



Faculty of Health, Education, Medicine and Social Care  
**FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Nursing)**

**Healthcare Assistant Practitioner Higher  
Apprenticeship**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

# Contents

1.	Introduction.....	2
2.	Is this degree for me?.....	3
3.	Why Anglia Ruskin University? .....	3
4.	How will I benefit from the course? .....	4
5.	How is the course taught? .....	4
6.	Will I have to attend the University's campus? .....	5
7.	When does the course start? .....	5
8.	How long will the course take? .....	5
9.	2+2 model (subject to approval) .....	6
10.	What will I study? .....	7
11.	How is the course assessed? .....	7
12.	Career options.....	8
13.	What are the entry requirements? .....	8
14.	What are the Funding Rules?.....	9
15.	What other skills are needed?.....	10
16.	What books will I need? .....	10
17.	How will the students support each other through the course?.....	10
<b>3.</b>	What support will I get from the university? .....	11
18.	What are the fees? .....	12
19.	How do I apply? .....	12
20.	Who do I contact with any questions? .....	12

# I. Introduction

This Handbook has been written to give you more information about the **FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Nursing) Higher Apprenticeship**, and what it involves.

ARU's Faculty of Health, Education, Medicine and Social Care (HEMS) works with healthcare partners over an extensive geographical region in the east of England, developing and delivering practical, relevant learning solutions that meet the short and longer term demands for skills within the UK Healthcare sector.

The **FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Nursing)** course was developed in response to a growing demand for qualified healthcare professionals within the country. ARU have delivered this course as a Higher Apprenticeship since September 2017, following the generic Level 5 Healthcare Assistant Practitioner Apprenticeship standard, but specific to a Nursing pathway in order to support partner employers in 'growing their own' Registered Nurses through the Apprenticeship Levy.

The FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Nursing) aims to enable you to:

- Develop an understanding of the professional knowledge, skills, attitudes and attributes required of a health care practitioner when delivering safe and effective person-centred nursing care.
- Act with integrity and adhere to professional values.
- Competently practise fundamental health care skills with knowledge and understanding of associated evidence based theory.

Successful completion of the course will also offer you a seamless transition into the final part of the BSc (Hons) Nursing (Degree Apprenticeship) to become a Registered Nurse in Adult or Child Care or Mental Health with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

**NB** The course content, delivery and structure is being refreshed in April 2020 – more details about the curriculum and course plan will be available beyond this date.

**Clare Fazackerley**  
**Degrees at Work, Anglia Ruskin University**

## 2. Is this degree for me?

The **FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Nursing) Higher Apprenticeship** is designed to blend learning with employment, and so you can apply the skills you've learned immediately to your work. Mapped to the Healthcare Assistant Practitioner Apprenticeship Standard at Level 5, successful completion of the FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Nursing) will equip you to work as highly skilled assistant practitioner within your organisation.

Whether you are a school or college leaver, level 3-4 apprentice or are an existing staff member at Band 2/3 looking to progress your career, this course is for you.

## 3. Why Anglia Ruskin University?

Anglia Ruskin University is based in Cambridge and Chelmsford and is one of the foremost universities in the UK for work-based learning. We have developed teaching methods and specialist teaching teams that will enable students to learn in a dynamic and supportive environment.

The university has a history of providing innovative courses, and an established reputation for delivering relevant and highly practicable learning programmes for working people. We work with clients such as Harrods, Barclays Bank, Specsavers, the RAF and the NHS to design work-based training that develops their employees' skills and enhances their contribution to their workplace.

In total there are 55 universities in England offering Nursing Degrees. In the Nursing Times *Best and Worst universities for Nursing*, Anglia Ruskin are rated the highest in the East of England.

In 2016 the Government introduced the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) to recognise and reward excellent teaching, learning environment and student outcomes in UK higher education providers. Anglia Ruskin are delighted to have been awarded Silver.

You'll study in an exciting, modern faculty which has strong links with regional, national and international organisations, including healthcare trusts, social services, local and regional authorities, schools and academic institutions.

