Course Specification

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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Nursing		
Course Code(s):	NH147P31UW	Part-time	2 Years
Course Title:	MSc Adult Critical Care		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Master of Science Adult Critical Care Postgraduate Diploma Adult Critical Care Postgraduate Certificate Adult Critical Care University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	08/Sep/2025		
Last Review:	2023/4		
Course Specification valid from:	2023/4		
Course Specification valid to:	2029/0		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Claire Roberts
Head of Department:	

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS

Professional registration with an appropriate board e.g. NMC, HCPC

Minimum 12-months experience within critical care and working in a critical care department for the duration of the course

Support from trust / employer with provision of mentorship and study time as appropriate

Completed step 1 of the National Competency Framework for Critical Care Nursing (CC3N, 2023)

Demonstrates the ability to study at level 7 to be determined on an individual basis by the course team.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

The course is attended by staff working in critical care unit across the Midlands region, this provides students with the opportunity to gain further knowledge and understanding of different specialities and practice techniques. Allowing students to network within the community of practice and learn from one another.

Students work in a variety of critical care units, from speciality critical care units to general critical care. This allows the opportunity for placements, where possible. These are arranged by the local critical care staff and not monitored by the University of Wolverhampton. The core academic team have a varied and expert knowledge and experience providing care to the critically ill and specialist environments.

The level 6 and level 7 Critical Care courses are taught together in the same classroom, maximising this opportunity and ensuring inclusivity of teaching and education for all students, level 7 students will be provided with some additional sessions relating to the additional requirements of this level.

Students completing the MSc in Adult Critical Care will be able to work independently to provide clinical care and demonstrate leadership within the critical care environment. The completion of the MSc Adult Critical Care will prepare students for career progression and management within the critical care environment.

The adult critical care course meets the National Standards for Critical Care Nurse Education published by the Critical Care Network National Nurse leads (CC3N, 2023) and incorporates the relevant steps of the National Competency Framework for Adult Critical Care Nurses (CC3N, 2015). This ensures the adult critical care course meets the recommendations for Critical Care nurse education set out in the Guidelines for the Provision of Intensive Care Services (GPICS) published by the UK Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine and the Intensive Care Society (FICM & ICS 2022). The course curriculum is aligned to meet the national standards; ensuring that the award achieved remains one which is professionally recognised and transferable and will be adapted as required to continue to maintain these.

The course continues to build and maintain close working relationships between the university and the critical care units within the local region and beyond. This is maintained through yearly review meetings with the course team and unit practice development nurses (PDNs), PDN input to course developments and regular contact by the course leader with the practice areas. This relationship ensures that the content of the course remains responsive to the reality of practice in the clinical environment.

Educational Aims of the Course:

This course aims to facilitate the registered healthcare professional to continue to develop their theoretical knowledge and practical skills to provide a patient-centred approach to the care of the critically ill adult. The course will provide learners with the ability to apply up to date and research-based learning into the clinical setting enabling health care professionals to deliver high quality patient care safely.

Students will be able to demonstrate leadership skills to enable them to educate and train their peers, disseminating their newly acquired knowledge. The course will provide a deeper understanding of the structures and processes which underpin the critical care environment. Students will have a conceptional knowledge of the requirements and skills required within senior roles within critical care.

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
No related data			

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Part-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7NH115	Enhanced Adult Critical Care	30	INYR	Core
7NH116	Comprehensive Adult Critical Care	30	INYR	Core
7HW126	Advanced Inquiry for Healthcare Professionals	20	INYR	Core

September (Part-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7WB005	Career and Personal Development Planning	20	INYR	Core
7HW025	Service Improvement Project Management	20	INYR	Core
7NH095	Health Research and Evidence-Based Practice: Dissertation	60	INYR	Core

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

NONE

Reference Points:

UK Quality Code for Higher Education

Qualifications and Credit Frameworks

Subject Benchmark Statements

University Policies and Regulations

Equality Act (2010)

Critical Care Network National Nurse Leads (CC3N) - Critical Care Nurse Education Review Forum (2015) National Competency Framework for Adult Critical Care Nurses: Version two. Birmingham: CC3N

Critical Care Network National Nurse Leads (CC3N) - Critical Care Nurse Education Review Forum (2023) National Standards for Critical Care Nurse Education: Version three. Birmingham: CC3N.

Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FICM) & the Intensive Care Society (ICS) (2022) Guidelines for the Provision of Intensive Care Services (GPICS) Version 2.1. London: FICM&ICS

Office for Students

Overview of Assessment:

Learning Outcomes	Modules
PGCERT01 Demonstrate 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 your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice with a conceptual understanding that enables the student: - to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline. - to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.	7NH115 Enhanced Adult Critical Care
PGCERT02 Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship and ability to continue to advance your knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.	7NH116 Comprehensive Adult Critical Care

Learning Outcomes	Modules
PGCERT03 Demonstrate 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.	7NH115 Enhanced Adult Critical Care 7NH116 Comprehensive Adult Critical Care
PGCERT04 Ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.	7NH116 Comprehensive Adult Critical Care
PGCERT05 Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.	7NH115 Enhanced Adult Critical Care 7NH116 Comprehensive Adult Critical Care
PGCERT06 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: - the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations. - the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.	7NH116 Comprehensive Adult Critical Care
PGDIP01 Demonstrate 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 your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice with a conceptual understanding that enables the student: - to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline. - to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.	7NH115 Enhanced Adult Critical Care 7NH116 Comprehensive Adult Critical Care
PGDIP02 Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship and ability to continue to advance your knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.	7HW025 Service Improvement Project Management 7WB005 Career and Personal Development Planning
PGDIP03 Demonstrate 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.	7HW126 Advanced Inquiry for Healthcare Professionals 7NH115 Enhanced Adult Critical Care
PGDIP04 Ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.	7HW025 Service Improvement Project Management
PGDIP05 Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.	7HW126 Advanced Inquiry for Healthcare Professionals 7NH115 Enhanced Adult Critical Care 7WB005 Career and Personal Development Planning
PGDIP06 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: - the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations. - the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.	7NH116 Comprehensive Adult Critical Care 7WB005 Career and Personal Development Planning
MA01 Demonstrate systematic understanding of complex data from a variety of evidence-based resources in the performance and documentation of holistic advanced health assessment skills, in order to plan more effective care and service delivery for individuals.	7HW126 Advanced Inquiry for Healthcare Professionals 7NH095 Health Research and Evidence-Based Practice: Dissertation 7NH115 Enhanced Adult Critical Care 7NH116 Comprehensive Adult Critical Care
MA02 Contribute critically to critical care debates through the development of advanced skills in accessing, critically appraising and evaluating the knowledge base for the purposes of informing current and future practice decisions	7NH116 Comprehensive Adult Critical Care
MA03 Use advanced communication skills to develop collaborative, collegiate relationships with professional and lay	7HW025 Service Improvement Project Management 7WB005 Career and Personal Development Planning

Learning Outcomes	Modules
colleagues demonstrating comprehensive understanding of others and applying the central tenets of mutual respect, trust and interdependency within the changing boundaries of practice	
MA04 Demonstrate self-direction to develop advanced knowledge, clinical skills and levels of practice in her/his field in relation to reducing risk whilst prioritising, organising, delivering, delegating and supervising care and service delivery	7HW025 Service Improvement Project Management 7HW126 Advanced Inquiry for Healthcare Professionals 7NH095 Health Research and Evidence-Based Practice: Dissertation 7NH115 Enhanced Adult Critical Care 7NH116 Comprehensive Adult Critical Care 7WB005 Career and Personal Development Planning
MA05 Demonstrate self-direction, creativity and interpretative skills related to the completion of a project with its core focus on an aspect of healthcare in the context of improving service delivery	7HW126 Advanced Inquiry for Healthcare Professionals 7NH095 Health Research and Evidence-Based Practice: Dissertation 7NH115 Enhanced Adult Critical Care 7NH116 Comprehensive Adult Critical Care

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

The curriculum aligns with the University of Wolverhampton Learning and Teaching Strategy and Inclusive Framework: Curriculum Design and Delivery (see Inclusive Framework: principles and sub-principles (wlv.ac.uk)) The course has been devised to be inclusive of students individual learning needs by providing diverse learning activities, which include lectures; group-work, quizzes, group and class discussions, directed study, formative assessment tasks using synchronous and asynchronous techniques and a combination of face-to-face contact and online activity.

