

Course Information Document: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2025/26

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies
Award type	BSc (post-registration)
Mode of study	Part-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 6
Normal length of the programme	Normally two to three years duration
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	Not applicable
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS); National Health Service (NHS); Voluntary, Private and Independent Sector; Self-funding per module
Tuition Fees	Each module taken is individually costed each academic year. Costs vary but as a guide a standard 15-credit module costs approximately £1,100 and a standard 30-credit module costs approximately £2,150.

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.

* These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

** These fees are for new students. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

2. Overview of the Programme

As health education moves closer towards an all-graduate profession at initial qualification, reflective of national trends, Trusts locally are working towards the current workforce attaining graduate status. This programme will provide an important stepping stone towards achieving this aim. In recognising the roles and skills of a multidisciplinary workforce responding to the dynamic nature of health and social care, health policy and practice, the need to afford opportunity for further academic and professional challenge is identified as crucial to service provision (NHSE 2014, NSHE, 2019).

With the aim of providing education that is responsive to contemporary health and social policy and the current political dialogue (DH, 2020) regarding the provision of health and social care, this programme will recognise the dynamic context of contemporary clinical practice. It will embrace health related multi-professional and interprofessional learning, whilst recognising the various roles and skills of the multidisciplinary workforce within health and social care.

Importantly, this programme offers you the opportunity to study, following qualification, an award centred on clinical practice. It promotes the gaining of an intermediate award 'Graduate Certificate' which will facilitate career progression within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (DH, 2004), through the demonstration of personal development, which will allow you to progress within your clinical role by taking on new responsibilities. The Graduate Certificate relates to 60 credits at level 6 study, and also equates to the first complete year of study towards the BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies. The KSF advocates education at all academic levels, to create practitioners that are fit for purpose and fit for practice. Embracing this notion within the current emerging healthcare arena, this programme of study will be promoted at both the Graduate Certificate and BSc (Hons) end qualification points. Students will build on their professional experience and academic achievement at pre-registration level, with the aim of developing reflective, informed professionals, able to lead and influence the future provision within their chosen pathway of care, within the interdisciplinary team-working context. All modules in this programme have been mapped against the competencies detailed within the KSF, for both the student and their manager.

Within the Modernising Nursing Careers (DH, 2006) review, it clearly sets the direction for nursing careers and identifies a series of priorities and actions intended to prepare nurses to lead and coordinate care in new environments determined by the changing healthcare needs of patients and clients. This demands that nurses expand both their competence and confidence to lead and manage a range of health issues and health related settings. The four priorities are:

- Modernising the image of nursing and nursing career
- Developing a competent and flexible nursing workforce
- Updating career pathways and career choices
- Preparing to lead in a changed healthcare system

This programme is cognisant of these priorities and has considered these as some of the key drivers impacting on the delivery of healthcare education for the future. It recognises the importance of a health and social care workforce with the right people, right skills, competencies, knowledge and attitudes that are effectively deployed and motivated as the tool for providing high-quality, patient-centred services which give best value to the health economy. An important part of NMC is about how careers can be organised to be satisfying and rewarding while simultaneously helping to retain skilled nurses to deliver high quality care.

The development of a flexible, adaptable workforce capable of moving between organisations and sustaining continuous service improvement is critical to the development of effective and efficient healthcare. The NHS is evolving at a great pace and needs to continually provide opportunities for staff development.

This programme has been developed with these new career pathways in mind and promotes competence in cross cutting, ongoing themes like holism, end of life care, health promotion, safeguarding vulnerable groups and preventing long term conditions. The Graduate Certificate and BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies are multidisciplinary in nature to reflect the contemporary nature of health and social care provision. Indeed, health and social care delivery deriving from current service reforms requires that the practitioner of the future not only possesses the knowledge, attitudes and skills to practise safely and effectively in an evolving health care environment but, also who has the academic and professional preparation that enables them to work competently within the culture in which they are likely to practise in the future. This undergraduate post qualification programme has been designed to facilitate the development of such practitioners. Within the educational philosophy for the programme, you will move from novice to expert as you gain skills and experience (Benner, 1984).