## **4. How will I benefit from the course?**

You will engage with the concepts of reflective practice and evidence based practice to inform the delivery of safe and effective person-centred nursing care and develop the skills and attributes required for inter-professional team working, maintaining professional relationships, and acknowledge the contribution of a collaborative and integrated approach to care; recognising service users as partners in their care.

## **5. How is the course taught?**

The course is a work-based blended learning course and you will be supported in your work setting and developing within your existing role.

Emphasis is on you applying theory to practice and vice versa, using a range of learning approaches including; face to face, on-line learning and simulated skills. Development in practice will be via reflection, practice booklets, portfolios and personal development planning. You will be a student for one day per week either learning theory or working on practice competencies in a your usual healthcare setting. The rest of your time you are an employee and will be applying your learning as part of your role.

Our online learning management system (LMS) offers a range of learning methods that include tutor-led online group discussions, review of texts and case studies, and reflective activities. You will develop skills such as critical thinking, decision making, communication, team working, leadership, problem solving, teaching and clinical skills for safe and effective practice.

Reflective activities are used to encourage you to bring issues from your workplace setting to the online forums for discussion with your peers.

You will acquire the knowledge and skills to support your team in providing quality care, as well as transferrable skills and professional values required within your role to ensure that the safety of the public remains paramount.

## **6. Will I have to attend the University's campus?**

While much of the course content can be accessed at any time that suits you online via our Learning Management System (LMS), you will be required to attend face to face theory lectures, tutorials and skills sessions on campus.

Our course is delivered at both our Chelmsford and Cambridge campuses – you'll choose the campus that is most convenient for you.

You will also be entitled to use the University's facilities for the duration of your course such as the Library, Counselling Service, Students' Union, IT Services and Careers Service, even from a distance, and you'll be able to use the campus gym facilities when on site.

NB It is the responsibility of you and your employer to cover additional costs such as travel or accommodation expenses.

## **7. When does the course start?**

The course commences in September and January each year.

## **8. How long will the course take?**

The course is delivered over 20 months and has been specifically structured to meet the needs of the employer, to reflect the theory and practice components and allow more time to be spent in practice.

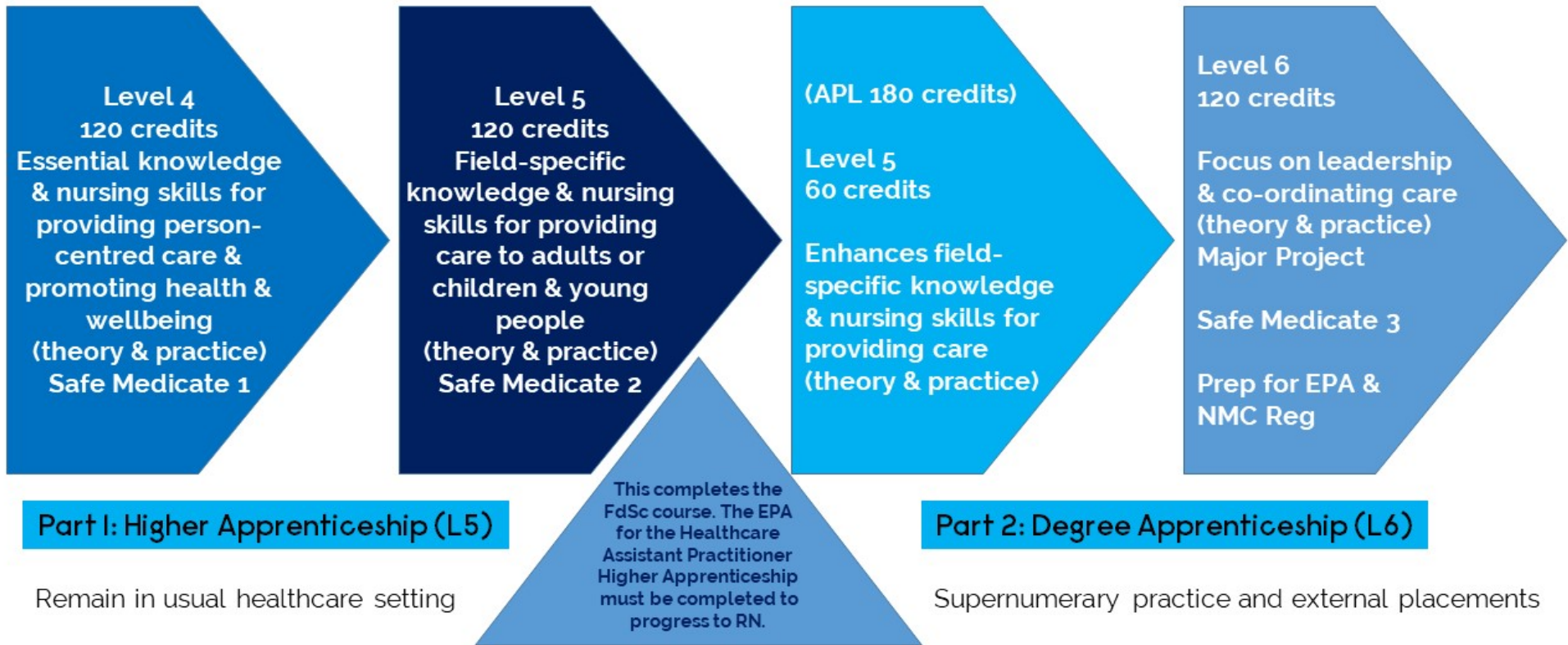
Submission dates for all modules assessments are in line with the university academic requirements.

