

INFORMATION WEBINAR

The Open University BSc Nursing Degree Programme

Maurice Devine: Professional Lead, OU Nursing Programme (NI)

Meg Hughes: Staff Tutor

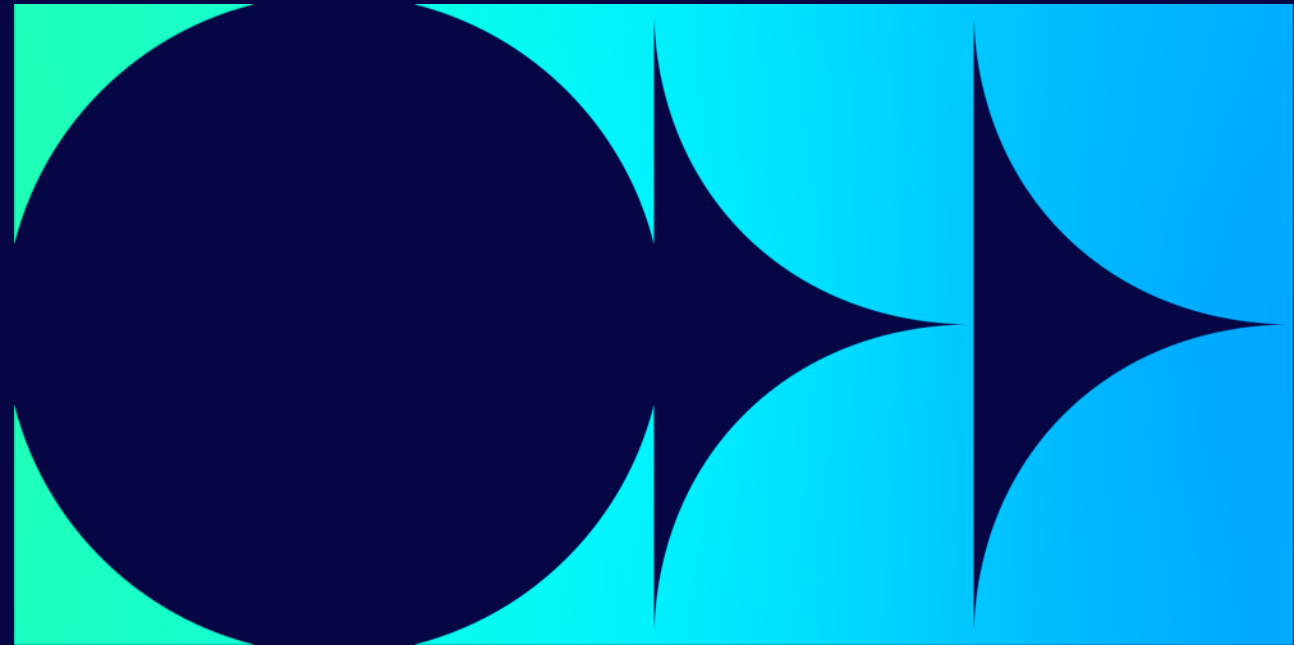
Una St Ledger: Staff Tutor

Keri Finlay: Faculty Coordinator

Aurelia Iannotta: Faculty Coordinator

FACULTY OF WELLBEING EDUCATION AND
LANGUAGES

8th & 9th January 2025



Welcome to OU Nursing Programme Webinar 2025

Outline of Presentation

Welcome	Introduction and setting the scene
Who we are	Key links, contacts
Structure	OU BSc Nursing Programme
Part 1	Brief Overview of Part 1 of the programme
2024 Recruitment	Application processes, key dates and entry criteria
Trust perspective	Tracy McGilligan, WHSCT (8 th Jan) and Carol Chambers, BHSCT (9 th Jan)
Student perspective	Nancy Law, SEHSCT (8 th Jan) and Anne Smith, NHSCT (9 th Jan)
Q&A	Opportunity to ask questions