This programme within the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Keele University is distinctive in that it offers a much broader basis upon which to acquire a post-qualification award. The pathways available, in addition to the generic award, offer a broad range of contemporary options for prospective post-qualification students. The programme reflects the University mission statement in learning and teaching to deliver high quality education with an emphasis on interprofessional and multi-professional learning opportunities.

Within the BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies the following pathways have been developed:

- Generic
- Contemporary Rheumatology
- Fundamentals in General Practice Nursing
- Neonatal
- Critical Care
- International

The philosophy of this course recognises the dynamic nature of professional health and social care practice and

the need for education to be responsive to contemporary policy. Indeed, the fostering of an intellectually challenging environment, from which skills of analysis and critical evaluation are developed, is viewed as fundamental to undergraduate education.

The process of teaching and learning within the curriculum will be underpinned by an adult learner approach; this approach emphasises the importance of students, and it recognises the facilitative role of the teacher in order to assist the learner to achieve outcomes at this level. Students entering this programme will already have a sound knowledge base in general practice areas, typically developed during pre-qualification education and subsequent post-qualification practice and development as well as from personal experiences. Value is placed on the intrinsic differences of individual students with regard to their professional knowledge, clinical experiences, technical and life skills. The curriculum will incorporate different ways of encouraging you to learn with different sequences of material so that individual differences between learners can be fitted into the general goal of helping you to achieve your full potential and outcomes of the course. Presenting information, motivating students, and creating opportunities for you to learn will seek to develop deep approaches to learning. Engaging you in this way will seek to develop you in order that you can expedite appropriate change in your own practice and ultimately enhance care for your client group either in health or social care settings. In order to achieve this you will be empowered to develop individual responsibility for your learning within a framework of reflection, critical evaluation and clinical governance.

The programme team has taken account of the nature of developments in health and social care practice, education, research and clinical leadership and believes that there will be a need for students to develop critical consciousness of self, evidence based practice, theory and practice knowledge in order to enable them to respond to the needs of patients and clients in a variety of contexts.

3. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you as qualified practitioners to:

- enhance analytical and reflective skills to support individual professional practice development.
- develop theoretical knowledge and practical competence in your field of clinical practice
- mobilise knowledge and engage in critical reasoning and ethical conduct to provide contextually appropriate healthcare

4. What you will learn

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes, including skills that are transferable to the world of work:

Upon successful completion of the programme you, the practitioner, will be able to:

- Demonstrate the development and enhancement of skills in intellectual debate, knowledge and skills in clinical reasoning, structured evaluation and problem-solving.
- Demonstrate the development of enhanced analytical and reflective skills to support your professional practice development.
- Contribute effectively to the development of innovative care delivery, within your practice area, through the development of skills, knowledge and attitudes.
- Contribute to the advancement of evidence based practice and research within the context of contemporary professional and public policies.
- Demonstrate critical awareness and understanding of the ways in which personal and professional values and organisational structures affect clinical decision making and integrated care delivery. Demonstrate the skills and practical knowledge surrounding communication through an individual and personalised approach to patients, family and colleagues.
- Undertake critical analysis of your role and responsibilities within your practice setting and acquire the skills and knowledge and leadership qualities to respond to changing practice and expansion of roles.
- Demonstrate understanding and enrichment of knowledge for practice and demonstrate competency within your practice area.

Transferable / Key Skills / Employability Skills

Upon successful completion of the programme you, (the practitioner) will have acquired:

- Information technology skills
- Numeracy skills
- Written communication skills
- Oral and visual communication skills
- Team working skills
- Problem solving skills
- Research skills
- Learning to learn skills

The 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.

5. How is the programme taught?

The School of Nursing & Midwifery addresses students' specific learning needs as professional practitioners undertaking full or part time study. The Keele Virtual Learning Environment (KLE) will be utilised to support and complement the blended learning approach of the curriculum. Module content will be developed utilising the KLE where appropriate, in readiness for each module presentation as the course is developed and implemented over time.

A blended learning approach is adopted in this programme to meet the needs of students, managers and the organisations in which they work as the emphasis on traditional, classroom based learning is reduced.

In order to prepare a practitioner who is able to contribute positively to delivering the health and social care needs of individuals and 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 on practice and respond pro-actively to change, whilst maintaining quality within patient/client care. Critical thinking skills and a sound evidence base to your practice are essential for competent practice.

