

**DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY
Learning Beyond Registration**

**Frequently Asked Questions about the Prescribing Modules and Course.
2011-2012
ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR COMPLETING YOUR LBR FORM**

Would I be suited to the distance learning module NMAH 3401?

To study as a distance learner requires self discipline, as well as careful planning when you are to study around work and family commitments. If this is the first time you are going to undertake a degree level module it may not be for you. If you have undertaken electronic distance learning packages before and found it an easy way to learn then it may suit you

How much time should I allow for study if I undertake the distance learning module?

The distance learning module (NMAH 3401) has a minimum of 8 days attendance at University (NMC Std.6, 2006) and the rest of your studies are undertaken in your own time. The NMC (Std. 6, 2006) recommend you are provided with 10 additional days of protected learning outside of the 78 hours (12 days) that you will spend observing your medical mentor and other Independent Prescribers in practice.

You will be given directed learning prior to each day you attend University to maximise your learning experience when you are in the classroom. We would suggest you prepare to set aside approximately 8 hours per week in addition to the NMC requirements of study to enable you to consolidate your learning through self-directed study.

I wish to undertake a traditionally taught module. How much study time will I need to set aside?

For those on the traditionally taught modules (NMAH 3400, NMAH 3402, MPHE 5105 & MPHE 5106) there will be 26 days attendance required at University. You will required to undertake 12 days (78 hours) of practice based learning observing your medical mentor or other Independent Prescribers.

In addition to the practice or University attendance we suggest setting aside at least 8 hours per week to enable you to build on the learning you undertake in the classroom.

How can I demonstrate my ability to study at level 6?

If you have 15 credits or more at degree level you can clearly demonstrate success at studying at degree level.

I have not studied for at degree level before, how can I prepare?

If you would like to study with this module but feel you have not studied at degree level consider undertaking the Return to Study module (NMAH 2000). The module is designed to develop these skills to enable you to undertake study at degree level. If you have previously studied at Diploma level and achieved success we would suggest you contact the prescribing lead to discuss your academic experience.

I have not studied pharmacology before, how can I prepare?

The Pharmacology Applied to Healthcare (NMAH 3363) or Pain Management (NMAH 3360) course will prepare you for the pharmacology aspect of the prescribing module and give you some experience at degree level study

I lack confidence to study at level 6 how can I prepare?

If you have recently undertaken a diploma module successfully but still lack confidence at making the transition to degree level work there are other modules within the Learning Beyond registration (LBR) programmes that you may wish to undertake first to prepare you for the challenges of one the non-medical prescribing modules at degree level

I have heard that I will have to undertake a numeracy assessment and gain 100% to pass this?

Yes. There is a numeracy assessment as part of the assessment for the module and the NMC (Std.11, 2006) Standards of proficiency for nurse and midwife prescribers require 100% to pass this. The questions are structured like drug calculations in practice and are problems you will have met many times during your career.

You may find that the prescribing lead will undertake a numeracy assessment prior to authorising your application form. It is important to seek help if you have difficulties with numeracy from books on drug calculations. During the module support is offered for numeracy and there will be opportunities to undertake practice questions or be directed to further learning support.

Will I need to be able to use a computer to undertake any of the prescribing modules?

Yes. Many of the learning materials are accessed on the virtual learning environment or via the internet. You will need to be able to use a database such as ATHENS and conduct searches on the internet. Many journals are now held electronically and to find supporting evidence for your work requires these skills. Much of your work will also be submitted in a format such as 'Word' or you may be sending tutorial drafts via

email as attachments. For those wishing to undertake the distance learning module NMAH 3401 there is a large emphasis on electronic learning.

What do I need to send with my LBR application/enrolment form?

You will need to provide copies of qualification certificates or transcripts together with copies of professional documents to ensure that you meet all the criteria for access to your chosen studies and meet university regulations. At a minimum this would be:

Copies of the following:

- Current NMC/HPC pin card
- Professional registered qualification certificates
- Evidence of H E Diploma level 5 study or above
- Other relevant qualifications you may have gained since leaving school.

Your form **will not** be processed if the relevant copies are not sent. Your form will be placed 'on hold' while we contact you for these, delaying your enrolment.

Do I need to send an original Enhanced CRB form with my application/enrolment form?

No, but you do need one.

The Enhanced CRB form must be within 3 years from the start of your programme and a copy must be sent together with your fully completed application/enrolment form. Application to study will not be processed without it.

All applicants applying for the prescribing programme will require an interview. Please bring your original Enhanced CRB form to your interview

I have studied at DMU previously. Do I still need to send my certificates etc with my form?

Yes. It is **crucial** that you provide this information on each application at the start of the academic year. Your form will be put 'on hold' and delayed if you do not.