Introduction

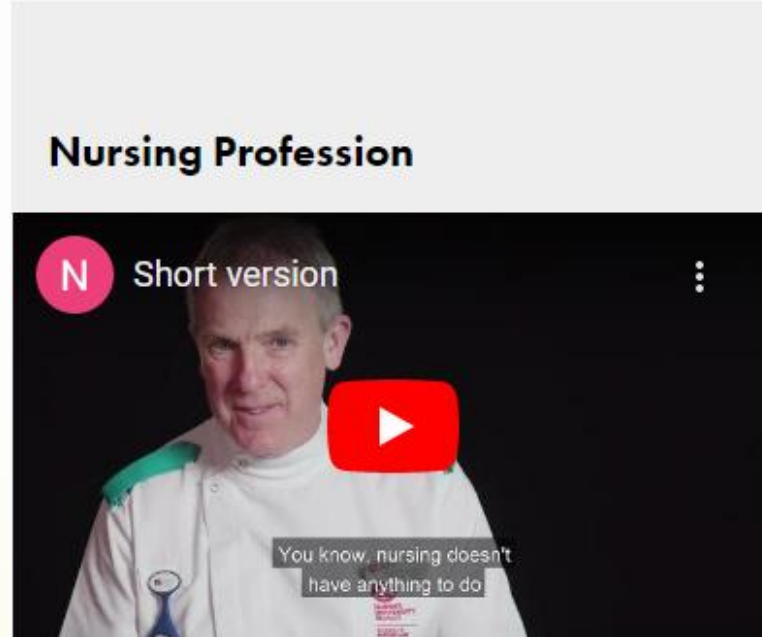
The Pre-Registration Nursing Degree BSc Programme

The Open University has offered a pre-registration nursing programme since 2004 in Northern Ireland, working in partnership with all five Health and Social Care Trusts and the Independent Sector.

The Programme offers the following pathways:

- ▶ Adult
- ▶ Learning Disabilities
- ▶ Mental Health
- ▶ Children and Young People

Setting the scene



Nursing: a career for all

[Nursing in Northern Ireland
\(nursingni.com\)](http://nursingni.com)

- ▶ You will be sent a link in the next two weeks which will give you access to a recording of the webinar, a copy of this presentation and an FAQ document.

Who we are

Key links and contacts

The Open University in Ireland Nursing Team

Professional Lead Nursing (N. Ireland): Maurice Devine

Nation Manager (N. Ireland): Dr Amanda Shields

Staff Tutors

- ▶ Maurice Devine, NHSCT
- ▶ Paul Carlin, SEHSCT
- ▶ Una St Ledger, BHSCT & IS
- ▶ Monica Johnston, SHSCT
- ▶ Siobhan Johnston, WHSCT
- ▶ Stephanie Foster, SHSCT and T01
- ▶ Meg Hughes, BHSCT
- ▶ Karen Templeton, NHSCT

Faculty Team

- ▶ Toni Kingsberry, Faculty Coordinator, NHSCT
- ▶ Keri Finlay, Faculty Coordinator BHSCT, SEHSCT & WHSCT
- ▶ Aurelia Iannotta, SHSCT
- ▶ Emma-Kate Woodside, Practice Based Learning Assistant
- ▶ Elliot Morgan, Faculty Assistant

The Open University Nursing Team in Ireland



Maurice Devine: Professional Lead and Nation Manager



Amanda Shields: Nation Manager

Staff Tutors:



Monica



Stephanie



Siobhan



Una



Paul



Meg



Karen

Faculty Team:



Keri



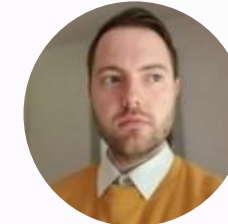
Antonia



Aurelia



Emma-Kate



Elliot

Practice Education Coordinators/ Education Leads

BHSCT

Carol Chambers

SHSCT

Patrick Johnston-Sheridan

SEHSCT

Joanne Fitzsimons (interim)

