BSc (Hons) Nursing Programme

Information for enquirers in Scotland

October 2026 entry

Contents

Section A: General information

This booklet contains the information specific to studying Nursing with the Open University in Scotland. The next opportunity to apply for a place on our Pre-registration Nursing Programme in Scotland will be Spring 2026 for October 2026 entry.

The BSc (Honours) Nursing degree (Code: R39) is a practice-based qualification in association with partnering employers. Applicants **must** be working in healthcare practice in a healthcare role where you work with registered nurses who have been prepared as supervisors and/or assessors meeting the NMC (Nursing and Midwifery Council) 2018 Standards for student supervision and assessment. This programme is funded by the Scottish Funding Council therefore students and/or workplaces do not need to provide any funding.

Students study in one of four fields of nursing:

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

Applicants need to meet the entry requirements and require their employer support before applications can be progressed (see Section C).

Course information website: BSc (Honours) Nursing

This is a 4-year programme, delivered in 3 Parts.

Each part lasts for 16 months and comprises of two modules providing a balance of theory and practice where you will develop knowledge and skills required to become a registered nurse.

You continue to receive your wage as a healthcare support worker for the duration of your programme.

To study all modules, you must be employed in a suitable healthcare setting and have the support of your employer.

Please note that in Scotland, there is currently one intake per year in October.

Section B: Programme structure and content

Pathway	Adult Nursing	Children and Young People Nursing	Learning Disabilities Nursing	Mental Health Nursing
Stage 1 (120 credits)	KYN102: Introducing health and social care KYN104: Introduction to healthcare practice	KYN102: Introducing health and social care KYN104: Introduction to healthcare practice	KYN102: Introducing health and social care KYN104: Introduction to healthcare practice	KYN102: Introducing health and social care KYN104: Introduction to healthcare practice
Stage 2 (120 credits)	KYN210: Understanding nursing: knowledge and theory KYN211: Developing nursing practice	KYN210: Understanding nursing: knowledge and theory KYN211: Developing nursing practice	KYN210: Understanding nursing: knowledge and theory KYN211: Developing nursing practice	KYN210: Understanding nursing: knowledge and theory KYN211: Developing nursing practice
Stage 3 (120 credits)	KYN325: Assimilating nursing: knowledge and theory KYN326: Becoming an autonomous practitioner: adult	KYN325: Assimilating nursing: knowledge and theory KYN329: Becoming an autonomous practitioner: children and young people	KYN325: Assimilating nursing: knowledge and theory KYN328: Becoming an autonomous practitioner: learning disabilities	KYN325: Assimilating nursing: knowledge and theory KYN327: Becoming an autonomous practitioner: mental health

3) Module delivery

There are two modules in each part of the programme.

The first module of each part is **theory based** and delivered fully online. Tuition is provided online by your module tutor who supports your learning and achievement in online tutorials, email or telephone-based discussions and feedback on your assessed work.

The second module in each part of the programme is a **theory/practice-based** module. You will have an allocated module and practice tutor. You will be supported in your placements by a practice supervisor and assessed by a practice assessor. Your OU Practice Tutor/Academic Assessor will also support you in placement, linking with the practice supervisor and practice assessor.

4) Practice Learning

To register with the NMC as a registered nurse our students must complete a total of 2300 hours in practice. To achieve this, in each part of the programme, you will complete 770 hours of practice. This consists of three placements undertaken across the time of the practice module for that part. Two of these placements will be out with your base area and the third (usually the final placement of that Part) will be within your base area of work.

Whilst on placement as a student nurse, you are supernumerary. Placement experiences enable you to apply theory to practice and provide you with a wide range of skills and experiences to meet NMC requirements.

Placements are organised by the Scotland nursing team at the Open University, and you will be allocated a wide range of practice learning opportunities geared towards ensuring you are able to develop the skills and knowledge required for your chosen field of practice.

Section C: Programme entry requirements

5) Entry criteria

a) Education and qualifications

Applicants need to have a minimum of 10 years full time education or the equivalent – this 10 years' requirement includes primary schooling. Applicants must have been awarded Core Skills Numeracy and Communication at SCQF level 5 or above and **be able to provide the evidence of this at the time of application**. Please note this evidence **must** be a copy (scan or photo) of your qualification certificate, we cannot accept screenshots of your SQA page as evidence.

