students with approved exceptional circumstances will be granted repeat options, subject to the caveat noted below. For students without approved exceptional circumstances, Progression and Award Boards will take the following into account when making decisions: students should normally have achieved a module mark on all failed modules within 10 percentage points of the module pass mark and demonstrated engagement with their studies through an attendance record of at least 80% (not including reported absences) to be eligible for a repeat year option.

If it is identified that additional support is required, students will be guided towards the Support to Study process.

Where a repeat year or module option requires a clinical placement, this option may be deferred depending on placement capacity and students may be required by the Progression and Award Board to take a leave of absence until such time that the placements can be undertaken.

Regulation D1 (9.1): For any piece of coursework where a student has 'killed the patient' or subjected them to considerable potential risk/harm a fail will be awarded. Due to the nature of the qualification, any evidence of dangerous practice seen within any part of any of the assessed components of the Nursing Associate programme will result in a fail for the whole module. In addition, a fail may be awarded if a student's performance causes the examiners serious general concerns about their competence.

Additional Requirements:

The programme requirements listed below are in addition to the University's Academic Regulations:

Additional requirement 1: Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

Clearance for an enhanced DBS check is mandatory on this programme. Students will be provided with instructions on how to apply for a DBS check, including a link to apply via a company called UCheck. Students must also sign up to the online DBS update service once the DBS certificate has been received.

Any student who has not completed the DBS application and sign up process, or who has not made the Programme Team, Student Support, Admissions Team aware of any Exceptional Circumstances, by the first working day in November (for September start programmes) or the first working day in March (for January start programmes) will be in breach of regulation B8 (11.1) in relation to providing incomplete information during the application process, and will enter the formal termination of studies process.

Additional requirement 2: Occupational Health

An Occupational Health assessment confirming fitness to commence the programme is mandatory on this programme.

Any student who has not completed all aspects of the Occupational Health process, or who has not made the Programme Team, Student Support, Occupational Health Team aware of any Exceptional Circumstances, by the first working day in January (for September start programmes) or the first working day in May (for January start programmes) will be in breach of regulation B8 (11.1) in relation to providing incomplete information during the application process, and will enter the formal termination of studies process.

Additional requirement 3: Regulatory Matters not covered by University Academic Regulations

- i) The programme should be of 45 weeks duration per year with a minimum total of 2,300 hours over the duration over the two-year programme, demonstrating 50% theory and 50% practice hours
- ii) The Head of School or designate declares good health and good character of students to the NMC on programme completion.
- iii) The Keele Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy 2.2.1 (2019) states that:
 - 1. The guideline to be followed when assessing RPL applications is that no more than 50% of the taught credits for a programme can be exempted through RPL. Exceptions to the guideline in 2.2.1 are only permitted where they are set out in programme-specific regulations.
 - 2. The NMC (2018d) permits RPL for registered nurses that is capable of being mapped to the NMC (2018a) Nursing Standards of Proficiency and programme outcomes that may be more than 50% of a programme
 - 3. Therefore this programme has an exemption to the RPL guideline 2.2.1 to allow entry for registered nurses as set out in 13 b iii 2 above.

- as an apprenticeship a minimum 20% of the programme should be learning 'off the job' for students on a FDS NA apprenticeship (ST0827/AP02 Institute for Apprenticeships)

- Practice placements areas will reflect people's experience across the lifespan and exposure to all fields of nursing

Additional requirement 4: Regulations relating to Student Discipline

Fitness to Practise: Students are required to inform the School of any change in their physical or mental health status following their initial assessment as fit to practise. The School may refer any student whose fitness to practise is in doubt to the University's Occupational Health Unit for reassessment in partnership with practice partners or (in the case of apprentices, the organisation employing the student). Such students may also be subject to the School's Health and Conduct arrangements.

Students are required to inform the School and their organisation of any change to their status regarding

criminal convictions and/or cautions following their initial enhanced disclosure by the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS). Where there are grounds to do so, a further DBS check may be requested in partnership with the organisation sponsoring the student.

Any student who has taken a prolonged period of leave of absence or sickness may be subject to the arrangements above.

A leave of absence or prolonged period of sickness may mean that a student may need to undertake a break in studies and rejoin another (following) cohort, in order to have the best opportunity to be successful with their studies.

All students will also adhere to employer's policies and procedures relating to conduct.

All student discipline issues must be discussed with the employer.

Additional requirement 5: Nursing Regulations

To be awarded the relevant FDS Nursing Associate award and to be eligible to apply for entry to the NMC Professional Register, the student must have:

- Met the attendance requirements of the curriculum. A student who has not achieved the minimum professional requirements during the Programme will be required to make up time in placement and demonstrate sufficient evidence of engagement with the theoretical content to meet the minimum professional requirements. Students who do not achieve the minimum professional requirements will make up the requisite time at the end of their final year
- Have experienced a range of placements and met the relevant requirements for registration
- Passed all theory and practice assessments for all modules
- Must register with the NMC within five years of successful completion of their studies

Additional requirement 6: Regulations relating to placements

Students that miss or are unable to attend one or more placements and as a result are not be able to successfully fulfil the professional requirements of the year and progress to the next level of study, may be required by the board of examiners to take a leave of absence until such time (normally at the start of the next academic year) when they can re-join the programme and undertake the missing placements.