# 9. 2+2 model (subject to approval)

ARU's 2+2 Apprenticeship Model to Nursing – approx. 3 ½ Years duration (dependent on cohorts)

Part I: FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Nursing)

Part 2: BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult, Child or MH)



FdSc Assistant Practitioner 2020/21

Degrees at Work OI245 686707



## IO. What will I study?

This section will be added after our University approval process has completed in April 2020. However, to get an idea of the learning outcomes that must be delivered within the course, please review the [Healthcare Assistant Practitioner Apprenticeship Standard](#), as the course curriculum will be aligned to this.

## II. How is the course assessed?

Assessment will be through a range of strategies and will include essays, online presentations, multiple choice tests, case studies, portfolios and practice assessment.

Please note that deadlines for submission of assignments are strictly enforced at the University.

In addition to the on-programme assessments for each module, the **End Point Assessment (EPA)** completes the apprenticeship. This takes place during the final three months of the Foundation Degree and comprises the following components:

- a) A multiple choice and short answer test
- b) An observation of practice undertaken in the workplace
- c) A reflective journal completed by the apprentice
- d) An interview

These elements are carried out by independent assessors who will be identified from the register of assessors (RoAAO). Time will be allocated to guide you in the process.

### **a) A multiple choice and short answer test**

### **b) An observation of practice undertaken in your workplace**

### **c) A reflective journal completed by the apprentice**

This is completed in the three months leading up to your EPA. You will reflect on the development of the following components from the apprenticeship standard:

1. Case Management
2. Supervision and Teaching

### **d) An interview (professional discussion)**



## 12. Career options

Upon completion of the FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Nursing), and subject to your employer agreeing to support you, you will have the option to transfer to the Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship at Level 6. This will give you a seamless transition into the specialist fields of Adult, Mental Health and Child nursing and onto NMC Registration in a straightforward “step on, step off” structure. The diagram in [Section 10](#) illustrates how this works.

## 13. What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the personal specifications that have been set out by your employer, these are the **entry requirements** for the FdSc course. You must provide evidence of these **on submission of your application**:

### **Essential Requirements:**

- Employment in a suitable healthcare role/environment on a permanent contract, ideally exceeding 30 hours per week
- Employer support to undertake this course
- Confirmed eligibility to be funded as an Apprentice as set out within the ESFA's Funding Rules
- Evidence of level 3 study in a related subject e.g. A Levels, BTEC in Health and Social Care\*
- Level 2 separately certificated qualifications in Maths and English e.g. GCSEs at Grade C/4 or above, Functional Skills or Key Skills\*\*
- A Completed Initial Needs Analysis Form

\* Applicants without a Level 3 qualification but with at least six months relevant experience will be considered on an individual basis for accreditation of prior learning (APL)/prior experiential learning (APEL).

