

NURSING

AT WORCESTER

**SHORTLISTED FOR
THREE MAJOR AWARDS**

**NATIONAL LEADERSHIP
PROGRAMME**

**NEW TRAINEE
NURSING ASSOCIATE
COURSE FOR NHS**



INTRODUCTION

We are delighted to have offered you a place on our nursing programme at the University of Worcester. You will join other students on one of the most sought after nursing programmes in the UK. You have already demonstrated that you have the ability, enthusiasm and qualities needed to succeed. Now let my team of academics, researchers, technical and administrative staff, along with our practice partners in the NHS, independent and voluntary sector support you on a challenging but rewarding and exciting journey to become a registered nurse. We look forward to welcoming you to the School of Nursing and Midwifery in September.

Robert Dudley
Head of Nursing

VICE CHANCELLOR WELCOMES GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR HEALTH PROGRAMME EDUCATION

Professor David Green, Vice Chancellor at the University of Worcester, has consistently campaigned for more Nursing and Midwifery places across the country, so he welcomed the news from the government to fund Health Trusts to provide 1,500 additional placements for health professionals.

The University received the news on the eve of A-level results day. The funding will allow universities, in partnership with their placement providers, to create a number of additional clinical placements, across a range of health professions, including Nursing and Midwifery.

The cap on the number of Nursing and Midwifery students which universities could recruit was lifted last year too, when the bursary was replaced with the introduction of student loans for those subjects. However, universities were unable to increase places without increasing the placements, which are essential for the students to be able to work the 2,100 hours in practise, which are a crucial part of their qualification.

Professor Green said: “I am delighted that the Government has now set out its plans to fund more clinical placements for subjects including Nursing and Midwifery. It has been a long time coming; the government officially confirmed 10,000 extra places in January 2017, but only committed to funding the extra placements in August.”

“On the first day of Clearing last year, we were able to offer 50 interviews to prospective students with first rate qualifications who had heard we now have places and hoped to be selected,” he added.

RECORD NUMBER OF WORCESTER STUDENT NURSES IN 2017

A record number of Nursing students began their training at the University of Worcester this September, helping patients in hospitals, GP surgeries and clinics across the region. It is the largest ever intake of new Nursing students at the University, with 207 students starting their studies this month, alongside 27 new Midwifery students.

They have been learning in clinical practice placements in hospitals and healthcare settings across the region, helping local people in need.

Amy Bates, 23, of Hereford, started a Children's Nursing degree and hopes to go into children's palliative care. She said: "I worked as a health care assistant already as a carer previously, but I wanted to take it a step further and be more at the forefront of patient care."

Also studying Children's Nursing is Abbygail Byrne, 21, of Stourbridge. She said: "Nursing has always been an ambition of mine. The University is really well recognised for its achievements and success rate and when I came here it was really friendly."

Lucy Capolongo, 20, of Warndon, Worcester, who is studying Adult Nursing after completing an Access course, said: "When I became ill in hospital, the nurses who treated me inspired me. I want to help people and make their stay

in hospital that bit better."

Nursing students here will spend three years combining academic study in the classroom with practical skills training in the University's state-of-the-art clinical skills rooms, and a minimum of 2,300 hours working at placements on hospital wards, GP surgeries and community health clinics.

Luckson Guvamatanga, 34, of Wolverhampton, who is studying Mental Health Nursing after working as a care support worker, said: "Worcester is one of the top universities when it comes to nursing. The class sizes are also not as large as the other universities so the teaching is more personal."

After passing all the practical and academic assignments, Nursing students become registered with the Nursing & Midwifery Council and will fill much-needed vacancies in the local health care system. The graduate employment rate for Worcester nurses is among the best in the country, at almost 100%.



Photos: Our 2017 cohorts of nursing students.

STUDENT CASE STUDY: TRACEY WRIGHT, CHILD NURSING BSc

Tracey is fulfilling a lifelong ambition to become a nurse and as part of her training has spent much of her placement time working in Hereford County Hospital.

"I was born in Hereford hospital and I had my son in Hereford hospital," she said. "So to have the opportunity to work there has been amazing."

Tracey, who lives in Shobdon, has worked in the Special Care Baby Unit at the hospital on her placement during her second year of training at the University of Worcester.

"From my earliest memories I always wanted to be a nurse," said the 45-year-old. "But when I was young other life choices took over; I had my son and got a job working for a supermarket. Later I went on to work as Higher Level Teaching Assistant in my son's school. The thought of becoming a nurse never really went away though, so three years ago I took the decision to go for it."