Additional requirement 7: Regulations relating to repeat assessment/module

Students who are required to retake modules having failed the resit attempts available will need to liaise with their employer to accommodate changes to their training plan and any other charges they may be eligible for.

Student Additional Placement Requirement

An additional placement requirement may be required where you

- Fail your PSRB capabilities in a planned placement and an additional placement is required to support your regulatory standard attainment
- are outstanding skills and capabilities to support your programme progression.
- are outstanding your required PSRB capabilities to support professional registration.
- are outstanding PSRB work based practice days to support your course completion and professional registration. (**N.B.** this list is not exhaustive)

The following guidance applies to any circumstances where an additional placement is required.

Work Based Placement Provision

Work based placements are provided by Local Authorities, NHS Trust and Private Voluntary and/or Independent Organisations (PVIO) for programmes in FMHS. All Local Authorities, NHS Trust/organisation providers manage and coordinate their own work based student placements for all learners. This is done through liaison with the university.

Work Based Placement Pathway

Each university has a planned work based placement pathway for every student cohort group completing PSRB training and education programmes. This is to ensure that you meet all the professional practice capabilities and requirements for your programme of study. The planned work based placement pathway is agreed with the university.

Additional Work Based Placements

Should you need an additional work based placement, outside of the agreed placement pathway, the university would need to liaise closely with the educational team for the relevant Local Authority, NHS Trust/PVIO

organisation provider. An additional placement request would need to be made.

Additional Work Based Placement Considerations

The ability to accommodate you with an additional placement outside of the normal placement pathway, is dependent upon several variables. For example, the number of mentors, practice assessors/educators, available in placement areas to support your learning and assessment and the numbers of student learners already situated in planned placements from other cohort groups and or other universities. The above factors sit mostly outside of the university's sphere of control.

Additional Work Based Placement Requests

If you require an additional work based placement, this will be requested and managed by the School's Placement Team (at the point at which the team are informed that additional placements for students are required and numbers are known).

Additional Work Based Placements Timings

There may be times when it is not possible to secure an additional placement at the point at which you require an additional placement, and some organisations may not be able to offer any additional placements for you outside of the university agreed plans. You may therefore need to wait until a suitable placement opportunity becomes available within a Local Authority, NHS or PVIO provider organisation and the organisation is able to accommodate your additional placement request.

Additional Work Based Placement Progression Delay

Additional placement opportunities may not occur for you again until the next cohort group undertakes the equivalent placement experience in the next academic year. The need for any additional placements may lead to a delay which may affect your ability to continue to progress on programme with your cohort group.

Additional Work Based Placement Travel and Accommodation

Your school will make every effort to secure you an additional placement, however, this may mean that you will be expected to make informed decisions and take responsibility about travel, accommodation, and financial subsistence when the additional placement area secured is not within the normal placement pathway. The decision you will need to make will be between continuing with your current cohort group or delaying your progression on programme.

Programme Progression

Where your programme progression or course completion end date is impacted, it is important for you to seek advice and guidance from your programme specific Academic Mentor or Student Support Services, and if applicable your School International Director. Delays in your progression may have consequences for your professional registration and employment/financial/accommodation offers, visas, and or other contractual arrangements.

[\[1\]](https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/) References to University Regulations in this document apply to the content of the University's Regulatory Framework as set out on the University website here <https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>.

The knowledge Skills and behaviours required for the Nursing Apprenticeship have been mapped and are integrated into the programme, see below:

Link to KSB's document to follow

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 16 September 2025

What's Changed

Repeat options wording clarified

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1.1	2025/26	NICOLA WITTON	10 July 2025	Addition of new site for delivery: Telford College satellite. Addition of direct (non-apprenticeship) entry.
1	2025/26	NICOLA WITTON	14 February 2025	
1	2024/25	CHARLOTTE HARPER	03 June 2024	
2	2023/24	CHARLOTTE HARPER	13 March 2024	Variation added to the regulations section regarding repeat options
1	2023/24	CHARLOTTE HARPER	14 March 2023	
1.1	2022/23	CHARLOTTE HARPER	14 March 2023	To be added
1	2022/23	CHARLOTTE HARPER	26 September 2022	
1	2021/22	NICOLA WITTON	10 February 2021	
2	2020/21	CHARLOTTE HARPER		Change of owner as requested by Charlotte Harper 17/8/22.
1	2020/21	NICOLA WITTON	02 January 2020	
1	2019/20	NICOLA WITTON	02 January 2020	