You will continue to develop systematic understanding and critical awareness of applied knowledge of a range of topics relevant to caring for the critically ill adult patient, achieving proficiency in advanced competence at the end of this course.

Topics will include relevant anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, aetiology, assessment, therapeutic interventions, psychological implications, and bedside patient care.

The course will support you in developing your ability to find and critically evaluate the evidence-base for interventions in practice and identify the implications for your practice. The ability to systematically and creatively make sound judgements and deal with complex issues that may arise. You will demonstrate your ability to provide safe practice through the achievement of practice related outcomes and from your ability to articulate the rationale for actions in the clinical setting.

Summative assessments will include – an evidence-based practice essay providing an overview of the current literature and research on an area of critical care practice, a clinical practice document through the completion of steps 2 & 3 of the CC3N competencies, and a viva voce examination where students will demonstrate their clinical knowledge through the application of a case study.

Year 2 modules will further support your development through the Career and Personal Development Planning module which will allow you to reflect on your career aspirations and development a personal development plan to work towards these. The Service Improvement module encourages a review of an aspect of work linked to your practice where services could be improved. You will produce a service improvement plan which you will implement and evaluate.

The advanced inquiry module develops your knowledge of the research process and leads directly into the dissertation module where you are expected to write an extended, evidence-based reviewed of research literature or complete a piece of primary research.

Assessments will be submitted via the relevant assessment portal in Canvas or in an examination environment. Feedback and feedforward will be provided through annotation of scripts and a rubric uploaded onto Canvas. Tutorial support is provided before first submission and resubmission, if required.

An induction session is provided that includes overview information about the course, a campus tour and presentations relating to university student support services e.g. skills for learning. During the course,

sessions are integrated within the timetable relating to academic writing, retrieving and evaluating relevant literature, research methods and academic English for assessment. Assignment workshops are incorporated throughout the course to enable students to discuss with each other and the course team any concerns or queries they have in relation to assessment.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

General University support:

The University Library is a key source of academic information for students. The Library provides access to a wide range of online information sources, including eBooks, e-Journals and subject databases as well as printed material. A range of study spaces are available in each of our libraries, including social, quiet and silent areas. In addition to our day to day 'on campus' support, our online 'Ask the Library' chat service, ASSIST is staffed 24 hours a day.

The University Library also provides students with academic skills support via the Skills for Learning programme. Students can attend workshops or ask for one-to-one help with topics such as academic writing and referencing. This support is available both on campus and online from Skills for Learning.

For advice on using our library services and resources remotely, visit Students Based Off Campus.

The University also has a host of other services to support you, please take a look at the Student Support website: www.wlv.ac.uk/current-students/student-support/ . If you have any questions, need help or advice then ASK@WLV is there for you: www.wlv.ac.uk/current-students/askwlv/.

Course Specific Support

The course team work closely with the 'English for Academic Writing' team who have produced bespoke materials to support students who may not have studied for a while, have not studied in the UK before, English is not their first language, have not studied at that academic level previously or would like a refresher of what is expected of them for all assessments within the course.

The course team provide workshops, individual and group tutorials and online drop-in sessions bespoke to the assessments to provide ongoing support throughout the course.

The course team has set up a discussion board to encourage students to interact and learn from each other.

Personal Tutors

Students are allocated personal tutors for ongoing pastoral support. Additional support is available through Course and Module leads and the course team is contactable using a group email.

Employability in the Curriculum:

Successful completion of the course provides the student with a nationally recognised and transferable award in Adult Critical Care, which is a requirement for professional progression and promotion within the speciality.

The curriculum and course content are based around the practices and underpinning theory required to work in critical care. As you progress through the course you will work towards completing Steps Two and Three of the CC3N national standards and competences, a requirement of the post registration academic programme in critical care. This will also give you the potential to progress to Step Four (Leadership) competences as part of your ongoing professional development.

Completion of the MSc Adult Critical Care will provide the platform to move into management roles within the National Health Service.

