



**UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH**
Faculty of Health and
Human Sciences

University of Plymouth

Faculty of Health and Human Sciences

School of Nursing and Midwifery

Programme Specification

PgCert Neonatal Nurse Practitioner MSc/PgDip Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA)

This document is written using Arial 12 Font, without italics, without underlining (with the exception of hyperlinks) and is left justified

Updated following Minor Change for implementation 2018-19

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1. MSc Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Final award title

MSc Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Level 7 Intermediate award title(s)

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Level 7 Intermediate award title(s)

Post Graduate Certificate (PgCert) Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Level 7 Intermediate award title(s) Level 7 Intermediate award title(s) (Exit Award only for students who fail the first core module)

Post Graduate Certificate (PgCert) Advanced Professional Development

UCAS code N/A

JACS code B731

2. **Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth

Teaching institution(s): University of Plymouth

3. **Accrediting body(ies)** Not Applicable

4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

Through the contemporary focus of the programme, the intention is that students advance their knowledge and skills with the consequence that they will be well positioned to develop and improve practice in terms of efficiency, effectiveness and quality. This should lead to improved ways of working with a resultant impact on patient care ensuring a culture that fosters research-informed excellence and sustainability, developing competencies in clinical decision making.

The programme builds on existing good practice and has been adapted to reflect service, political and professional changes whilst maintaining a clear focus on the University strategy and ensuring a quality student experience. Research-informed teaching will support the programme, with an emphasis on ensuring an evidence-based programme is delivered utilising the range of skills and experience available within the programme team.

Development of the Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner programme has been achieved through close collaboration between key stakeholders including students, clinical representatives and academics. The programme development team has been conscious of the need to enhance the student experience and promote academic excellence whilst ensuring that the programme meets contemporary service. The distinctive features of the programme are:

- A student-centred approach to the programme structure providing flexibility in the choice of the pathway award;
- Opportunities to study in an inter-professional setting with inter-professional core modules;
- A contemporary and dynamic programme responsive to the changing health and social care environment; including telehealth and sustainability.
- Professorial level input into curriculum design and delivery of modules;
- Research informed teaching embedded throughout curriculum;
- The programme is delivered by a team with extensive experience in the delivery of Masters level modules and a diverse range of health and social care experience.
- Flexible and responsive to employers needs and service delivery
- Offers a named specialist MSc programme the neonatal nurse can use to enhance career opportunities

Derriford Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit [NICU] is the Network Neonatal Unit (NNU) for the Peninsula. It is a 17-cot unit with a further 16 special care cots on the adjacent Transitional Care Ward (TCW). Since gaining NICU status yearly admissions have increased to approximately 400 per annum.

Derriford NICU has taken over the responsibility for all babies born below 27 weeks' gestation in the South West Peninsula, and the more mature infants with multi organ complexity requiring specialists' treatments. This has impacted on the number of intensive and high dependency cot days, which have shown a marked increase over the last 3 years. The Neonatal Toolkit for high quality neonatal services, including staff developmental pathways, was set out in 2009 to make lifelong differences to premature and sick newborn babies and their families. Within the recommendations is the delivery of specialist care by Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioners (ANNP's), senior charge nurses, nurses qualified in speciality (QIS) and junior staff nurses, alongside a designated medical team. This MSc Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner programme offers senior neonatal

nurses the opportunity to develop into the Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (ANNP) Role.

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

The Programme is informed by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland for level 7 study (QAA for Higher Education 2008).

6. Programme Structure

The programme will offer exit awards of;

Postgraduate Certificate Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Postgraduate Diploma Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Masters degree in Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

The postgraduate certificate will comprise 60 credits, postgraduate diploma 120 credits and the MSc 180 Credits.

Programme Structure

Programme Structure: PGCert Neonatal Nurse Practitioner PGDip/MSc Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner			
APP745 Research Methodology and Application 20 credits	ANNP701 Holistic Neonatal Assessment and Clinical Management 20 credits	APP701 Advancing Practice in Context 20 credits	Post Graduate Certificate 60 Credits
ANNP702 Advanced Neonatal nursing practice 20 credits	NMP702 Nurse Prescribing 40 credits		Post Graduate Diploma 120 Credits
*Optional module 20 credits	SPP701 Substantive Professional Project 40 credits		Masters 180 Credits

*Optional modules should be discussed with Programme Lead prior to commencement.

