

Open University – Student Information Guide.

Practice Learning Pathways (PLPs)

Students will follow a pathway for each Part of the programme. This information is available to you on your module website K104, KYN211 and KYN326,7,8. (see example for Part 1 Oct 2020 cohort outlined in Diagram 3 over a period of 16 months).

Diagram 3

† The pathway applies to all R39/R43 K*104 module code variants 2020J

August 2020 1

Learners are studying: **K*102 2020J module 03/10/20 – 21/05/21 (600 hours theory)**
K*104 2021C module 06/03/21 – 25/02/22 (170 hours theory and 770 hours practice)

Part One practice learning periods:

Practice placement	Start date - end date	Practice hours	Theory hours	Placement Meetings with Practice Tutor/Academic Assessor	Focus Relate to chosen Field of Practice
			520* Brought forward		
1	06/03/21 – 11/06/21	225	115 K102 80 K104 35	Practice placement 1 Meeting 1 with Academic Assessor [April 2021]	Learning Guides 1-6 Becoming a nursing student in practice; being professional; person and family centred care; communication skills, medicines management; quality and safety of care. (Accommodates two weeks annual leave)
2	12/06/21 – 01/10/21	245	45 K104 45	Practice placement 2 Meeting 2 with Academic Assessor and Practice Assessor Practice Assessment Interview [September 2021]	Learning Guides 7-10 – order of study is flexible Infection prevention and control; assessment skills and care planning; bladder and bowel health; mobility. (Accommodates <u>one week</u> annual leave)
3	02/10/21 – 11/02/22	300	90 K104 90	Practice placement 3 Core practice-base Meeting 3 with Academic Assessor and Practice Assessor Practice Assessment Interview (resit**) [January 2022]	Learning Guides 11-16 – order of study is flexible Nutrition and hydration; hygiene, skin integrity and wound care; acute and emergency care; promoting health; supporting skill; reflecting on your skills. (Accommodates two weeks annual leave)
Total		770	770	3 different experiences in total	
*520 hours of theory for K*102 completed between 03/10/20 and 05/03/21 before the practice pathway starts. **Resit only required if pass not achieved at first attempt during Meeting 2. One week of annual leave to be taken w/c 18/09/21.					

You will be allocated placements in a range of practice learning environments relating to your field of practice. These placements are arranged in consultation with Edinburgh Napier placement team.

Prior to an OU student accessing supernumerary practice:

- You must complete an individualised Covid-19 risk assessment and return the OU COVID Risk Assessment Confirmation form. **Students cannot commence any supernumerary practice placements until this has been returned to the OU.**
- You will be given an OU student uniform at the start of the programme.

On placement you should normally work the shift patterns of each placement area in order to gain the full range of experiences across the working day. If you have reasonable adjustments agreed these will be supported in placement (see section 1.6 in your PAD). During placements you must complete a minimum of three night shifts per Part of the programme and a Saturday or Sunday during each placement, where the area/team provides weekend services.

All proficiencies are to be assessed in the context of nursing practice not healthcare assistant/health care support worker practice.

The placement allocation teams will confirm all 3 PLPs for the stage of the programme you are currently undertaking via your OUCU email address. You should therefore check your OUCU email address at least once every week before you are due to start your first placement. If there are any changes to your placements, you will also be notified of these via your OUCU email address.

You will also be given access to an online system called QMPLE [Quality Management of the Practice Learning Environment] where you should be able to access your PLP details. In each placement you are expected to undertake pre-placement activities in your PAD, and you will find the relevant information about each of your placements on QMPLE to help you do this.

Attendance record sheets

At the end of every supernumerary practice shift that you work, you must enter this on the record provided for this purpose in your Practice Assessment Document (PAD). Your attendance must be verified on that day by a registered professional with whom you have worked: this will normally be your Practice Supervisor. You will be required to submit your record of completed hours, sickness and absence to your AA/PT. Your employer may also require a copy. (see section 1.7 in your PAD)

Arranging annual leave whilst on the OU programme

At the OU we do not allocate you annual leave during the nursing programme. However, you do need to plan your annual leave carefully around the requirements of the nursing programme, particularly placements. Therefore, we will email you before we request placements from the placement allocation teams to ask if you have any annual leave booked with your employer so this

can be taken into account when planning your placement. Annual leave should **not** be taken while you are on placement unless this has been planned and agreed prior to the allocation of placements.

OU Practice assessment documentation

All Scottish Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) have worked collaboratively to produce a single Practice Assessment Document (PAD) for Scotland. Currently the OU PAD is paper based and not electronic.

The PAD is an integral part of the learning process. It is not simply a catalogue of learning activities; rather, will provide clear evidence of the learning that has occurred. The PAD provides an opportunity to demonstrate evidence of learning from academic activities and application to practice learning as well as from practice experience; it is essential to demonstrate achievement of the NMC Future Nurse: Standards of Proficiency for Registered Nurses (NMC, 2018a). You should read and be familiar with the introduction section of the PAD.

Practice Supervisors (PS), Practice Assessors (PA) and Practice Tutor/Academic Assessors (PT/AA) within OU

You will have a number of practice learning experiences throughout your programme. During your PLEs responsibility for supervision and assessment will lie with practice supervisors, a practice assessor and an academic assessor (NMC 2018c, p8).