Lectures will be used to impart information, stimulate interest and provide a medium for the considered application of theory to practice. Discussions, seminars and small group presentations will be used to explore the dynamics of clinical practice and small group work/ action learning sets will be facilitated to promote independent study in achieving the learning outcomes. Learning and teaching hours are identified for each module within the Module Specification Templates.

Tutorials will be arranged as both individual and small group sessions with an emphasis on individual student 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 and research
- Provide effective support for students

Learning and teaching methods used within the Programme vary according to the subject matter, focus and content of the module: they vary also in recognition of students' individual learning needs, pace of learning and learning styles.

Learning and teaching methods include;

- **Lead lectures:** where the lecturer provides you with a framework and context for further reading and independent study.
- **Tutor led tutorials:** where the lecturer focuses on a topic of interest and relevance to the module to be discussed in depth within a small group.
- **Student led tutorials:** where you lead the discussion on a topic of interest and relevance to the module within a small group or on a one to one basis.
- **Problem solving scenarios:** where case based scenarios will be used to focus your attention and develop your problem solving skills.
- **Case study presentations:** where the lecturer and/or you will present a specific case and use this as a vehicle for discussion and critical analysis.
- **Small group work:** where you work together in small groups to discuss and evaluate practice and associated evidence, then share group summaries in a final plenary session.
- **Experiential learning:** where you reflect on and critically appraise your experiences in practice.
- 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.
- **Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE):** where you participate in structured, simulated

clinical scenarios to further enhance your existing skills.

- **KLE and blended learning approaches:** where the University's virtual learning environment is used to facilitate on-line discussions, 'blogs', conditional release tasks and access to a wide range of learning resources and research tools.
- **Independent study:** where you are self-directed in relation to the various study demands of each module and its assessment. This is particularly relevant to portfolio development.

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

Lead lectures and independent study enable you to broaden and deepen your existing professional knowledge and understanding of the core principles of their specific area of practice.

Lecturer and student led tutorials and small group work enable you to explore a topic to considerable depth and to rationalise your opinions and actions within the safe, but challenging company of your peers. This further develops your 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 you are drawn into the rhetoric / reality debate that such scenarios often generate.

Web based learning facilitates breadth and depth of learning as you engage in critical and challenging discussion with a large, multi-professional audience. Furthermore, communication skills are enhanced as you learn the nuances of web based communication with practitioners from a variety of disciplines.

Evidence based learning and teaching is incorporated into all learning and teaching methods; this, alongside the Research Application in Clinical Practice Module imbues you with the knowledge, understanding, critical application and evaluation of evidence used to underpin practice in the clinical settings and thus develops your confidence and ability to use evidence prudently and effectively within your workplace. Moreover, the Dissertation Module further develops your independent learning, research capability and organisation and planning skills as you collect, collate, categorise and criticise evidence relating to your area of practice.

In addition to the aforementioned methods of learning and teaching, you can access lecturers for individual tutorials, support, advice, guidance and feedback at your request.

6. 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.

7. What is the structure of the Programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from programme to programme, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April. Our

degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

There are two types of module delivered as part of your programme. They are:

- Compulsory modules - a module that you are required to study on this course;
- Optional modules - these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules;

For further information on the content of modules currently offered, please visit:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/>

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows:

8. Final and intermediate awards

On entering the course the majority of students will enrol for the BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies award (120 level 6 credits) to add to a Diploma in Nursing or equivalent professional award). A minority who enter the programme without level 5 credits may exit with the end qualification of Graduate Diploma of 120 Level 6 credits, or apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to be taken into account for entry to the degree award.

All students will be eligible for the intermediate award of Graduate Certificate (60 credits of named pathway) upon the successful completion of their specific pathway programme. The course planning team considers that flexibility is important and the interim award of Graduate Certificate will be available to all students who choose to exit prior to completion of the degree programme. The Graduate Certificate will prove to be highly attractive to employers in terms of determining employability skills and progression through career gateways (KSF, 2004), therefore, all students (who successfully complete the requisite 60 level 6 credits) will be eligible for this award.