- Numeracy may be achieved by completing either a Maths or Numeracy course or element of a course which meets this standard. If you don't currently have the required level of Numeracy, suggested courses are available at: *
  - [Numeracy @ SCQF Level 5 | Dumfries & Galloway College (dumgal.ac.uk)](#) **or**
  - [Core Skills: Numeracy SCQF Level 5 (fife.ac.uk)](#) or contact college directly T: 03442480115 E: [info@fife.ac.uk](#)

- Communication may be achieved by completing either an English course or English, Literacy or a Communication element of a course which meets this standard. If you don't currently have the required level of Communication, suggested courses are available at: *
  - [Communication (NC) @ SCQF Level 6 | Dumfries & Galloway College (dumgal.ac.uk)](#) **or**
  - [Literature 1 @ SCQF Level 6 | Dumfries & Galloway College (dumgal.ac.uk)](#) **or**
  - [Online Access Course in English - SCQF 6 - Higher | University of Aberdeen | UK (abdn.ac.uk)](#)

*For NHSGGC applicants only. If you do not have the required numeracy and literacy qualifications or core skills at SCQF 5, please would you contact David Lamont, OU Employer Link for NHSGGC at [David.lamont3@nhs.scot](#) **who will provide further advice on how you can undertake numeracy and literacy at SCQF Level 5 via the SQA trainer in NHSGGC.**

Please note that courses **must** be accredited to meet this requirement. They must clearly state what the qualification is in e.g., Maths, English, Numeracy, Communication

Examples of these are (but not limited to):
- A module or element of a course which meets SCQF level 5 (this evidence will be shown on the Core Skills section of your SQA profile, see Appendix 1 on how to view this)
- National 5 (A-C)
- Standard Grade credit grade (1 or 2)
- O Grade (Scotland) 1 or 2
- O Level A-C
- Intermediate 2
- Higher
- GCSE grades A*-C, or 9-4
- A Level A,B,C
- Functional skills Level 2

- NVQ Level 2
- (Ireland) Level 4 Certificate
- (Ireland) Leaving Certificate (Level 5)

A list of accepted qualifications is available in Appendix 2

Please note that if you do not have evidence of the above but have undertaken degree level study that you feel demonstrates the required level of numeracy and literacy you should contact the university where you studied and request a detailed transcript of the study. This should not be merely a list of modules studied and result but must include information as to the content of the modules, the assessments undertaken, and mark awarded. This is to allow us to assess as to whether this meets the numeracy and literacy requirements. As this can take some time and you may need to undertake one of the courses we recommend in the previous page, we suggest you start this process as soon as possible.

If you attended school or higher education outside of the UK and Ireland, have not undertaken any of the listed qualifications above and wish to use these to evidence that you have achieved the required level of numeracy and literacy you **must** obtain an ENIC Statement of Comparability before you apply. You can obtain this from [Statement of Comparability (enic.org.uk)](enic.org.uk). Please note there is a fee for this, and we would strongly encourage you to do this as soon as possible in case you need to undertake one of the courses suggested in the previous page.

b) Current employment and experience

You are required to be in a **permanent** post as a Health Care Support Worker (or equivalent role) working a minimum of 26 hours per week whilst on placement*. *Ideally* you should have a minimum of 1 years' experience of working as a Health Care Support Worker, and you must have your line manager's support to study for the programme.

(* Applicants in NHS Highland (North) and NHS Eilean Siar must work 37 hours on placement)

c) References

We will require a reference from your current line manager as part of your application.

If you have previously commenced nursing studies with another university within the last 7 years, we will require an academic reference from them which includes a summary of whether there were any issues of professionalism identified during your studies. If you are successful in being offered a place on the programme, we would at that stage ask you to request this reference.

d) Right to Work in the UK

Please note that due to how this programme is funded (detailed in Section C, part 10), you must have the right to work in the UK on an unlimited time basis to be eligible to study on this programme. This means that if you do not hold British or Irish nationality, you would need to hold EU Settlement / Pre-Settlement status, Indefinite Leave to Remain, or similar status. If your

immigration approval contains the comment 'No public funds', this means you cannot apply to this programme at this time.

All applicants will be requested to submit a copy of this evidence with your application to ensure that we would be able to progress your application through our recruitment process. Therefore, if you are British or Irish, we would need to receive a copy of your passport or birth certificate as evidence. If you are another nationality, we would need to receive a copy of your passport **and** immigration status as evidence.

Please note, this evidence must be submitted at the point of application.

e) In addition, candidates must be of:

- **Good character** as evidenced through membership of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme. Successful candidates offered a place on the programme will be contacted to provide evidence required by Disclosure Scotland. Following a process of document checking, a new PVG as an OU Student Nurse will be requested
- **Good health** as evidenced through the self-declaration of health status, occupational health screening, and review of previous sickness and absence records

6) Partners

Applicants who meet all the above criteria & who are supported by eligible employers may apply for a place on the Nursing Degree.