The MSc Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner programme is based in the School of Nursing & Midwifery. This programme is open to experienced QIS neonatal nurses registered either with the Nursing and Midwifery Council with current employment within clinical neonatal care.

This offers the healthcare professional a specific named award to enhance their career opportunities and learning within this specialist field. These core modules give the student a broad range of academic and practice related skills on which to build their ongoing professional development. These core modules are run at the university and taught by university staff and some are run under our academic partnership scheme taught by specialist neonatal practitioners.

The school of nursing & midwifery has worked with local healthcare providers in Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) scheme to develop very specific work related modules accredited by the faculty in one or more care settings, delivered by the health care provider. HSCP's have expanded over the years, including development of new modules to suit local workforce needs as required. These HSCP modules highlight the strong relationships we have with healthcare providers, all quality assurance processes are followed and overseen by our Health and Social Care Partnership Lead.

7. Programme Aims

The aim of the programme is to equip health professionals to advance knowledge and skills by:

1. Gaining a deeper understanding of the advanced clinical practice role and how this level of practice is used to enhance the patient journey whilst ensuring that the right care is delivered by the right clinician at the right time;
2. Developing a critical understanding of the contemporary issues that impact on neonatal practice and how the advancing level of practice influences the provision of high quality, patient centred care.
3. Developing a contemporary approach to health and social care through advancing and utilising knowledge and skills in professional practice.
4. Ensuring professional practice is underpinned by a focus on excellence and sustainability by developing a critical, analytical and creative approach.
5. Critically reviewing trends in theory, practice and management relating to neonatal practice;
6. Equipping individuals for lead roles in management, clinical practice and/or education.
7. Promoting an understanding of the philosophy and procedures involved in research and use of evidence.
8. Designing and undertaking research that will enhance and develop patient care and/or service provision within the neonatal arena.

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

Please see Section 13.1 for mapping of Intended Learning Outcomes against modules and level.

8.1. Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) A systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study, or area of professional practice.
- 2) A comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship.
- 3) Originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.
- 4) A deeper understanding of the advanced clinical practice role and how this level of practice is used to enhance the patient journey whilst ensuring that the right care is delivered by the right clinician at the right time.
- 5) Developed a deeper understanding of the influences, drivers and policies that inform the level of advanced practice.

These will be achieved through teaching and learning strategies that include: Lectures, seminars, workshops, self-directed study, and use of communication and information technologies.

Assessment methods include: Essay, critical literature review, research protocol, dissertation, oral presentation.

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- 1) Critically analyse policy, research and theoretical literature
- 2) Synthesise arguments and results from varying sources including research, policy and theoretical literature
- 3) Critically reflect on professional practice and incorporate knowledge to enhance practice
- 4) Develop critical arguments around research, policy and theory
- 5) Apply knowledge gained from advanced study to professional practice
- 6) Develop one's own capabilities relating to, and embed the principles of, the 4 pillars of advanced practice into the clinical arena.

These will be achieved through teaching and learning strategies that include: Group discussion, seminars, group and individual tutorials, on-line study tasks, e-technologies including narrated PowerPoint presentations, podcasts and interactive materials plus synchronous and asynchronous discussion fora.

Assessment methods include: Essay, critical literature review, oral presentation, case study, critical reflections on practice.

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- 1) Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- 2) Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level; non-specialist audiences;
- 3) Accept responsibility for their own professional practice applying ethical, legal and professional principles

These will be achieved through teaching and learning strategies that include: Small group presentations, active participation in group discussions, problem based case studies, e-technologies including use of a managed learning environment to host a variety of study materials and synchronous and asynchronous discussions.

Assessment methods include: Essays, reports, oral presentations.

8.4. Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) The exercise of initiative and personal responsibility;
- 2) Decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts;
- 3) The independent learning ability required for continuing professional development
- 4) Demonstrate sound understanding of the importance and relevance of evidenced based practice to the delivery of safe effective patient/client care.
- 5) Evaluate the context of risk and development of quality, patient/client safety and clinical governance agenda critically reflecting upon student's individual development.

These will be achieved through teaching and learning strategies that include: A wide range of student centred learning approaches, directed student and student led study with analysis and application to the service setting throughout modules.