\*\* Applicants currently working towards a Level 2 qualification in either English or Maths may apply on the basis that they have gained the qualification prior to the start of the course.

You must supply these before you can be registered on the course:

- An Enhanced DBS for the Adult and Child Workforce, signed up to the online update service (ARU will fund new applications if you cannot provide this)
- Occupational Health clearance from your employer
- Line Manager confirmation of support

**Please note:** you will need to have the National Care Certificate (Health) to undertake the End Point Assessment. You will be able to complete this during your Foundation Degree programme to enable you to take the EPA.

## 14. What are the Funding Rules?

All apprenticeships are governed by the ESFA's funding rules, and the apprenticeship contracts you will sign before registering on the course incorporate these.

Your employer is required to protect a minimum of 20% 'Off-the-job' learning. This will be incorporated into theory and practice learning.

You will be required to track your learning hours and activities throughout the course so we can monitor that your off the job learning hours are being protected. You will be shown how to do this using MyShowcase through our LMS.

We report to your employer on your engagement and progress on a monthly basis, which we review and discuss in Tripartite meetings during the course. You will track your progress against the Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours detailed in the standard using MyShowcase.

We also report and evidence your engagement and progress to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on a monthly basis to show we are complying with the Funding Rules to continue to access the levy.

## **15. What other skills are needed?**

Working for a Foundation Degree is a big commitment, so you will also need to be motivated, well organised and have self-belief, determination and a willingness to learn. You'll need to have access to a web-enabled PC, and be able to use the Internet, Microsoft Office (especially Word and Powerpoint) with confidence.

## **16. What books will I need?**

As part of the course you will be expected to read extracts from a variety of sources such as books, journal articles, reports etc. Most of these will be freely available online through Anglia Ruskin University Library, although in some instances you may prefer to purchase a key course textbook. All learning resources are available in electronic format.

You will be advised of any recommended books well in advance and tutors will point you towards relevant sources of information throughout the course.

## **17. How will the students support each other through the course?**

We believe success on the course is enhanced through bringing the students together to create a supportive community of learners. The structure of the course has been designed to encourage active participation and mutual support in order to build a community of learners to maximise the learning opportunities across the group.

Discussion boards and online forums encourage you to exchange any ideas or issues you face with other you, enabling you to draw on others experiences in a variety of backgrounds. There are a variety of ways you can engage with others from text-based tool to audio or video. This can be either instantly with real time messaging systems or time delayed through email and discussion forums.

## 18. What support will I get from the university?

While you will need to take full responsibility for your own studies, you will have plenty of support to guide you in your success, including one to one online academic tutor support within each module, Distance Learning Facilitators, and Student Advisers.

Student services offers you help with academic advice and support, personal support, and improving your study skills as well as interview techniques and advice to help with promotion opportunities.

Study Skills Plus sessions offer one to one appointments and online resources such as:

- Academic Writing
- Maths and Numeracy
- Organisational Skills
- Critical Thinking
- IT Skills
- Presentation Skills
- Resourcing

Furthermore, you can access additional drug numeracy support through online tutorials including various online tutorials and a free app compatible with both Apple and android phones and tablets.

Academic staff support you in practice placement and are linked to the employer. You will be supported by:

- **Course Leads:** Individual to each course and responsible for managing the course, ensuring learning outcomes and QA processes are met during the delivery, and monitoring student development
- **Director of Practice:** who leads on quality and governance of practice learning environment
- **Education Champion:** supports effective communication between the employer and ARU and ensures that any student issues are resolved promptly.
- **Clinical Educators:** supports health care you in practice
- **Link Teams members:** academic tutors who support learners in practice.

## **19. What are the fees?**

The fees are covered by your employer and the Government. You will not be required to pay anything yourself, or take out a tuition fee loan. You are however responsible for travel to and from the campus and other learning venues.

## **20. How do I apply?**

Your employer will provide you with a link to start your application, and we will guide you through the process on the contact details below.

## **21. Who do I contact with any questions?**

Please contact Clare Fazackerley, Degrees at Work, Anglia Ruskin University on 01223 698423 or 07867 373340, or email [clare.fazackerley@anglia.ac.uk](mailto:clare.fazackerley@anglia.ac.uk) .