The PS, PA and PT/AA will work collaboratively to enable you to learn and safely achieve proficiency and autonomy in your professional role.

Role of the OU Practice Tutor/Academic Assessor

Unlike other universities who provide students with AA's only, the Open University provides students with PT/AA's. They are Registered Nurses with appropriate experience in the field of practice that students are studying. Although the role includes two titles, the role itself is undertaken by one person. It is an NMC requirement that "all students on an NMC approved programme are assigned to a different nominated academic assessor for each 'part' of the education programme" (NMC 2018c, p8) and therefore your allocated PT/AA will change as you progress through each level of the programme.

PT/AA's work closely with the nominated PS and make recommendations for student progression based on their assessments, PAD and other resources. They also collate and confirm your achievement of proficiencies and programme outcomes in the academic environment for each Part of the programme. The PT element of the role also enables them to provide you with pastoral support within practice learning environments if required.

You will meet with those who will be supporting you in practice (PS, PA, PT/AA) at the beginning of your practice experience to ensure you have learning opportunities available and appropriate supervision and support in place. Further meetings will take place between the student, your PS, PA (if required) and your PT/AA midway and at the end of each Part of the programme. At the final meeting your PA and PT/AA collate and confirm that all academic results and practice requirements have been met and recommend whether you should progress to the next part of the programme.

Practice Assessment Interview (PAI)

During each Part of the programme, you will undertake a PAI as part of the assessment strategy. The PAI will take place in practice placement 2, with a possibility to repeat in placement 3 if needed.

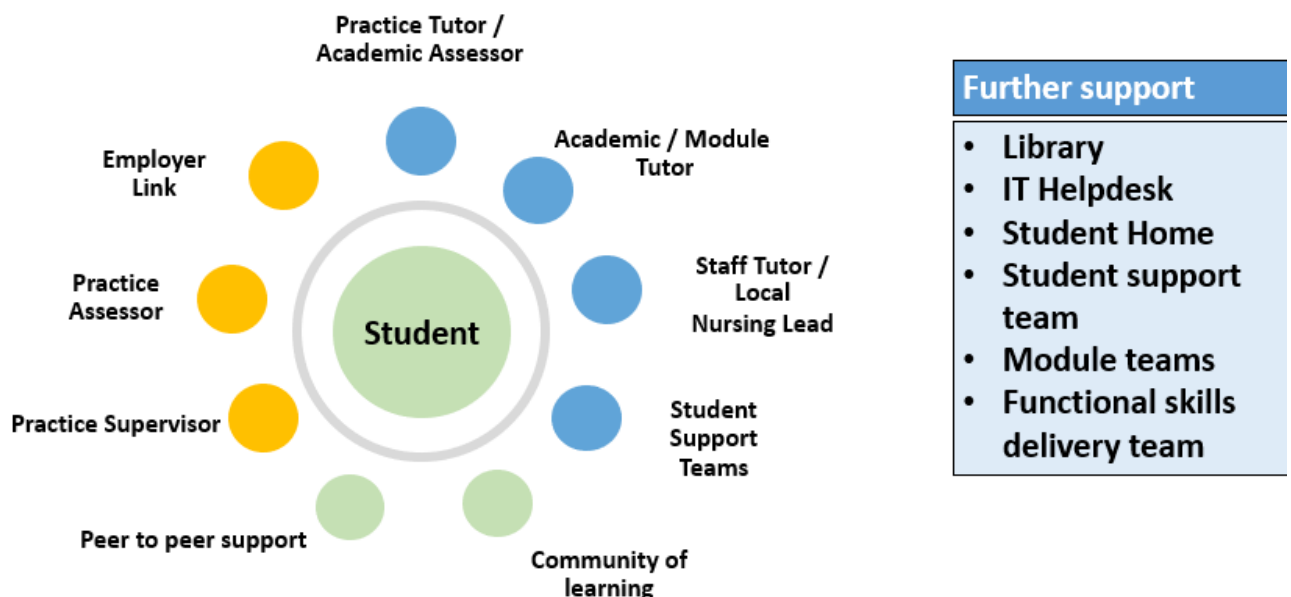
The PAI is a short professional discussion (20 minutes) held between the student and their PT/AA. The student's PA will be in attendance and contribute to the overall mark for the student, but they should not participate in the discussion. The PT/AA will contact the PA prior to the meeting to provide further information on the topic and marking criteria.

You are informed of the topic at least six weeks before the PAI. The topics for discussion will relate to professional values listed in the PAD and will also reflect module materials of that stage. More information can be obtained on your K104, KYN210 and KYN326,7,8 module websites.

Student support

Students at the OU are provided with a range of support whilst completing the theoretical and practical components of the programme (Diagram 5). You can access this support via your OU Student Home website and your module tutors, PT/AA, PS and PA. Further information can be found in your PAD and your programme handbook.

Diagram 5 – Student Support



Employer Responsibilities

The Scottish Government commissions the OU to recruit students onto the FN programme and they pay for the OU to deliver the programme. They also provide backfill money to employers to enable you to be released for supernumerary student placements and support you to complete your theory. When you are not on placement you will work in your normal HCSW role.

Each NHS Board area has an employer link who works in partnership with an allocated OU Staff Tutor to support the recruitment and management of students on the programme. You also have the support of your line manager.