"I've had so much support from the lecturers and my mentors, and to finally have the chance to do the job I've always wanted is so fulfilling."

Tracey completed an Access Course at Herefordshire College of Technology, which prepared her to start her full degree.

"The Access Course was fantastic," she said. "I'd been out of education for such a long time that I was worried about how I would cope academically. However, I can't praise the College and the course leaders enough. It was superb preparation."

"I absolutely love the course, I've had so much support from the lecturers and my mentors, and to finally have the chance to do the job I've always wanted is so fulfilling."

Tracey hopes to get a permanent job at the County Hospital on completion of her course.



Photo: Tracey Wright

NEW TRAINEE NURSING ASSOCIATE COURSE FOR NHS

Nearly 60 students started the Trainee Nursing Associate course last April at the University of Worcester, supported by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and Worcestershire Health and Care Trust.

The two-year foundation degree will train a brand new group of Nurse Associates to play a crucial role of filling a gap in skills between current health care assistants and registered nurses.

Once they have completed their course, the Nurse Associates will be able to work in NHS hospitals working alongside both health care assistants and qualified nurses to deliver high quality patient care. The course enables the nurses to take a lead in decisions on a patient's hospital visit and deliver 'hands on' compassionate care.

The Trainee Nursing Associates will gain hours of practical clinical experience in a range of healthcare settings over the two years of the course, as well as academic sessions at the University.

Ally Middleton, Practice Facilitator for Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "This new nursing role is really important for Worcestershire and for the future care of our patients. It is vital to give a new generation of staff the enhanced education and skills required to deliver great, hands-on care to all patients. The work-based learning programme taking place in clinical areas will give our trainees the perfect experience to help shape them in to this future role."

Trish Cerrone, Deputy Director of Nursing at Worcestershire Health and Care Trust, said: "The role is

really key to developing the next generation of nurses who have the skills to deliver the kind of integrated care we need. Through the programme, they will get an opportunity to work in different parts of the NHS system, including in community nursing roles, community hospitals, primary care and in an acute hospital, which will give them a greater understanding of the health economy."

Professor David Green, the University of Worcester's Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, said: "The University of Worcester is delighted to welcome our new Nurse Associate students. They will make a positive difference to care in our hospitals and health settings from day one. By the time they qualify, these students will be very valuable members of the health and medical teams. The University is deeply committed to working closely with all our partners to ensure that an outstanding health care workforce for tomorrow is created today."

Dr Jan Quallington, Head of the Institute of Health and Society at the University of Worcester, said: "This Nursing Associate role, and the already established Physician Associate role also pioneered by the University, are the first of a number of new roles in health and social care and they will make a significant contribution to the successful delivery of care in the future."

The first Nurse Associates in Worcestershire will finish their studies and qualify in April 2019, after which they will be able to work in local NHS hospitals.

"It is vital to give a new generation of staff the enhanced education and skills required to deliver great, hands-on care to all patients."



Photos: Nursing Associates

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS INVITED TO JOIN NATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Three University of Worcester Nursing students have been invited to join the Council of Deans for Health Student Leadership Programme (SLP) for 2018 – a national programme that aims to develop the leaders that will help to shape the future of health care.

Evie Poole, 23, Beccy O'Donnell, 22, and Vicky Reynolds, 40, all from Worcester, are studying for degrees in Nursing here.

Beccy said: "I wanted to apply for the leadership programme because it looked like a fantastic opportunity to expand my skills and network with leaders from within health care, as well as like-minded students from lots of different fields of practice.

"In my application, I painted a picture of how I feel leadership should be in nursing - moving away from top down leadership, with everyone taking individual responsibility for empowering change."

The Student Leadership Programme offers exposure to leadership training, mentoring, and opportunities to build networks with fellow students as well as established leaders from the health care sector.

For Evie, the programme has already influenced her view of her future career.

"After the welcome event, I felt quite positively overwhelmed," she said. "We heard from speakers that have already completed this journey – overcome the imposter syndrome – and found themselves in positions of leadership, influencing change and development daily."

"As part of the new generation of nurses within the changing environment of the NHS, I would like to strengthen my skill set to enable me to contribute to a successful, efficient team that puts patient care first. I would particularly like to gain knowledge and guidance on how to promote strong staff morale and become a leader who helps everyone work together as a team to make a positive difference," she added.