If the student leaves the award prior to the completion of the Graduate Certificate (or the BSc award / Graduate Diploma following the Graduate Certificate) no qualification will be awarded (or further intermediate qualification). Module credits will be awarded on successful completion of the relevant modules.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

For details on this students are advised to contact the Programme Lead and RPL will be assessed in the standard way, and only if all the learning outcomes of a selected module have been met; providing the evidence reflects the philosophy of the course and is equivalent to the level and student effort. Applications are subject to the guidelines issued by the University. The 5-year currency rule usually applies, and students will need to demonstrate the continued use of previous accredited learning relevant to this programme.

When exemption of a module (s) is granted, the student is awarded the credits relevant to that module. For the purposes of degree classification, the average mark over all the non-exempted modules will be used for any exempted module in the calculation.

For example:

In order to determine degree classification for a student who had received RPL for 25% of the programme (i.e. 2 modules), marks for the remaining modules undertaken at Keele (i.e. 6 modules) would be added together and an average mark determined. This mark would be awarded to the exempted modules.

Keele Module marks; 50 + 55 + 58 + 55 + 60 + 62 = 340

Average mark; 340 ÷ 6 = 57

Mark attributed to exempted modules; 57 for each module Total score = 340 + 57 + 57 = 454

Degree classification = Second Class Honours (Division II)

In some circumstances, RPL arrangements can also enable an experienced practitioner to gain entry to the degree award through the development of a portfolio of evidence demonstrating prior study, learning and professional experience equivalent to an undergraduate diploma at Level 5. A fee may be charged for RPL requests to reflect the administrative and assessment work required, for experiential learning, this may be up to the full fee for the module against which accreditation is sought.

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

- **Essays** - These vary according to the module, but they are generally 3,000 words in length. You may have a choice of essay focus or this may be prescribed. Essays test your ability to write coherently and analytically using relevant literature to support your discussion, and to integrate and synthesise your arguments in relation to the essay question.
- **Reflective analysis / accounts** - These are used to develop and test your ability to reflect critically and analytically on your practice in order to learn from it.
- **Portfolios** - The majority of health care practitioners are required by their regulatory body to maintain a portfolio of professional development. This method of assessment facilitates your competence and confidence in generating and maintaining a comprehensive portfolio of your professional and personal progress; combined with the skills of reflection and reflective writing, you are enabled to present appropriate practice based evidence in support of your continuing development.
- **Presentations** - These take the form of oral presentations, clinical vivas and poster presentations within this programme. They test a variety of skills, namely; breadth and depth of knowledge; ability to interpret and use research / evidence; skills of critical analysis and synthesis; oral and written communication skills; non-verbal communication skills; planning and organisation skills and the ability to think logically and act appropriately when under pressure.
- **OSCE** - Objective, structured clinical examinations are used as formative and summative assessments within the programme. They enable you to practice new and complex practical skills in the safety of the simulated learning environment prior to practising 'live' in their areas of clinical work. These assessments test application of knowledge and understanding and your ability to reflect in action, problem solve, and make decisions. They also test your manual dexterity, organisation skills and logic.
- **Clinical Assessment of Competence in Practice** - Specific specialist pathway competencies and generic competencies are identified for assessment dependent upon the particular pathway that you choose to follow. This programme is grounded in clinical practice and the assessment of competence is crucial to successful completion of the modules. You will be allocated a named clinical Mentor who is responsible for assessing their competence in practice. Together you will plan learning opportunities to facilitate achievement of the competencies and will use the criteria within the competency document to determine success or referral. Competency based assessment tests breadth and depth of knowledge; evidence based practice; communication skills; affective skills; reasoning; psychomotor skills; prioritising and problem solving skills and organisation skills.

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 within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

Students are enabled to submit unlimited assignments per year via Turnitin in draft format to see their originality report to gain more understanding of requirements for academic writing in relation to referencing, summarising authors' work, and overall style.

10. Contact Time and Expected Workload

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. Contact time and expected workload are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

11. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

12. 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'.

13. Other Learning Opportunities

Study abroad (semester)

Students on the programme have the potential opportunity to spend a semester abroad in their second year studying at one of Keele's international partner universities. Please note that students cannot take both a Global Challenge Pathway (GCP) and the semester abroad option.

