MSc Advanced Practice programme for neonatal nurses, midwives and health professionals

**COURSE FACTS**

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<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Faculty of Health</th>
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<td>Applications</td>
<td>Please contact the Admissions Office T: 0121 331 5500 E: <a href="mailto:health.admissions@bcu.ac.uk">health.admissions@bcu.ac.uk</a></td>
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| Duration      | Part-time: PgCert minimum 9 months, PgDip minimum 18 months, MSc minimum 2 years  
Full-time: PgDip minimum 1 year, MSc 18 months |
| Attendance    | Part time: Tuesday first year, Wednesday second year  
Full time: Tuesday and Thursday, the remainder of the time is for practice development and self-directed assessment study |
| Location      | City South Campus, Edgbaston |
| Contact       | Chris Inman. T: 0121 331 6105 E: chris.inman@bcu.ac.uk  
www.bcu.ac.uk/healthcpd  
Visit www.bcu.ac.uk/healthopendays for dates of future events |

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

You will need to be a registered practitioner, currently in practice, with three to five years’ professional experience in your speciality and a first degree or evidence of recent professionally related study at diploma or degree level.

- You should have studied Research Methods at level 6 (degree level) or Physiology at level 5 (diploma level) or Prescribing (at level 6 or level 7). Alternatively, you may need to complete some pre-course written work.
- 150 study hours will be required to complete the online research and physiology access reading and essay.

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

The aim is to meet the needs of advanced practitioners employed to work in neonatal care units or caring for neonates requiring transfer elsewhere. This Postgraduate Diploma award can incorporate 30 Master’s level credit points from the NMC/HPC recordable prescriber qualification.

The MSc Advanced Practice programme is designed for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals seeking a career which involves direct hands-on clinical assessment and care in neonatal settings. This course will develop your critical thinking and advanced physical assessment skills, improving the effectiveness and safety of care and patient outcomes. Furthermore, leadership skills will be extended to enable greater involvement and influence of clinical and policy decisions providing more efficient neonatal care.

It also supports senior health professionals involved with research appraisal, carrying out research and those who may be planning to become involved with strategic service design and re-configuration. The MSc framework is designed to extend your knowledge and skills through integrating practical and theoretical knowledge; relating taught and evidence based materials to your neonatal practice setting.

Applicants employed in the health service may be eligible for NHS or employer funding. As a multi-professional course it is suitable and relevant for all senior health professionals from varying clinical specialities. All aspects of the programme need to be directly related to the neonatal area whilst also giving you the opportunity to study in a multi-professional setting.
Course Facts
• This successful, established programme includes a newly designed neonatal Advanced Health Assessment double module compiled to focus specifically on advanced practice care in Neonatal Units and during the transfer of babies between Neonatal Intensive Care Units and Local or Special Care Units or a Hospice.
• The course includes a Practice Portfolio module that includes neonatal care competencies to be achieved with support from a medical and own discipline mentor.
• You will develop physical assessment skills underpinned with critical thinking, analysis and applied academic knowledge.
• The course enables credits from the NMC/HPC prescribing award to count toward the final award.
• This is a dynamically designed programme that keeps abreast with Health Service changes and supports strategic service development.

Postgraduate Certificate Advanced Practice modules for all award titles
Equal to four core modules (60 credits)
For the PgCert you will study two single modules and one double module which total 60 MSc level credits. The modules are currently:
Advanced Health Assessment (double module 30 credits)
This module develops knowledge and skills in advanced health assessment including physical examination skills on individual neonates and assessment of a neonatal population.

Advanced Practicum (single module 15 credits)
This module is undertaken and assessed in clinical practice and integrates advanced health assessment theory to the practice context.

Leadership for Advanced Practice (single module 15 credits)
This module will enable the synthesis of theoretical ideas with knowledge gained from your practice to develop a rigorous, critical understanding of the context of leadership for advanced practitioners.

The Postgraduate Diploma (The Postgraduate Certificate plus four modules = 120 credits)
The postgraduate diploma comprises of one common core module for the Advanced Practice (Health), (Nursing) and (Midwifery) awards plus three more modules.

COMMON CORE MODULE for all award titles
Research, Theory and Practice: Quantitative and Qualitative OR Evidence Based Practice (15 credits)
This core module helps you to appraise and critically evaluate evidence based resources and different research methodologies.

Master’s Award (180 credits)
On completion of the Postgraduate Diploma award (120 credits) you can continue by completing an MSc Research Project which is equal to four modules. This requires a strong practice focus for a research dissertation, a systematic review or a leadership project. This normally requires submission of a 20,000 word project.

ASSESSMENT
For the PgDip, we use a wide range of continuous assessments, including essays, objective structured clinical examinations, vivas practice documents and presentations. The Advanced Practice module will be assessed by your practice mentor(s) and monitored by the University. For the MSc part of the programme, you write up your research project, normally of about 20,000 words.

FURTHER STUDY
On completion of the MSc Advanced Practice many graduates continue to study for a PhD or Doctorate award.

EMPLOYABILITY
The majority of MSc graduates are appointed at a more senior grade with their existing employer or are promoted into a new role. Many career-focused students decide to study at doctorate level following completion of this Master’s programme. You may be eligible to apply for financial support to pursue a clinical academic career at this level.

MORE INFORMATION
Chris Inman
E: chris.inman@bcu.ac.uk
T: 0121 331 6105
For information with regards to future Open Days please visit www.bcu.ac.uk/healthopendays.