All applicants must comply with university regulations and meet the appropriate entry criteria for study.

What about funding?

Students on the Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPHN) programme need to be seconded by their PCT, they cannot be self-funding.

Students on any other programme or module can be self-funding or funded by the East Midlands Strategic Health Authority (EMSHA) through the East Midlands Education Commissioning Unit so long as they work within the NHS within Leicestershire, Rutland, Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire. The vast majority of students undertaking Learning Beyond Registration are funded by the EMEC.

I understand that Charles Frears has moved?

Yes, that is correct. The School of Nursing and Midwifery move to the main DMU city campus site in August 2011. The new building is called Edith Murphy House, formally known as Bosworth House.

Will there be onsite student parking at the new location?

Unfortunately there is no onsite parking unless you are a registered disabled person. However there is frequent public transport, hospital hopper service and ample city centre parking available. There is some limited on road parking. The train station is also close by.

I have changed my name though marriage or Deed Poll. Is this significant?

Yes, this is important. With your application/enrolment form **you must** provide copies of the relevant documents e.g.

Marriage certificate or Deed Poll certificate.

Your application **will not** be processed without this evidence.

When should I apply to study?

It is important that your form reaches us by the **published closing date for each course run** to ensure that your LBR application/enrolment form is processed in time for the start of your studies. This means that you will have access to Black Board, other electronic resources and a student ID card. A delay related to your form for any reason could result in a delay in gaining access to these facilities. Remember there are a number of signatures required to authorise the form as well as supplying the additional photocopies etc so it can be a lengthy process from completing the form to submission.

You should consider making as early an application as possible considering the closing dates which can be found on the front of the application/enrolment form and web site.

Please refer to the LBR application/enrolment form and website for the closing dates for each semester. Ensure that your form arrives at the university by the relevant date to avoid delays and disappointment. **Admissions/enrolment is a formal university process which all applicants must comply with.**

Where should I send my completed LBR form to?

You **must** only send your form to the published address on the front of the application/ enrolment form.

Can I get help with the computerised skills that I need?

The library staff can go through some basic skills as mentioned above in regards of access to electronic database searches for material, searching the library book catalogue and accessing electronic journals. You should approach the staff with your enquiry and book an appointment. They will do their best to help.

Do I need to fill in all sections of the form?

You must complete **all** relevant questions in **all** sections of the application/enrolment form in order for the LBR Admissions Tutor to make a decision as to your suitability for study and meeting the required criteria. If you do not your form is likely to be delayed and put 'on hold' pending further enquiries while we contact you.

I am an Allied Health Professional. Can I apply for the prescribing modules?

Yes you can apply if you are a Radiographer, Physiotherapist or Podiatrist and meet all the module requirements.

I am a Paramedic. Can I apply for the prescribing modules?

Not at this point in time as current legislation does not allow this.

Do I need to send copies of my school certificates such as 'O' and 'A' levels?

No. These are not required to be sent with your LBR application/enrolment form.

I have undertaken an adaption course is this important?

Yes you should make it clear on your application that you have completed it and send a copy of the certificate. It may have appropriate academic credits attached to it

Do I need to complete the Return to Study module first before I can choose other modules?

There are a number of reasons why the Return to Study module is available. It is a bridging module to level 6 study. Those undertaking this module could fall in to the groups below:

- Trained as a nurse and gained the SRN qualification at certificate level and has no further academic study in order to progress.
- Already has higher education study such as the Diploma in Nursing however this was achieved some time ago and the applicant would like a refresher and confidence building
- Trained outside of the UK and the existing qualifications are not at level 5.

I trained overseas as a nurse and have international qualifications, can these be used to study at DMU?

- This will depend on where and when your international qualifications were gained. All international qualifications are checked within the UK national data base which makes an assessment of these qualifications. Some qualifications have the same value in the UK some do not. If the qualification is different it may mean that the applicant would have to undertake the Return to Study module first.
- The prescribing modules are founded on UK legislation and NMC professional regulations. If you intend to prescribe outside of the UK then you must seek advice from the government health board of that country.

I would like to undertake the masters level module in prescribing. What is the entry criteria?

You would need a degree which ideally is at honours level. Alternatively you could have a non honours degree but with successful study of 15 credits at level 6 in research, such as a research module. This may have been included in your non honours degree or taken as a standalone module before or after your degree. We would require confirmation of this. You will also be required to meet the existing generic entry criteria too.

How can I obtain further information?

Further information can be gained from contacting the Module/Programme Leader, Admissions Tutor or by attending one of the many open day events held at the main DMU city campus. Here you can discuss your own individual circumstances with academic staff who can advise you on module/programme selection and career development information. Dates and times are posted on the Nursing and Midwifery web pages. Posters are also displayed within clinical departments.