Assessment methods include: A variety that are used throughout the programme incorporating assessment of transferable skills. These may include: examinations, tests undertaken in team-based learning, essays including case studies and reflection, portfolios, Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) including both oral and practical skills assessment, presentations and project outputs.

8.5. Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) Responsibility for their own professional practice applying ethical, legal and professional principles.
- 2) Provision of an environment of care in which the uniqueness of each individual is valued and is a commitment to fair and anti-discriminatory practice.
- 3) Ability to proactively adopt appropriate strategies to enhance learning for patients and colleagues.
- 4) Ability to propose and develop a researchable question and critically analyse the evidence from the research to fill a practice - theory gap;
- 5) The ability to undertake self-motivated research, critically appraise and present data.

These will be achieved through teaching and learning strategies that include: Practical skills that will be taught in simulated settings and developed further in clinical practice for advancing practice pathway and specific modules in other pathways.

Assessment methods include: A variety that are used throughout the programme incorporating assessment of transferable and practical skills. These may include: examinations, tests undertaken in team-based learning, essays including case studies and reflection, portfolios, Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) including both oral and practical skills assessment, presentations and project outputs.

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and DAS arrangements

In order to commence this programme, the student must meet the University's entry requirements for study at postgraduate level. Applicants will normally have a first degree, BSc (Hons) at 2.2 or above; or European first cycle equivalent plus a professional qualification in health or social care. Those individuals without a degree but with appropriate practice-related experience relevant to the programme may be eligible to apply.

All students undertaking the Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner programme need to be working in an environment where they can meet the module learning outcomes. Specific criteria includes:

- Attainment of a recognised QIS qualification
- Neonatal clinical experience of at least 2 years post QIS qualification (excluding maternity leave)
- Management experience within Neonatal clinical practice
- Supernumerary practice of at least 18 hrs per week
- Current NMC registration is required
- Access to an appropriate clinical mentor

Applicants where English is not the first language must also provide evidence of competence in written and spoken English in accordance with the University's Admissions Code of Practice i.e. IELTS of 6.5 overall with a minimum of 5.5 in each part.

Each potential student will be assessed for their ability to study at Masters level and therefore an interview may be necessary. Candidates without a first degree at 2.2 or above (or European first cycle equivalent) must have completed an evidence based practice module at degree level and will normally be required to submit a short piece of writing, as part of the admissions process.

AP(E)L:

Claims for credit for prior learning, whether certificated or experiential are accepted and will be assessed following University regulations and Faculty procedures.

European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)

This programme is equivalent to 90 ECTS credits (second cycle) with 30 ECTS credits at post graduate certificate, 60 credits at postgraduate diploma and 90 credits at Masters degree. Each 20 credit module has the equivalent of 10 ECTS credits and assumes a notional student effort of between 200-300 hours.

10. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards

The programme will offer exit awards of:

Postgraduate Certificate Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Postgraduate Diploma Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Masters degree in Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

The postgraduate certificate will comprise 60 credits, postgraduate diploma 120 credits and the MSc 180 Credits.

11. Exceptions to Regulations

Normal University of Plymouth Regulations will apply to this programme and awards.

12. Transitional Arrangements

The Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner is a new programme so no transitional arrangements are necessary. However, if students wishing to transfer onto the programme that have any of the core modules the programme lead will guide and support the student through the process.

13. Mapping and Appendices:

13.1 ILO's against Modules Mapping

Postgraduate Certificate level

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes Map	Certificate Level		
Core Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (as worded in the Programme Specification)	Aim(s)	Subject benchmark	Related Core Modules
Knowledge and Understanding - On successful completion graduates will have developed:			
A systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study, or area of professional practice.	1,2,4,		APP701 ANNP701
Developed a deeper understanding of the influences, drivers and policies that inform the level of advanced practice.	2,3		APP701 ANNP701
Originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.	1,5		APP745 ANNP701
Cognitive and Intellectual Skills - On successful completion graduates will have developed the ability to:			
Critically analyse policy, research and theoretical literature	2,3,5,7		ANNP701
Apply knowledge gained from advanced study to professional practice	4,5,6		ANNP701 APP701
Develop one's own capabilities relating to, and embed the principles of, the 4 pillars of advanced practice into the clinical arena.	1,2,3		APP701