NHSCT

Carly Thompson

WHSCT

Tracy McGilligan

Structure

Open University BSc Nursing Programme

Programme Structure

	Theory	Practice
Part 1	K102 Introduction to health and social care (60 credits)	K104 Introduction to healthcare practice (60 credits)
Part 2	K210 Understanding Nursing: knowledge and theory (60 credits)	K211 developing nursing practice (60 credits)
Part 3	K325 Assimilating nursing: knowledge and theory (60 credits)	Becoming an autonomous practitioner: K326 Adult K327 Mental Health K328 Learning Disability K329 Children and Young People (60 credits)



Programme Structure

Year of study	Part 1				Part 2			Part 3			
Calendar Year	2024	2025	2025	2026		2026	2027	2027	2027	2027	2028
	K102	K102	K104	K104	K210	K211	K211	K325	K326-9	K325	K326-9
Jan											
Feb											
March											
April											
May											
June											
July											
Aug											
Sept											
Oct											
Nov											
Dec											

Student Timetables

You will receive a student timetable at the start of each 'Part' (i.e: Part 1/Part 2/Part 3) of your study.

Timetables illustrate what weeks and how many hours you will:

- ▶ Work in your base
- ▶ Complete in your placement area
- ▶ Be entitled to take time-off to study

Part 1 of The Programme Consists of 2 modules

K102: Introduction to health and social care (starts Oct 2025). Theory module.

K104: Introduction to healthcare practice (starts Feb 2026). Practice based module.

K102 Introduction to health and social care

- ▶ Part 1 of the programme
- ▶ 60 credit module
- ▶ 8 month duration
- ▶ Four nations approach to content
- ▶ Online delivery
- ▶ Strong focus on theory that underpins care delivery
- ▶ Nursing and social work activities to reflect integrated care delivery



K102 Assessment

- ▶ **Five tutor marked assignments (TMA's)**
- ▶ **One end of module assessment (EMA)**

K104: Introduction to healthcare practice

- ▶ 60 credit module
- ▶ Practice-based module
- ▶ 16 learning guides alongside placement
- ▶ Supported by and work closely with your OU Practice Tutor
- ▶ Supported in practice by Practice Supervisors (PS)
- ▶ Assessed in practice by Practice Assessor (PA)



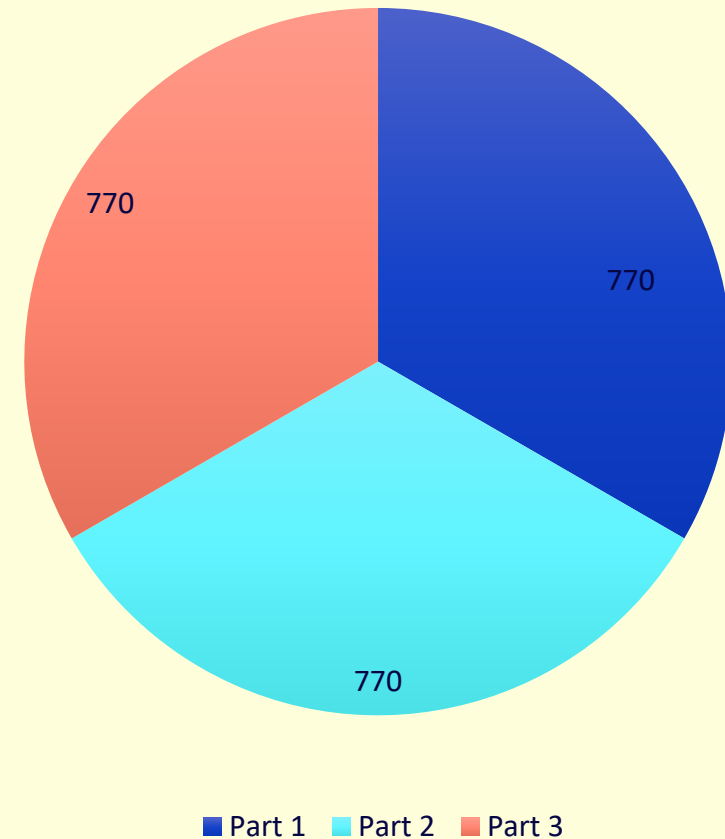
K104 Assessment

- 2 tutor-marked assignments (TMAs)
- A practice assessment interview (PAI)
- An interactive computer-marked quiz (iCMA 43)
- An end-of-module assessment (EMA)
- Successful completion of the electronic Northern Ireland practice assessment document (eNIPAD) of your practice learning.