Exactly which countries are available depends on the student's choice of degree subjects. An indicative list of countries is on the website (<http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyabroad/partneruniversities/>); however this does not guarantee the availability of study in a specific country as this is subject to the University's application process for studying abroad.

No additional tuition fees are payable for a single semester studying abroad but students do have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad to be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Whilst students are studying abroad any Student Finance eligibility will continue, where applicable students may be eligible for specific travel or disability grants. Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible for income dependent bursaries at Keele. Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

Study Abroad (International Year)

A summary of the International Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in the Annex for the International Year.

Work Placement Year

Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with Work Placement Year' degree programme or to transfer onto the 4-year degree programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking their year-long placement. Eligibility rules are included in the Annex.

Students wishing to take the work placement year should meet with the Programme Director to obtain their signature to confirm agreement before they will be allowed to commence their placement.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa must check with the Immigration Compliance Team prior to commencing any form of placement.

A summary of the Work Placement Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in the Annex for the Work Placement Year.

14. Additional Costs

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 additional costs for this undergraduate programme.

15. Annex - International Year

Award title with International Year

International Year Programme

Students registered for this Single Honours programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the International Year option. Students accepted onto this option will have an extra year of study (the International Year) at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the standard programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the International Year option.

International Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with:

1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject
2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially

Entry Requirements for the International Year

Students may apply to the 4-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.

The criteria to be applied are:

- Academic Performance (an average of 55% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the International Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 55% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 55% requirement may progress to the International Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's Academic Mentor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Placement Year.

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:

- Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutor, in line with recommended Academic Mentoring meeting points.
- Support from the University's Global Education Team

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:

1. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments
2. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
3. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.
4. ADD subject-specific ILOs

In addition, students who complete the International Year will be able to:

These learning outcomes will all be assessed by the submission of a satisfactory individual learning agreement, the successful completion of assessments at the partner institution and the submission of the reflective portfolio element of the international year module.

Regulations

Students registered for the International Year are subject to the programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the International Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the International Year must complete 120 credits, which must comprise *at least* 40% in the student's discipline area.

This may impact on your choice of modules to study, for example you will have to choose certain modules to ensure you have the discipline specific credits required.

Students are barred from studying any module with significant overlap to the Level 6 modules they will study on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

Additional costs for the International Year

Tuition fees for students on the International Year will be charged at 15% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The International Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation, to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some Governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

16. Annex - Work Placement Year (or Industrial Placement Year or Entrepreneurship Year)

Award title with Work Placement Year [NB: please adapt this section as necessary]

Work Placement Year summary

Students registered for this programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their studies to the 'with Work Placement Year' option (NB: for Combined Honours students the rules relating to the work placement year in the subject where the placement is organised are to be followed). Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the Work Placement Year) with a relevant placement provider after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the Work Placement Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete the Work Placement Year will normally revert to the 3-year programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the Work Placement Year option.

Work Placement Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the Work Placement Year aims to provide students with:

1. ADD

Entry Requirements for the Work Placement Year

Admission to the Work Placement Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff. Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with work placement year' degree programme, or to transfer onto the 4-year programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking the year-long work placement. Students who fail to pass the work placement year, and those who fail to meet the minimum requirements of the work placement year module (minimum 30 weeks full time (1,050 hours), or equivalent, work placement), will be automatically transferred onto the 3-year degree programme.

The criteria to be applied are:

- A good University attendance record and be in 'good academic standing'.
- Academic Performance (an average of 50% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the Work Placement Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 50% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 50% requirement may progress to the Work Placement Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- Students undertaking work placements will be expected to complete a Health and Safety checklist prior to commencing their work experience and will be required to satisfy the Health and Safety regulations of the company or organisation at which they are based.
- (*International students only*) Due to visa requirements, it is not possible for international students who require a Tier 4 Visa to apply for direct entry onto the 4-year with Work Placement Year degree programme. Students wishing to transfer onto this programme should discuss this with student support, the academic tutor for the work placement year, and the Programme Lead. Students should be aware that there are visa implications for this transfer, and it is the student's responsibility to complete any and all necessary processes to be eligible for this programme. There may be additional costs, including applying for a new Visa from outside of the UK for international students associated with a transfer to the work placement programme.