Key and Transferable Skills - On successful completion graduates will have developed the ability to:			
Accept responsibility for their own professional practice applying ethical, legal and professional principles.	4,6,8		APP701 ANNP701
Employment Related Skills - On successful completion graduates will have developed the ability to:			
The exercise of initiative and personal responsibility	1,2,3		APP701
Decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts	1,2,3		APP701
Demonstrate a sound understanding of the importance and relevance of evidenced based practice to the delivery of safe effective patient/client care.	1,3,4		ANNP701
Practical Skills - On successful completion graduates will have developed the ability to:			
Provision of an environment of care in which the uniqueness of each individual is valued and is a commitment to fair and anti-discriminatory practice.	1,3,6		APP701 ANNP701
Ability to proactively adopt appropriate strategies to enhance learning for patients and colleagues	3,4		APP701 ANNP701
Propose and develop a researchable question and critically analyse the evidence from the research to fill a practice - theory gap	2,3,5,7,8		APP745

Postgraduate Diploma level

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes Map	Post Graduate Diploma level		
Core Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (as worded in the Programme Specification)	Aim(s)	Subject) Benchmark	Related Core Modules
Knowledge and Understanding - On successful completion graduates will have developed:			
A deeper understanding of the advanced clinical practice role and how this level of practice is used to enhance the patient journey whilst ensuring that the right care is delivered by the right clinician at the right time	6,7		ANNP702
Cognitive and Intellectual Skills - On successful completion graduates will have developed the ability to:			
Synthesise arguments and results from varying sources including research, policy and theoretical literature	4,6,7		ANNP702 NMP702
Critically reflect on professional practice and incorporate knowledge to enhance practice	3,4,6		ANNP702 NMP702
Key and Transferable Skills - On successful completion graduates will have developed the ability to:			
Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level; non-specialist audiences.	3,4		ANNP702 NMP702
Employment Related Skills - On successful completion graduates will have developed the ability to:			
The independent learning ability required for continuing professional development	2,3,4		ANNP702 NMP702
Practical Skills - On successful completion graduates will have developed the ability to:			
Responsibility for their own professional practice applying ethical, legal and professional principles.	4,5,6		NMP702

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes Map	MSc Level		
Core Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (as worded in the Programme Specification)	Aim(s)	Subject Benchmark	Related Core Modules
Knowledge and Understanding - On successful completion graduates will have developed:			
A comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship.	3,5,7,8		SPP701
Cognitive and Intellectual Skills - On successful completion graduates will have developed the ability to:			
Synthesise arguments and results from varying sources including research, policy and theoretical literature	2,4,7,8		SPP701
Develop critical arguments around research, policy and theory	3,4,6,7		SPP701
Key and Transferable Skills - On successful completion graduates will have developed the ability to:			
Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences	5,7		SPP701
Employment Related Skills - On successful completion graduates will have developed the ability to:			
Evaluate the context of risk and development of quality, patient/client safety and clinical governance agenda critically reflecting upon student's individual development.	2,3,5,7,8		SPP701
Practical Skills - On successful completion graduates will have developed the ability to:			
The ability to undertake self-motivated research, critically appraise and present data	3,5,7,8		SPP701

13.2 Mapping module assessment in the MSc Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner programme

Module	Credit	Formative Assessment	Summative
Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner			
APP745 Research Methodology and Application	20	Feedback from presentation of work in progress to academics and peers	Critical Review of the Literature (LO 1-5)
ANNP701 Holistic Neonatal Assessment and Clinical Management	20	Tutor feedback on clinical logs and supervisor feedback on clinical skills	Formal exam, portfolio consisting of learning contracts, Extended Clinical Logs, competencies
APP701 Advanced Practice in Context	20	Written submission of A4 plan and paragraph	Written assignment critically considering how the advanced practice role might enhance or impact on service delivery in a particular field of practice Engagement in a group blog of a critical incident (positive or negative) in practice
ANNP702 Advanced Neonatal Nursing Practice	20	Tutor feedback on draft of essay and supervisor feedback on clinical skills	Reflective Case Study OSCE, portfolio consisting of learning contracts, competencies
NMP702 Nurse Independent and Supplementary Prescribing	40		Portfolio; OSCE
SPP701 Substantive Professional Project	40	Feedback from presentation of work in progress to academics and peers	Dissertation report (10,000-15,000 words)