Learning in practice

- ▶ **2300** hours of practice experience must be achieved across the entire qualification.
- ▶ **770** hours to be completed in each Part of the programme.
- ▶ **3** placements in each Part of Programme totalling **9** placements across the 3 Parts of programme over 4 Years.

Hours



Practice Learning Experiences (Placements)

- ▶ Placements are predominantly within the boundaries of your employing Trust and when allocated, will not be changed (only in exceptional circumstances)
- ▶ Placement allocations are limited, and students will have to travel to placements across their respective trust sites
- ▶ Required commitment to travel to placements
- ▶ Annual leave is **not permitted** during placement weeks (only in very exceptional circumstances)

2025 Recruitment

Application key dates, processes and eligibility

Keri Finlay & Aurelia Iannotta: Faculty Coordinators

When do I apply?

To obtain an online application pack, send your name and email address to:

Ireland-nursing-applications@open.ac.uk

Applications will be released **Friday 10th January 2025**

Deadline for application submission **Friday 7th March 2025 (5pm)**

Shortlisting will take place **Monday 11th March – Friday 11th April 2025**

Interviews will take place between **28th April and 30th May 2025**

Notification of successfully gaining a place **end of June/early July 2025**

Am I eligible to apply?

- ▶ You must be working in one of the five HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland.
- ▶ You must hold a permanent contract in the Trust with no less than 26 hours guaranteed.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Term time contracts cannot be supported. If you are on leave during 'term times', you will not be able to fulfil your academic and placement requirements. You will need to discuss this further with your line manager if applying.

Am I eligible to apply: English/Maths criteria

- ▶ You **must have English and Maths** G.C.S.E. grade C (or equivalent) and be able to evidence your qualification with certificates (or Unique Learner Number – ULN) **when submitting your application.**
 - The OU must ensure that the entry criteria set by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Standards, are met at the point of application to the programme.
 - The **minimum English and Mathematics standards** for entry to the Pre-registration Nursing Programme are either: **GCSE Grades A – C** or **equivalent**, for example, **Essential Skills, Key Skills, Level 2 in adult literacy and application of number.**
 - K102 (if completed and passed before the application deadline) will be accepted as an equivalent qualification for G.C.S.E. English.
 - If you have international qualifications that you believe are equivalent to English or Maths G.C.S.E grade C in the UK, **you must supply a certificate from UK ENIC (previously NARIC) to support your application. The ENIC statement must state the subjects it is evidencing.**

Am I eligible to apply?

- ▶ You must have support from your line manager and budget holder when submitting your application, including approval and support for the field of practice you have chosen to study (signatures will be required).
- ▶ Good character, evidenced through self-declaration and an enhanced criminal record disclosure.
- ▶ Good health, evidenced through self-declaration of health status, occupational health screening, review of previous sickness and absence record.
- ▶ One reference – must be from your current line manager/employer

Important changes from previous years

- ▶ Once you start the programme you cannot switch to another field of practice (AD / MH / LD / CYP) at any stage during the programme.
- ▶ Commissioned numbers for each field of practice are agreed with the Department of Health. It is important that you make a well-informed decision, talking with your line manager, before applying to the programme.
- ▶ The application form for the 2025 intake (similar to the 2024 intake) will be **online** and guidance will be issued to help you navigate the new online form.
- ▶ A personal statement is no longer required as part of the application.

The **Online** Application Form

Please consult all guidance notes before starting the online application.