The Open University currently offers the Pre-registration Nursing Programme in Scotland in partnership with the Scottish Government and all NHS (Scotland) Boards.

7) Eligible Employers

If you are employed in a healthcare support worker role within NHS Scotland, please complete the 'Nursing Enquirer form' confirming which Health Board you are employed in, and we will be able to provide you with more information relevant to your area.

We also work with some care homes and GP practices to support students on the programme. Please contact us at Scotland-Nursing@open.ac.uk to enquire as to whether your work area meets the due diligence requirements.

8) Credit Transfer

The OU offers a process called credit transfer which assesses whether you would be given academic credit on the nursing programme for study you have undertaken in another educational institution. To be eligible to apply for credit transfer, you will need to have undergone a successful recruitment and selection process.

Your previous study must have been at the same level as OU modules (SCQF level 7 or above) in a nursing or healthcare programme within the last 5 years. Credit transfer is not guaranteed and the maximum credit transfer available for the nursing degree is 180 credits.

More information is available at Credit transfer | Open University Please note, you are unable to apply for credit transfer until you have been offered a place on the programme. Also, the Scotland nursing team cannot advise on whether you are likely to be awarded credit transfer as this is dealt with by a different team.

9) Credit Migration

If you have previously studied achieved K102 / K104, then you will be eligible to receive credit migration. If you have studied K102, you would commence the programme on KYN104, whereas if you had studied K102 and K104, then you would receive credit migration for Stage 1, and would commence the programme in Stage 2.

10) Fees & funding

This programme is funded by the Scottish Funding Council therefore students and/or workplaces do not need to provide any funding.

In addition, whilst the student is on placement, their own workplace will receive backfill funding.

Please note that we cannot accept students onto the programme in Scotland who are self-funding, or their funding is supplied by a private employer.

Section D: Recruitment and selection process

11) Awareness and Information Sessions

Awareness and Information sessions are held regularly and will cover entry requirements, an overview of the programme and how to apply along with the opportunity to ask questions to one of our Staff Tutors. These are advertised via social media and your employer.

12) Selection process

There is a formal selection process, requiring all applicants to:

- Complete the Scotland Nursing Enquiry 2026 form available by clicking on the link below in 14) How to apply.
- Complete the OU application form. This will be sent to everyone who has completed an Enquiry form when the application form is available from March 2026.
- Provide evidence they meet the academic entry requirements.
- Provide evidence that (due to funding requirements) they meet the Right to Work criteria.
- Provide evidence that their application is supported by their Line Manager, Senior Manager and Budget Holder (using the template provided in the application pack)
- Ensure that their Line Manager provides a reference using the template provided in the application pack.
- If shortlisted, attend an interview which will include a face-to-face interview either in person (in the partner Health Board) or conducted via MS Teams

If offered a place on the programme, the applicant will need to:

- Complete all required registration forms by the date specified in the offer letter.
- Complete Occupational Health forms and provide the evidence requested.
- Undertake a check under the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme to be registered as an OU Student Nurse

13) Timescales

Although exact dates for the October 2026 recruitment process are still to be confirmed, approximate timescales are:

- The application window is expected to be from the last week in March until the first week in June.
- Applicants will be notified if they have been successful in being invited for interview by the end of June.
- Interviews are expected to take place no sooner than three weeks after the closing date.
- All interviewed applicants across Scotland will be advised of their interview outcome once all interviews have concluded (expected to be by the mid to end of July)

14) How to apply

If you meet the above criteria and wish to note your interest in this programme for October 2026 entry, please complete and submit:

[Scotland Nursing Enquiry Form](#)

This process should only take a few minutes to complete. Please note that most fields on the form are mandatory to allow us to provide region-specific information to you.

Please only complete this form once, unless your contact / working details change.

15) Contact details

To contact the OU in Scotland Nursing Team with any queries not answered in this guidance, please email us at Scotland-Nursing@open.ac.uk to ask your question. Please ensure you mention which NHS Board area you work in.

Section E: Appendices

Appendix 1: Determining your level of Literacy and Numeracy qualifications (Scotland school/college leavers)

If you have undertaken school qualification in Scotland or any other study such as national certificate, HNC or HND courses you may have undertaken units that have demonstrated that you have achieved numeracy and/or literacy at SCQF Level 5.

If you have your paper certificates you should have one certificate as below which will show your achieved level of numeracy and literacy.

