



Thames Valley Fundamentals in Primary Care course

This document provides responses to frequently asked questions about the Fundamentals in Primary Care course.

What is the Fundamentals in Primary Care programme?

The Fundamentals in Primary Care course is for qualified nurses or nursing associates new to General Practice to support their transition into Primary Care. This course covers core clinical skills essential for nursing roles in Primary Care and includes an introduction to other key areas such as health promotion, screening and long-term condition management as well as offering leadership development and strengthening understanding of accountability, quality and governance. The course is delivered by Buckinghamshire New University (BNU). For more information on the course, please view [BNU's Graduate Certificate General Practice Nursing webpage](#) or contact the course programme lead sian.hayes@bnu.ac.uk.

Who is eligible for this course funding?

To apply for this course, you will need to meet the following eligibility:

- Be a qualified nurse or nursing associate **new** to General Practice (have started in your nursing role within the last year)
- Work a minimum of two days per week in Primary Care
- Meet the university entry requirements (please see university course website for more information).

Allied health professionals can apply for this course but would need to contact the Primary Care School team inbox (primarycareschooltw.se@hee.nhs.uk) for more information due to an alternative funding route.

Is the programme fully funded?

Yes, the Fundamentals in Primary Care course is fully funded by Health Education England (HEE). If an applicant is approved on this course, course fees are paid directly to the University so there is no need for a GP practice to pay in advance / invoice etc.

How is the course delivered?

The current programme is delivered through mix of online and face-to-face teaching. Face-to-face learning is required in this course for clinical skills and will be delivered at either Uxbridge or High Wycombe BNU campus.

When do the courses take place?

The Fundamentals in Primary Care courses are run twice a year, in February and September. There is a potential extra cohort if numbers in June are high enough.

How many places are there on a course?

There are 25 fully funded places per cohort.

How will the course be assessed?

The course is assessed through a mix of work base assessment, portfolio of practice and academic assignments.

What educational level is the programme?

The course can be undertaken at either academic [level 6](#) (last year of an undergraduate degree) or at [level 7](#) (Masters level). Nursing Associates should undertake the programme at level 6 (as a Nursing Associate foundation degree is delivered at academic level 4 and 5). Nurses may choose between level 6 and level 7.

Which educational level should you choose?

The **content** for the Fundamentals in Primary Care course is the same across academic level 6 and 7. The assessment of clinical skill competency in practice is also the same across the two academic levels. The difference between the two programmes lies in the **academic assessment** – one is assessed at academic level 6 and the other at academic level 7. For those wishing to study at level 7 (Masters level), your academic writing must reflect the level of critical analysis, synthesis, and application to practice appropriate with this level of study. Additionally, the word count for the level 7 assignments is greater. The decision around what academic level to choose may be impacted by a range of influences, for example previous level of academic study, support time for personal circumstances, intentions for future study etc, but is ultimately down to the individual. Applicants may wish to discuss what level is best for them with their line manager and are welcome to follow up with the BNU programme lead if they have any future questions about the two levels.

What are the GP practice requirements?

The practice is asked to release their member of staff for 1 day per week for 7.5 hours of paid study leave to complete the course over a period of 6 months. The course will be delivered on the same day each week throughout.

The practice will also need to consider time for support and mentorship within the workplace (particularly for achieving competency in some clinical skills) and should identify a named supervisor for their employee (an experienced Nurse or Nursing Associate ideally within the same practice or PCN).

What are the requirements of the student / individual applying?

The individual must have the support of their employer to undertake this course. They must also meet both the eligibility for funding above alongside the University entry criteria.

By accepting the funding, the individual is making a commitment to attend and fully participate in all elements of the programme.

In addition to a day of paid study leave per week, it is anticipated that individuals will need to dedicate some time outside of their working hours to completing the programme of study.

How do you apply for this course?

An interested applicant will need to submit their interest via the Primary Care School team inbox (primarycareschooltvw.se@hee.nhs.uk). The relevant local environment lead will be in contact with next steps.

If an applicant is approved onto the Fundamentals in Primary Care course, the applicant and their practice manager will need to complete HEE's funding agreement form. HEE require an applicant's name and contact details, manager's details, and confirmation that their GP practice agrees to support them with this programme of study.

Applicants **must** have support of their employing GP practice or PCN.

Once the signed funding agreement has been returned, HEE will confirm your place on the course (subject to approval). You will then be contacted one month before the course with enrolment instructions. Please note that there are no further requirements of an applicant during this time.

Any further questions?

Please contact the Primary Care School team inbox (primarycareschooltvw.se@hee.nhs.uk) if you have any further questions.