



Conditions of Registration 2019/20

Supplementary Agreement (Nursing)

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Scope

What this document covers

This Supplementary Agreement applies to students that have been accepted on to The Open University's Pre-Registration Nursing programme only and sets out the additional terms relating to study of a Nursing Qualification.

What this document does not cover

This Supplementary Agreement does not apply to students who have not yet been accepted on to The Open University's Pre-Registration Nursing programme, are studying modules that could contribute to a qualification outside of the nursing programme, or students studying other work based learning qualifications or programmes, such as social work.

It does not apply to students studying towards an apprenticeship or those studying non-nursing versions of modules and/or qualifications.

Supplementary Agreements superseded by this document

This document replaces the previous version of [Conditions of Registration Supplementary Agreement \(Nursing\) 2018/19](#) [dated February 2018].

Summary of significant changes since last version

There are a number of significant changes from the previous version of this policy. These are:

- a) Reworded content to make it simpler to understand from a student perspective
- b) Restructured content to add Section 6 "Your Studies" to make finding relevant information easier
- c) Addition of "Caring responsibilities" to the conditions outlined by the Senate where students may be considered for an exceptional extension, in Appendix A.

Related Documentation

Refer to this document in conjunction with:

- [Conditions of Registration 2019/20](#)
- [Student Privacy Notice](#)
- [Fitness to Practise Procedure](#)
- [Fee Rules \(Undergraduate Study\) 2019/20](#)
- [Nursing & Midwifery Council \(NMC\) - The Code for nurses and midwives](#)

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The Open University Student Charter Principles

This policy aligns with the following [Open University Student Charter](#) Principles:

- Principle 2: We aim to inspire and enable learning
- Principle 3: We share the responsibility of learning

Introduction

This document sets out the additional terms agreed with The Open University relating to your study towards a Nursing Degree. It is the Supplementary Agreement referred to in the [Conditions of Registration](#) and should be read together with those Conditions and the rules, regulations and policies referred to within them and in this agreement. By registering for a Nursing Degree you are agreeing to these terms.

This Agreement is effective from the date you registered for your Nursing Degree and will continue to apply until you have either completed your qualification or your registration has lapsed or been cancelled, whichever occurs first.

For specific guidance on how this agreement may relate to your personal circumstances, please contact the Nursing team by email to wels-np-queries@open.ac.uk who are specially trained to advise on the implementation of this agreement.

Main terms of the Supplementary Agreement

1 Summary of the main terms of the Supplementary Agreement

- 1.1. This section sets out a brief summary of the supplementary terms of your agreement to study a Nursing Degree with The Open University. You are agreeing to:
- a) comply with and abide by the professional standards set by the Regulatory Authority.
 - b) remain in employment and have continual support from your Learning Sponsor for the duration of your study towards completion of the Nursing Degree.
 - c) comply with the legal requirements of your Learning Sponsor, Financial Sponsor (where applicable) and Placement Provider, as set out in their respective policies and procedures.
 - d) meet both the professional standards of the Regulatory Authority, as set out in The Code, as well as the academic standards and practice-based requirements that are identified within the relevant module and qualification websites. You must do this in order to be awarded your Nursing Degree.
 - e) notify The Open University, your Learning Sponsor and your Financial Sponsor, as soon as possible, of any concerns you have of not meeting such requirements.

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- f) you understand that The Open University may suspend or terminate your registration or deny the award of the Nursing Degree if the terms set out in this agreement are not met.
- g) you understand that The Open University, your Learning Sponsor, your Financial Sponsor and any Placement Provider may share necessary information about your health, disability, academic performance, conduct, fitness to practise and professional standards. Such information will be kept secure and will only be processed in accordance with The Open University's [Student Privacy Notice](#).

