

The Scottish Government is supporting The Open University to roll out a 'Widening Access to Nursing' programme across Scotland.

This is an opportunity for Health Care Support Workers (HCSW) to study online module K101 'An introduction to health and social care' and a numeracy module at SCQF Level 5.

This opportunity will be fully funded and aims to equip HCSW with the minimum entry requirements to be able to apply for a nursing degree programme.

The National 5 numeracy module: is about learning to apply numerical skills in personal, workplace, social and educational situations. By completing this, you will learn more about how to perform numerical calculations and solve numerical problems.

Numeracy skills at National 5 level are required for applying to study for a Nursing degree programme so if you are considering this for your future, successfully completing this numeracy course will provide you with the appropriate entry criteria. The numeracy module you study will depend on where you are geographically.

About K101 'An introduction to health and social care'

We all depend on care services at some time in our lives – at home; in hospitals, clinics or GP surgeries; in community and residential settings. This key introductory OU level 1 module provides an authoritative overview of health and social care, with real-life case studies taking you deep into the experience of receiving care and working in care services. It has also been written for those new to university study and will help you develop the learning skills needed for degree study.

What you will study?

Block 1: paints a broad picture of care in the UK, ranging from caring within families, to primary health care, acute care in hospitals and social care in the community. You will explore the diversity and sensitivity of care situations, the wide variety of modern care services, the interconnections between them and what it is like to care and to receive care.

Block 2: explores the impact of care needs and care services on people's sense of identity and self-worth. Care can make deep inroads into personal lives and life narratives, so it is essential that care workers are sensitive to this and provide appropriate support. It also asks how a community can respond to the needs of different groups of people. An in-depth case study of a neighbourhood renewal programme enables you to assess whether such schemes can improve people's health and wellbeing.

Block 3: explores the settings in which care takes place and is managed. You visit a wide variety of care environments, from domestic homes, to residential and hospital settings, exploring their physical, social and psychological impact and the extent to which they are enabling or disabling.

You also consider how people become attached to places and what happens when they leave them.

Block 4: examines how care can go wrong and what individuals can do to try to prevent this. You explore the crucial role of record keeping and the challenges of preserving confidentiality in a busy workplace.

You consider the pressure on care workers to be accountable, and you explore the roles of research evidence and protocols in ensuring high standards of care.

Pathways to nursing

This module is a compulsory part of all OU professional programmes in health and social care. It is designed to build your confidence and develop your knowledge and study skills for progression into a career in nursing. It provides a supported programme to develop the skills required to be an independent learner, particularly communicating effectively in writing.

Teaching and assessment

- 8-12 hours of study per week, on average
- Participation in online chat rooms
- 5 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs)
- 1 End-of-module assessment (EMA)

What's included

- Module books
- Printed materials
- Personal tutor
- I.T helpdesk and student support

Computing requirements

You will need a computer with internet access to study this module as the study materials and activities are accessible via a web browser. Any other computer-based activities you will need to carry out are specified in the module materials.

Personal requirements

- Employed in a HCSW role
- Commitment to study an 8 month part-time programme in addition to your regular work and personal responsibilities
- Time management skills
- Line manager support
- Motivation and enthusiasm!

Free resources

- **OpenLearn:** tasters of the K101 module. Go to www.open.edu/openlearn and search 'K101'
- **Skills for Study:** downloadable booklets. Visit www2.open.ac.uk/students/skillsforstudy/

1. Please email Scotland-Nursing@open.ac.uk to request an application form
2. Please return your completed application form to Scotland-Nursing@open.ac.uk by **midnight on Friday 5th July 2019.**
3. The selection process will consist of a professional panel who will base their decision on the quality and content of your personal statement and a telephone interview. You will be notified of the result by email.
4. There will be a short induction session to this initiative in September 2019 which you will be notified of.

If you have any queries about this programme, please contact:

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