The online application process is divided into 2 parts:

1. Online Form to be completed in full in one sitting and electronically submitted.
2. Supporting documents to be completed in full and sent in one email to Ireland-Nursing-Applications@open.ac.uk

The **Online** Application Form

PART 1

- ▶ **Part 1 is online** and has 9 sections; (1) personal details; (2) education history; (3) qualifications; (4) credit transfer; (5) current employment; (6) employment history; (7) additional information; (8) declaration of character (9) declaration.
- ▶ It is important you gather all information required in Part 1 of the application before you start the form. **The form must be completed in one sitting and cannot be saved as you go along**. Do not leave your application open and come back to it at different times as it may not complete correctly and at the end of the form it may not submit.

The **Online** Application Form

PART 1

➤ **Information to prepare before submitting online application:**

- Have a complete overview of your employment history since leaving full time education (including months and years). If there is a gap (even a month) please state, why; i.e. I was seeking employment, or I was a carer etc. Failing to explain gaps may affect the progress of your application.
- Have a complete overview of your education history, including dates (secondary and higher education if applicable).

The **Online** Application Form

Part 2

Please consult the guidance notes for more information on the documents below and on how to save and send these documents to the OU.








➤ **Requires that you submit the following documents to ireland-nursing-applications@open.ac.uk before the closing date 07th March 2025.**

- Application Part 2, Manager and Senior Manager/Budget Holder Support
- Employer Reference
- Maths/Numeracy Certificate
- English/Literacy Certificate
- Photographic Evidence
- Evidence of Name Change (if applicable)

The Application: **Important points**

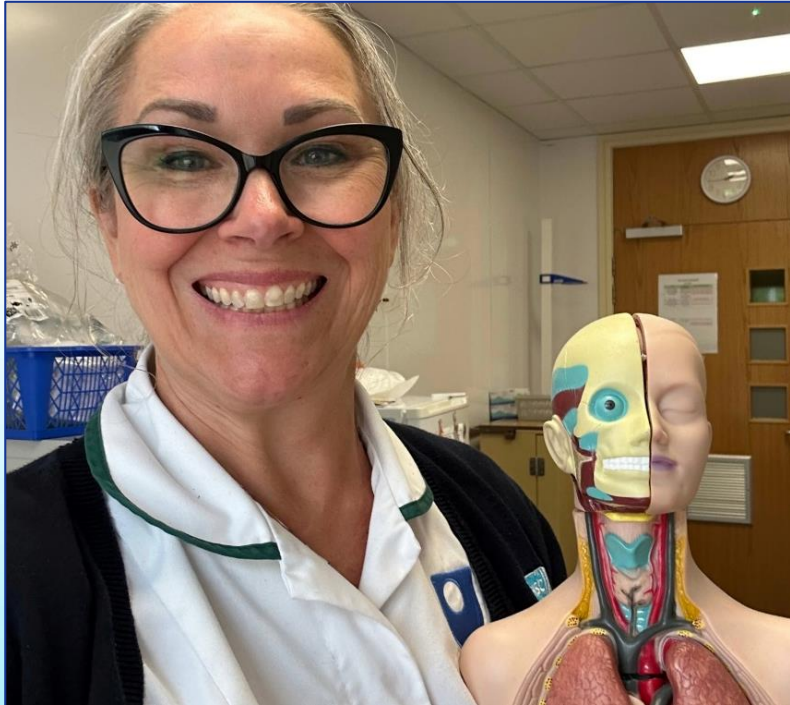
- ▶ Where there are gaps in your education or employment history, please make a note in your application of why that is.
- ▶ There must be **NO** unexplained gaps in your education.
- ▶ There must be **NO** unexplained gaps in your employment history.

A complete application form must include:

- ▶ Application Part 1 (COMPLETED ONLINE) 
- ▶ Application Part 2, Manager and Senior Manager/Budget Holder Support (EMAILED) 
- ▶ Maths Certificate (EMAILED) 
- ▶ English Certificate (EMAILED) 
- ▶ Employer Reference (EMAILED) 
- ▶ Photographic Evidence (EMAILED) 
- ▶ Evidence of Name Change (if applicable, EMAILED) 

