**Additional information about the Nursing Associate Apprenticeship, taken from the University of Plymouth’s website**

**Introduction**

This popular University of Plymouth Pre-registration Nursing Associate FdSc Programme is approved by the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) and leads to eligibility for entry to the NMC professional register upon successful completion of the programme.

The programme is delivered as an apprenticeship and also meets the requirements of the Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education for the Nursing Associate (NMC, 2018) Standard (2019).

Our programme gives both new and existing healthcare staff the opportunity to study for a fully-funded FdSc, *and*obtain a professional qualification and registration with the Nursing & Midwifery Council (provided all requirements are met).

The programme also helps employers with workforce planning to meet current and future healthcare needs. Through the Nursing Associate higher apprenticeship, new and existing staff substantially increase their clinical knowledge, skills and professional attributes by meeting the NMC (2018) Standards of proficiency for nursing associates and practising within The Code (NMC, 2018). Through their increased capability and capacity, they positively contribute to nursing teams and patient care.

Delivered by experienced Registered Nurses, the flexible, work-based programme provides apprentices with the clinical knowledge and skills to support the provision of safe, quality care across a range of healthcare settings.

Apprentices will become an important part of the nursing family, supporting registered nurses and helping to make a difference to individuals, their families and communities.

**Programme overview**

* Two-year (2300 hours) professional programme with attendance at University one day a week
* Designed for employees working a minimum of 30 hours per week, apprentices remain part of the workforce and continue to contribute to patient / client care whilst working towards their FdSc and professional qualification
* Apprentices maintain a Practice Assessment Document (PAD) and work in clinical practice under Direct / Indirect Supervision of qualified RN / NA Practice Supervisors in accordance with the NMC (2018) Standards for student supervision and assessment.
* Apprentices gain experience in a variety of placements, including Hospital; Community; At Home and others.
* Apprentices must also gain some experience across the four branches of nursing including Child Health; Mental Health; Learning Disability and Adult Nursing.
* All placements are organised and managed by the employer.
* Apprentices are continually assessed in clinical practice by qualified RN / NA Practice Supervisors
* Apprentices are formally assessed twice each academic year by qualified RN / NA Practice Assessors, and an Ongoing Achievement Record (OAR) is maintained to monitor progression
* Assessments include Episodes of Care and Medicines Management
* The programme is delivered on our Plymouth Campus; our Knowledge Spa Campus in Truro and at our School of Nursing in Exeter
* Once qualified, Nursing Associates may work across a wide range of healthcare settings and clinical areas, including acute or community hospitals; community nursing teams and GP practices

**Entry requirements**

* Must be employed for 30 hours or more in a health care setting
* Satisfactory Enhanced DBS Check
* Level 2 Functional Skills in English and maths, or GCSE grade C or above
* Ability to work at academic Level 5