

SEASON'S GREETINGS & BEST WISHES FOR 2021

Nursing Update from The Open University in Scotland

December 2020

SUMMARY



By Michael Davidson
Scotland Nation
Manager

The Open University (OU) in Scotland nursing programme continues to go from strength to strength with more graduates coming through to support the nursing workforce in Scotland.

The nursing team at the OU in Scotland continue to work with our valued partners in the Health Boards and in the independent care home

sector. It is so encouraging to see the results of our nursing students and the success that they achieve.

2020 has been an incredibly busy year for the School of Health, Wellbeing and Social Care. Nursing, social work and social care have been at the forefront of the news and the forefront of the fight against Covid-19. All of this has helped to shine a spotlight on the work that these professional groups do and also how they are prepared through study to carry out this vital role.

The OU continues to innovate and develop programmes of study in order to meet the requirements of our society. Our School was able to make materials available to colleagues and partners in Scotland relating to online teaching, as well as other materials particularly relevant to work being done to tackle the pandemic.

In addition, our School appointed a new Head of School. Professor Sam Baron comes to the OU with a wealth of education and practice experience in the field of social work. We are particularly delighted to welcome her to her role and look forward to her being able to travel up to Scotland and have the opportunity to meet up with our partners across the country.

NEWS



By Liz Sturley
Professional Lead for
Nursing in Scotland

Pre-registration Nursing Review

The Open University has had a busy year with a number of Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) approvals.

Following a successful approval of our Future Nurse Curriculum, the OU now offers four fields of

nursing practice and in October 2020 we welcomed students studying Learning Disability Nursing and Children and Young Peoples Nursing, as well as our offer in Adult and Mental Health Fields.

In addition, the OU has been successful in England meeting NMC approval for an innovative blended nursing degree in association with partner universities in the South and South West.

We have been pleased to welcome new academic colleagues; Wendy McInally Scotland Senior Lecturer CYP Nursing and Advanced Clinical Practice and Non-Medical Prescribing Staff Tutor, Catherine Gavin. Catherine will be leading on the introduction of these programmes in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

In order to support employers, managers and students with the planning of study leave, the OU in Scotland has been working to develop new timetabling that will set out study leave, placement windows and assignment submission dates. More about these timetables will be discussed at a Partnership Meeting in March 2021.



The Open
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SCOTLAND



By Lorraine Malcolm
Project Development
Manager, Widening
Access to Nursing

Widening access

Following the initial pilot project in 2017, we've celebrated three more successful cohorts of widening access students funded by the Scottish Government.

So far, 115 Healthcare Support Workers (HCSW) have successfully completed the OU course

'An introduction to health and social care'. Some of these students have progressed into senior HCSW roles. Other students have progressed onto studying the OU BSc (Hons) Nursing or Certificate of Higher Education in Healthcare Practice, or other universities' full-time nursing degree programmes.

The hard work and determination these students have demonstrated to juggle part-time university study alongside their HCSW role, family responsibilities and personal commitments is commendable, and those who have been studying this year have had to do all the above in unprecedented circumstances. Well done to all 'widening access to nursing' students and thank you to everyone who has supported them during their studies.

Although the Scottish Government funded project has now concluded, we continue to support many HCSWs on their pathway into nursing by guiding them towards funding through the part-time fee grant, which many will be eligible for through the Student Awards Agency Scotland. Our course 'An introduction to health and social care' runs twice per year, starting every October and February.

SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to graduates Angela Bridges, Anna Byrne, Melissa Calderwood, Angela Dougherty, Nicola Gallon, Kelly-Anne Grant, Stacey Hanlon, Nikki Jones, Helen Kafantari Maciver, Steven McWalters, Gemma Murray, Debi Ritchie, Lorraine Stout and Michelle Wilson.

The OU dedicated a special week in September to celebrate graduates on social media after the cancellation of degree ceremonies due to Covid-19 guidance. As part of the Class of 2020 celebrations, Helen Kafantari Maciver shared her journey from healthcare assistant to staff nurse, via an OU degree. You can read Helen's blog and watch her video at:

www.openuni.scot/news/blogs/HelenKafantariMaciver.



Helen Kafantari
OU Nursing Graduate, 2020.

Lois Gaffney from NHS Shetland applied and was successful in being selected for a place on the Council of Deans Health student leadership programme and one of our learning disability students; Richard McKinney has had a blog printed on the Queens Nursing Institute Scotland website:

<https://bit.ly/3oDRTsS>.

Well done to our 2016 students who gained their NMC registration in November 2020, despite this exceptional pandemic year we have seen some incredible achievements academically, including our first care home graduates. Hopefully we will be able to celebrate with them at a graduation ceremony next year.

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The Open University in Scotland's Health, Wellbeing and Social Care Team

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