2 Professional Standards and Fitness to Practise (FtP) Procedures

- 2.1 By entering into this Supplementary Agreement you explicitly acknowledge that you understand and agree to be bound by the professional standards set by the Regulatory Authority in The Code which apply to Nursing students. This means that:
- a) If a concern is raised that you are not achieving or maintaining those standards at a level appropriate to the stage of your studies for the Nursing Degree, you may be referred under the Open University's [Fitness to Practise \(FtP\)](#) Procedure. This may result in:
 - conditions being applied for you to continue to study for a Nursing Degree;
 - suspension from study for a Nursing Degree;
 - termination of registration for a Nursing Degree;
 - the withholding of the award of a Nursing Degree.
 - b) You agree to notify The Open University as soon as practicable of any matter which may give rise to any concern about your ability to meet the professional standards of the Regulatory Authority, referring any such matter verbally, electronically or in writing to your Practice Tutor or where this may cause delay, to the Staff Tutor or Education Manager in your area. The Employer Link at your organisation will be able to provide contact details as necessary.
- 2.2 In order to be eligible for the award of a Nursing Degree you must, in the opinion of the Module Results Panel for each module completed, satisfactorily meet both the academic requirements and the professional standards requirements. You must successfully complete all required modules as outlined in the Qualification Regulations specific to your qualification in order to receive the award.
- 2.3 If you have failed to meet the required professional standards as a result of matters that occurred prior to your registration with the Regulator, a declaration to the Regulator of your good health and character may be withheld on the recommendation of an FtP panel. This may be the case even if you have been awarded sufficient module credit to satisfy the academic and practice learning requirements of the Nursing Degree. This would mean that you would be unable to register, and therefore practise, as a nurse regardless of the award of the degree.
- 2.4 If a Nursing Degree has been awarded and any matters occurring before the award of the qualification subsequently come to light that, in the opinion of an FtP panel, ought to have been declared and would have resulted in the withholding of the Nursing

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Degree, the matter shall be referred to the University's Central Disciplinary Committee who have the power to withdraw the Nursing Degree.

- 2.5 If the Nursing Degree is not awarded you may be offered an alternative Open University qualification for which you have met the credit requirements.

3 Practice Learning Periods

- 3.1 When you register for a Nursing Degree with The Open University, you agree to:
- a) Co-operate with your Learning Sponsor to facilitate your participation in sufficient appropriate Practice Learning Periods to enable you to meet the learning outcomes of the Nursing Degree.
 - b) Co-operate with your Learning Sponsor or Placement Provider and meet any reasonable requirements to maintain the reputation of the Placement Provider and comply with their legal obligations and service standards in connection with your participation in the Practice Learning Opportunities provided.
 - c) Comply with the employment policies and practices of the Learning Sponsor and/or Placement Provider and take all reasonable steps to maintain your employment and any Practice Learning Opportunities provided in order to complete the Nursing Degree.
- 3.2 Whilst undertaking practice learning you are required to co-operate with the Mentor allocated by your practice Placement Provider. Your Mentor will:
- a) Carry out observations and supervised practice, offering regular feedback to you throughout the Practice Learning Periods;
 - b) Carry out any assessment responsibilities required by the Pre-registration Nursing Programme; and
 - c) Participate in planning, monitoring and review meetings with you and your Practice Tutor.
- 3.3 If you are in breach of the clauses outlined in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2, and in the opinion of your Learning Sponsor and Open University Staff Tutor / Education Manager, it is not reasonably practicable for you to complete a Practice Learning Period, your Learning Sponsor, Placement Provider and The Open University are not obligated to provide a further opportunity for you to meet the practice learning requirements for that module. In these circumstances you will be deemed to have failed the module and your studies may be suspended in accordance with the FtP Procedure.
- 3.4 If the Learning Sponsor does not allow you sufficient time to complete Practice Learning Periods as set out in the module materials, The Open University will endeavour to extend your study period to allow the Learning Sponsor to provide sufficient practice learning opportunities. The Learning Sponsor or, where applicable, Financial Sponsor will be liable for any additional costs incurred as a result of such extension, or to provide you with advice and support in finding an alternative Learning Sponsor and/or Practice Learning Periods.