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Work Placement Year.

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the Work Placement Year via the following methods:

- Regular contact between the student and a named member of staff who will be assigned to the student as their University supervisor. The University supervisor will be in regular contact with the student throughout the year, and be on hand to provide advice (pastoral or academic) and liaise with the Placement supervisor on the student's behalf if required.
- Two formal contacts with the student during the placement year: the University supervisor will visit the student in their placement organization at around 5 weeks after the placement has commenced, and then visit again (or conduct a telephone/video call tutorial) at around 15 weeks into the placement.
- Weekly supervision sessions will take place with the placement supervisor (or his/her nominee) throughout the duration of the placement.

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete the 'with Work Placement Year' option will be able to:

1. ADD

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Work Placement Year module (ADD CODE) which involves:

1. ADD

Regulations

Students registered for the 'with Work Placement Year' option are subject to programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the Work Placement Year, the following regulations will apply:

- Students undertaking the Work Placement Year must successfully complete the zero-credit rated 'ADD TITLE' module (ADD CODE)
- In order to ensure a high quality placement experience, each placement agency will sign up to a placement contract (analogous to a service level agreement).
- Once a student has been accepted by a placement organisation, the student will make a pre-placement visit and a member of staff identified within the placement contract will be assigned as the placement supervisor. The placement supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the placement experience meets the agreed contract agreed with the University.
- The placement student will also sign up an agreement outlining his/her responsibilities in relation to the requirements of each organisation.

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

- (i) conforming to the work practices of the organisation; and
- (ii) remembering that they are representatives of the University and their actions will reflect on the School and have an impact on that organisation's willingness (or otherwise) to remain engaged with the placement.

Additional costs for the Work Placement Year

Tuition fees for students on the Work Placement Year will be charged at 20% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The Work Placement Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation; to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their placement provider, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available to students from the placement provider during the placement but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

Eligibility for student finance will depend on the type of placement and whether it is paid or not. If it is paid, this is likely to affect student finance eligibility, however if it is voluntary and therefore unpaid, should not affect student finance eligibility. Students are required to confirm eligibility with their student finance provider.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

17. Annex - Programme-specific regulations

Programme Regulations: BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies

Final Award and Award Titles	BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies
Intermediate Award(s)	n/a
Last modified	April 2024 September 2025: Repeat year text clarification (Variation 2)
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:

Variation 1: This programme varies from Regulation C3 Section 14:

- There will be no award of pass (Unclassified degree)
- Student must be successful in all summative assessments
- All modules must be successfully completed

No compensation is permitted for modules within the BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies programme.

Variation 2:

This programme varies from 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.

Variation 3: NB: this applies to the Fundamentals of General Practice pathway only

Regulation C1, 1.1: the maximum period of registration for programmes commissioned by NHSE are limited by the NHSE Extension Policy to a maximum of twice the length of the original programme duration. For this programme it is 2 years. For non-funded extensions the maximum extension is 12 months.

Regulation D2: the number of credits that can be taken beyond the end of funding date, for example due to leave of absence or exceptional circumstances (ECs), is prescribed by the NHSE Extension Policy and subject to a successful application to NHSE. For this programme it is 60 credits with approved ECs and 40 credits without ECs.

Additional Requirements

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

Additional requirement 1:

In addition to meeting the requirements of the University's Academic Regulations (Regulation C3, sub section 9), students are expected to demonstrate a standard of personal performance commensurate with that expected under their Professional Code of conduct. Failure to do so may result in the student being subject to the School's Health & Conduct arrangements.

[1] 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/>.

References

- Benner, P. (1984). From Novice to Expert. Excellence and Power in Clinical Nursing Practice. Addison-Wesley.
- Department of Health and Social Care. (2020). The Department of Health and Social Care Mandate to Health Education England: April 2020-March 2021. Department of Health and Social Care.
- Department of Health. (2006). Modernising Nursing careers. Setting the Direction. Department of Health.
- Department of Health. (2004). The NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (NHS KSF) and the Development Review Process. Department of Health.
- NHS England. (2019). The NHS Long Term Plan. NHS England.

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	2025/26	KERRY MCINTOSH	29 July 2025	