Student Perspective

Nancy Law, RN, BSC



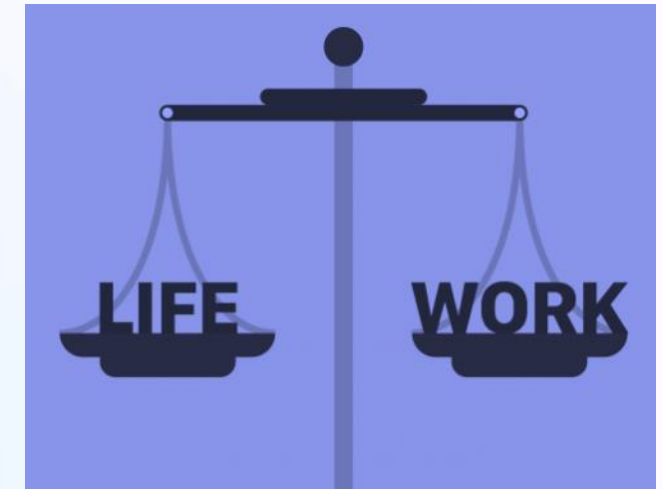
Lifelong Learning

“it’s never too late to train or re-train”

- **1st Class, BSc Honours Degree (Nov 2024)**
- **Newly Registered Nurse, Children’s & Young People in SEHSCT**
- **Winner of The NIPEC OU Student Excellence Award 2024**

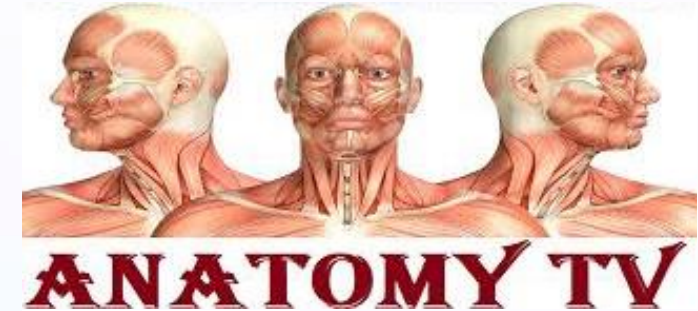
Flexible Training for work-life Balance

- Paid study days in your substantive post
- Online tutorials
- You continue to be paid while studying and on placement
- You receive your enhancements during placements
- Uniforms provided by the Trust
- Parking and travel mileage support on placement
- You may be eligible for a laptop grant



The OU Has a Proven Track Record for Delivering Quality Online learning

- The tutors work with you to develop your writing, research, and referencing skills and prepare you for assignments.
- Extensive online library with access to current journals, texts and other resources
- Learning resources - videos and links to relevant legislation, external sites and resources



nmc
Nursing &
Midwifery
Council

NICE
National Institute for
Health and Care Excellence

BNF

 **Clinical Skills.net**
best practice at your fingertips

BNFC

 Healthcare
Improvement
Scotland | **SIGN**

Practice Placement Learning

- ▶ Complete 9 placements with range of nursing experiences over the 4 years.
- ▶ Well supported by Practice Assessors and Practice Supervisors and OU Practice Tutor.
- ▶ By end of programme you have the theoretical knowledge and practice experience to join the NMC Register and become a Newly Registered Nurse in your Trust.
- ▶ I have just commenced my first staff nurse post and in Preceptorship.



Your Application

- Important to be really prepared as you must complete your application in one go
- Do not leave it to the last minute – as you are more likely to make mistakes and leave important things out.
- Read your application guidance notes thoroughly
- Gather everything that you will need.
- Search for your qualifications certificates
- Be sure to read each question on the form thoroughly before completing it. Complete every section.
- Ask a trusted person to read and check over your application and give feedback before submitting.
- Be sure to supply all the documents requested

The Interview

Be sure to review what you put in your application form

- Try to stay calm, preparation is key
- Revise the NMC Code (2018)
 - Prioritise people
 - Practice effectively
 - Preserve safety
 - Promote professionalism and trust
- Think of examples where you are already following the code
- Think about your values, why you want to become a registered nurse and what it means to be a nurse
- Think about examples from your practice
- Go to interview preparation sessions, talk to students on the programme and people who have completed programme
- **Good luck, you will not regret it!**