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4 Termination of Employment and/or Sponsorship

- 4.1 Your Learning Sponsor's obligations, as set out in this Agreement, will cease if you leave your employment. To remain registered for the Nursing Degree you will be responsible for finding a suitable alternative Learning Sponsor in order to complete any further practice learning required and to complete the Nursing Degree within the specified time limit.
- 4.2 If you are financially supported (England only) in respect of tuition fees and/or any other financial support and this financial sponsorship is withdrawn for any reason, you must ensure that you continue to meet your liabilities in respect of tuition fees. This may include securing new financial sponsorship or through the use of student loans. If you do not secure funding for your tuition fees, you will be withdrawn from the programme.
- 4.3 You must notify The Open University at the earliest opportunity of any potential change to your employment that may affect your ongoing relationship with your Learning Sponsor and / or your Financial Sponsor in order for alternative arrangements to be considered.
- 4.4 If your Financial Sponsor and Learning Sponsor are different organisations and you leave your employment then, with your Financial Sponsor's agreement, you may seek suitable employment with an alternative employer who will agree to act as your Learning Sponsor. This will allow you to continue with your Nursing Degree as long as the new employer can provide the appropriate practice learning experiences and Mentors to meet the qualification requirements. You must [contact](#) the Nursing Team to discuss this.
- 4.5 In the event that the Open University's collaboration agreement with your Learning Sponsor is terminated, The Open University will take reasonable steps to enable you to finish the programme including completing all necessary modules and carrying out all necessary Practice Learning Periods.

5 Termination of Registration

- 5.1 The Open University may cancel your registration for the Nursing Degree in the circumstances set out in the [Conditions of Registration](#). In addition, we may cancel your registration if you do not:
- remain in employment;
 - undertake practice learning with your Learning Sponsor or an agreed Placement Provider; or
 - maintain the standards of the Regulatory Authority with respect to your health, competence and standards of behaviour.
- 5.2 If you fail a module (including the failure of any resit or resubmission), it is at your Financial Sponsor's (where applicable) and/or your Learning Sponsor's discretion whether they continue to support you on the Nursing programme. You should refer to

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the criteria outlined in the [Fee Rules](#) to determine whether you or your Financial Sponsor should pay reduced fees to repeat study of a module you have failed.

- 5.3 If support is withdrawn by your Financial Sponsor or Learning Sponsor, The Open University will cancel your registration for the Nursing Degree. Your registration will be reinstated if, before the start date of the next module presentation, you have obtained an alternative Financial Sponsor (or in England only, made suitable alternative arrangements for the payment of tuition fees) and/or Learning Sponsor.
- 5.4 If support is withdrawn, you may study academic modules that are not specific to the Nursing Degree programme within the stage you are currently studying, provided you are able to meet the learning outcomes of that module, but will need to find a replacement Financial or Learning Sponsor to continue with the programme at the next module start date
- 5.5 If your contract with your Learning Sponsor is terminated you must find a replacement to complete modules incorporating the required Practice Learning Periods for the stage of the Nursing Degree you are studying. If you do not do this within 2 years of your last Practice Learning Period you will be deregistered from the Nursing Degree. In such circumstances you may retain your credit and return to study later if you are eligible to do so, subject to the rules and regulations that are in place at the time of your subsequent registration.

6 Your Studies

- 6.1 You must complete your Nursing Degree within seven years of the start date of your first module, unless you are given an extension at the discretion of the Board of Studies for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care. Applications for an extension may be considered where you have been unable to study due to reasons beyond your control ([see Appendix A](#)). Other circumstances where an extension may be granted are:
 - if you have been suspended under FtP Procedures and subsequently reinstated;
 - if you lose your job through no fault of your own and are unable to find an immediate replacement.
- 6.2 If, for any reason, you are unable to complete the Practice Learning Periods for a module, when you return to study, and as a minimum, you will be required to complete the final Practice Learning Period of the stage of the Nursing Degree programme from which your studies were interrupted. You may request to have practice hours that you have completed during the module carried forward from those Practice Learning Periods that you have completed in full.
- 6.3 To complete your Open University Nursing Degree, you must study at least every other year, or take an approved study break as set out in the [Changing Your Study Plans Policy and Procedure](#). If you fail to do so, you will be deregistered from your Nursing Degree.
- 6.4 You may be permitted to begin a module at the next stage of the Nursing Degree before you have completed and received results for a module at an earlier stage. Where this is the case, you must have completed, and received results for the module at the earlier stage within 12 weeks of the start of the module at the later stage. If this is

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not possible or you do not receive a pass result, you will not be able to start or remain enrolled on the module in the later stage.