Core Skills Profile

If you studied other qualifications accredited by the SQA after 1999, you should have a **"Core Skills Profile"** (contact SQA if unsure)

You must have **both components** at SCQF L5 or above for **each** of the following Core Skills:

1. **Core Skill – Communication**
   - Oral Communication
   - Written Communication

2. **Core skill – Numeracy**
   - Using graphical information
   - Using number

If you achieved your qualifications after 1995 you can check this by using MYSQA website which you can access at [Home (mysqa.org.uk).](https://mysqa.org.uk)

"MySQA" Account

Checklist:
- ✓ Show course / unit code
- ✓ Show SCQF
- ✓ Show dates

- ✓ Click the ✚ sign to show _all_ units studied

Please note this is __not accepted__ as evidence of achievement. It lets you check the subjects and levels achieved.

The Open University
Scotland

My results

MyHome   MyResults   MyProfile

This page shows courses and units that you are currently doing, results we have received for courses and units and all SQA qualifications that you have been certificated for from 1995 onwards.

🖶 Print Results

☑ Show course/unit code ⓘ ☑ Show SCQF ⓘ ☑ Show Dates

COURSE NAME	LEVEL	AWARD
Certificated July 2023		
	Diploma	P
⊞ Units		
Certificated July 2022		
Acting and Performance	Certificate	P
⊞ Units		
Certificated August 2021		
	New Advanced Higher	B
	New Higher	A
	New Higher	C
	National 5	B

"MySQA" Account

Certificated February 2017		
⊞ **Units**		
⊟ **Core Skills**		
Communication:Oral Communication	Higher	
Communication:Written Communication	Higher	
Information and Communication Technology:Accessing Information	Intermediate 2	
Information and Communication Technology:Providing/Creating Information	Intermediate 2	
Numeracy:Using Graphical Information	Intermediate 2	
Numeracy:Using Number	Intermediate 2	
Problem Solving:Critical Thinking	Higher	
Problem Solving:Planning and Organising	Higher	
Problem Solving:Reviewing and Evaluating	Higher	
Working with Others:Reviewing Co-operative Contribution	Intermediate 1	
Working with Others:Working Co-operatively with Others	Intermediate 1	

Communication:
- Both must be at SCQF L5 or above

Numeracy:
- Both must be at SCQF L5 or above

SCQF Level 5 is Intermediate 2. If you have both aspects of Numeracy and Literacy at Intermediate 2 or Higher you have achieved the level required to apply for the programme.

Appendix 2: Approved SQA Qualifications

For Literacy

Courses (SQA Codes)	Course Title	SCQF Level	Literacy
X 812 75	Care (with project)	5	ü
G8K1 46	Early Education and Childcare	6	ü
G8K3 46	Health and Social Care	6	ü
G9YN 46	Working with Communities	6	ü
C812 76 / X812 76	Care	6	ü
C814 76	Childcare and Development	6	ü
GL09 46	Health & Social Care: Skills for Practice	6	ü
GK2V 46	Health and Social Care: Promoting Reablement	6	ü
GL3W 46	Social Services and Healthcare	6	ü
GL79 46	Social Services, Children and Young People	6	ü
GL7W 15	HNC Care & Administrative Practice	7	ü
GK9T 15	HNC Childhood Practice	7	ü
GK9T 15	HNC Childhood Practice inc. unit: "DF53 34 Facilitate Playwork opportunities"	7	ü
GR4N 15	HNC Healthcare Practice	7	ü
GK89 15	HNC Social Services	7	ü
GH5W 23	HNC Social Services (Children and Young People)	7	ü
GP0H 15	HNC Occupational Therapy Support	7	ü

Code unknown	HND Care and Administrative Practice	8	ü
GN0R 16	HND Childhood Practice	8	ü
GL41 23	SVQ 3 Healthcare Support(Clinical)	7	ü
GH60 23	SVQ3 Social Services & Healthcare	7	ü
G7LV 23	SVQ3 Health and Social Care (Children and Young People)	7	ü
Skills Development Scotland	[Modern Apprenticeships in Management with SVQ3](#)	7	ü
GH7548	PDA Dental Nursing: Delivering Oral Health Interventions	8	ü
GJ9V 24	SVQ 4 Care Services Leadership and Management	10	ü

The Open University module K102: Introducing health and social care can be used to evidence Literacy.

For Numeracy

Courses (SQA Codes)	Course Title	SCQF Level	Literacy	Numeracy
GL7W 15	HNC Care & Administrative Practice	7	ü	ü
GK9T 15	HNC Childhood Practice inc. unit: "DF53 34 Facilitate Playwork opportunities"	7	ü	ü
GR4N 15	HNC Healthcare Practice	7	ü	ü

Other Further and Higher Education Study

- **HNC and HND qualifications will evidence Literacy.**
- **Degree level study may evidence Literacy, but applicants will need to provide a full transcript obtained from the University where they studied before application to have this reviewed by the University.**