With 759 applicants vying for just 90 places, competition for entry on to the Student Leadership Programme was intense nation-wide.

Vicky said: "I have to admit that I hadn't realised what an achievement getting onto the programme was until I heard how many had applied. Prior to this programme, I had not

considered any sort of postgraduate study; nursing is my passion and I could not wait to get back into practice. I did not appreciate the value of formal education in developing the workforce of the future, but I now hope to continue to equip myself to be a resourceful and credible member of the nursing profession by continuing my learning (hopefully at Worcester), after first setting some strong foundations in dedicated clinical practice."



Photos: Vicky Reynolds (top), Beccy O'Donnell (middle), Evie Poole (bottom)



NURSE TRAINING AT UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER SHORTLISTED FOR THREE MAJOR AWARDS

The University has been shortlisted for the 5th time in the last 6 years as Nurse Education Provider of the Year (pre-registration) in the Student Nursing Times Awards.

In addition, Clare Helm, Practice Nurse Team Lead at Salters Medical Practice in Droitwich, has been shortlisted for the Mentor of the Year, and the Winyates Health Centre in Redditch has been shortlisted for Student Placement of the Year (Community).

The prestigious Nursing Times awards pay tribute to student nurses and the programmes and people committed to providing outstanding nurse training and education opportunities.

Professor David Green, the University's Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, said: "Thanks to the top class work of the University's specialist nursing staff team, together with our excellent partners in the Health Trusts, we have earned the reputation as one of the very best educators of nurses in the country. Our Nursing students are very carefully selected for their ability to become outstanding, caring, compassionate professionals. Students are guided, both at the University, and whilst out on placement, by some of the very best educators and mentors in the entire country.

"We are campaigning hard to have more places created for student nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and more on our programmes in Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire. This achievement should really help this vital cause succeed."

Clare Helm has been mentoring students from the University for over 18 months at Salters Medical Practice. With over 30 years experience as a nurse, she said she enjoyed sharing her knowledge with student nurses and watching them grow into professionals.

She said: "We love taking student nurses on placement. It's really wonderful to watch them grow in confidence and ability throughout their placement; it gives me a real sense of achievement. When I sign off their placement at the end it's very rewarding."

Winyates Health Centre has been taking University of Worcester students on placements for over two years. The team there have developed innovative approaches to embedding and supporting students.

"It's lovely to be shortlisted for Student Placement of the Year," said Tina Anis, Lead Mentor at the Health

Centre. "We all have a responsibility to help train the next generation of health care staff. What better way than to be involved first hand in training the nurses of the future? If you want to make a change in the NHS and raise the standards, you have to be involved. We hope to inspire other practices to get involved in taking student nurses on placement."

Robert Dudley, Head of Nursing at the University said: "We are thrilled to have been shortlisted for three awards at the Student Nursing Times Awards.

"At the University of Worcester, we empower Nursing students to think critically and professionally about the challenges they face, so that they themselves can push for transformation and drive improvement in their services in the future. It is a real positive for the people and their Health Service to have outstanding new nurses who are not only equipped with the skills to know what to do, but who are equally adept at thinking about why and how."



Photos: Clare Helm (top) and Winyates Health Centre staff

TOP TIPS AHEAD OF YOUR DEGREE

Louise Carter, Induction Tutor, and Mark Smith, current student, will be sharing their advice on what to do ahead of starting your Nursing degree and what to expect in your first few weeks as a student. Keep a look-out for their video very soon! We'll send you an email once it's ready.

GET IN TOUCH

Feel free to contact us with any questions you have between now and September – we'd love to hear from you.



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JULY 2018 SUMMER SCHOOLS

The University of Worcester would like to invite you to a 'getting to know you' Summer School. This interactive day is designed to provide you with an introduction to life as a nursing student at the University of Worcester. Summer school will give you the opportunity to:

- Meet other prospective students in your cohort
- Ask your Induction Tutor, and other members of academic staff, questions about the course
- Meet current Nursing students who will share with you their experience of studying at the University of Worcester
- Explore our Clinical Skills & Simulation Centre and participate in a range of interactive workshops
- Prepare for academic study

Summer Schools 2018 - Saturday 7th July and Saturday 21st July

Summer School is free of charge. To book your place for either 7th or 21st July, please email Louise Carter, Induction Tutor and Senior Lecturer Adult Nursing on nursinginduction@worc.ac.uk



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