Anne Smith, RN, BSc



- **1st Class Honours Degree**
- **Newly Registered Adult Nurse, NHSCT (Nov 2024)**
- **Highly commended, NIPEC Student Excellence Award, 2024**

Why Nursing and The Open University

- It is never too late
- Get income whilst studying
- Support networks
- Structured modules that allow for work life balance

The Application Form

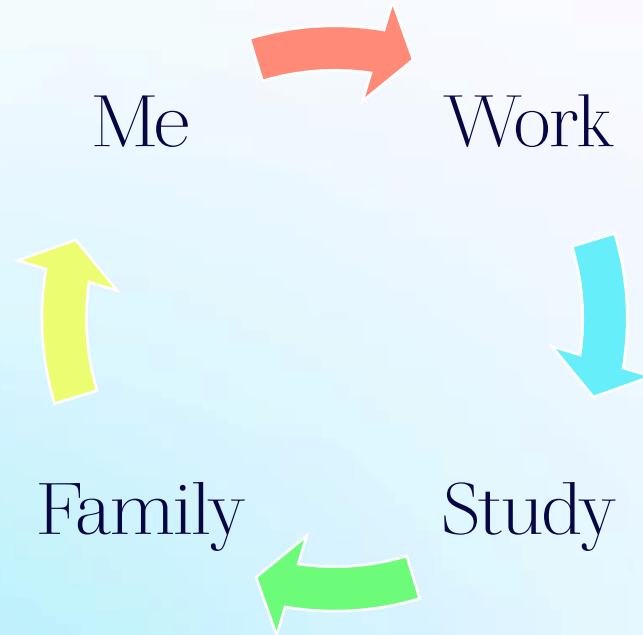
- Start early and give yourself plenty of time
- Read, read and reread
- Answer all the questions
- Ask someone to proof-read before submission
- Make sure you have copies of your certificates
- Make sure you submit all the required documents

How To Prepare For Interview

- Nursing and Midwifery Council – The Code
- Trust's core values
- 6Cs of nursing
- Check out The Open University website and degree description
- Current manager/other professional/friend

Tips if successful in getting on the programme

Find The Balance



Highly Commended NIPEC Excellence Award(2024)



Good Luck!

Trust Education Lead Perspective

Tracy McGilligan



- Lead Nurse in Education and Development in Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT)

Carol Chambers



- Lead Nurse and Practice Education Co-ordinator in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT)

Support with additional needs

If you are successful and receive an offer to join the programme, please be advised of the following:

A wealth of support for study-related needs is readily available for all students, such as support from a tutor with assignments and accessible module materials. All learners are entitled to additional specialist services from OU but you will need to provide supporting evidence of your disability. You are entitled to support and adjustments to teaching, assessments and study materials and activities if you have: a physical or sensory disability; an ongoing health condition; an ongoing mental health difficulty; a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia; an autistic spectrum condition; a speech or language difficulty.

Useful contacts for disability support can be found by following the link:

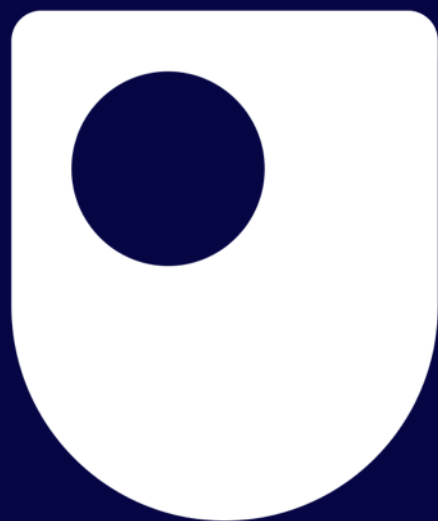
[Contacts for disability support | Help Centre | The Open University](#)

Questions

Any follow up questions, please direct these to: Ireland-
nursing-applications@open.ac.uk



Thank you and good luck



**The Open
University**

Ireland