7 Information sharing and Data Protection

- 7.1 Please see the Open University's [Student Privacy Notice](#) for full information on how data is collected and used by The Open University. There are some additional points that relate to this Supplementary Agreement. By entering into this Supplementary Agreement, please note that:
- a) The Open University may share information about your academic performance and professional standards relating to your study for a Nursing Degree with your Learning Sponsor, your Financial Sponsor and any Placement Provider. In particular information about issues relating to your conduct may be shared where it might affect your professional suitability or fitness to practise and your continued participation in any practice learning environment.
 - b) The Open University may consider any concern through its [FtP Procedure](#) and this may lead to conditions being applied to your continued registration on the programme, your suspension or deregistration from the programme, or your expulsion from The Open University.
 - c) Information about your health and any declared disability may be shared with Placement Providers in line with legal obligations to provide reasonable adjustments. Additionally, data may be shared so that neither you nor members of the public are put at risk while you carry out a placement.
 - d) The Open University, your Learning Sponsor, your Financial Sponsor and any Placement Provider will keep any information shared among them secure. They will process it only in accordance with their Privacy Notice and will not communicate such data to any third parties other than the Regulatory Authority if required.
 - e) Your Financial Sponsor (where applicable), your Learning Sponsor or any Placement Provider may notify The Open University of any matters that might raise concerns about your ability to meet the professional standards of the Regulatory Authority.
 - f) The Open University, your Learning Sponsor, your Financial Sponsor (where applicable) and any Placement Provider may share information and evidence about matters relating to your conduct that might affect your professional suitability, fitness to practise, continued employment or your participation in a Practice Learning Period. Your Learning Sponsor, as your employer, has the right to deal with employment related matters under their own procedures, independently to the Open University's [FtP Procedure](#), however this may also be invoked in respect of those matters.
 - g) The Open University may also have a legal obligation to provide certain information to the Regulatory Authority.

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- h) The Open University will, where required, notify the Regulatory Authority of any matter relating to suitability or fitness to practise that is under investigation as well as the outcome of any investigation. However, The Open University will not share information regarding an investigation into fitness to practise with a Financial Sponsor (where applicable), Learning Sponsor or Placement Provider where the matter under investigation is not considered to pose an immediate risk in the circumstances, or to service users or patients.
- 7.2 On the completion of your Nursing Degree, The Open University will, if required and subject to ongoing confirmation of good health and good character, provide any report or reference required by the Regulatory Authority as a condition of entering practice in nursing.
- 7.3 If, on completion of the academic requirements, the award of a Nursing Degree is withheld, The Open University will provide any report or reference required by the Regulatory Authority in respect of that matter. This may be to transfer it directly to a third party supplier engaged by the Regulatory Authority.

8 Withdrawing from or deferring your studies

- 8.1 If you intend to defer or withdraw from a module before it is completed, you should discuss this with your Staff Tutor or Education Manager. If you have deferred a module, your Staff Tutor or Education Manager, in turn, will liaise with your Financial Sponsor and/or Learning Sponsor, who may be liable for any additional fees when you resume studying the module.
- 8.2 The Open University will administer any Fee Credits or Fee Refunds that are due in accordance with the [Fee Rules](#) unless you have made a specific agreement with us and your Financial Sponsor for any fee credits or fee refunds to be made directly to the Financial Sponsor.

Glossary of terms

The Code

Contains the professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives (including students) as published by the Regulatory Authority.

Employer Link

Is the individual nominated by a Learning Sponsor to provide ongoing operational liaison with The Open University in respect of the delivery of the Nursing Degree.

Financial Sponsor

(where applicable) is the organisation or entity providing you with financial support, in part or in full, for your tuition fees and / or other financial support linked to your study where this is not directly provided by your Employer or by a tuition fee loan (England only).

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Learning Sponsor

Is your employer and the organisation with whom you have a substantive contract of employment and which is responsible for supporting your release to undertake supernumerary practice learning and, where applicable, agreed study time in working hours; may be distinct from your 'Financial Sponsor'.

Mentor

Is the individual(s), appointed by the Learning Sponsor to provide supervision of practice learning and assess relevant learning outcomes, who must be appropriately qualified through completion of an NMC-approved mentor preparation programme, be up to date in respect of annual updates and triennial reviews and be listed on a live mentor register.

Module Results Panel

The Module Results Panel is responsible for approving recommendations for module results including monitoring, maintenance and assuring of the quality and standards of modules.

Nursing Degree

Means the BSc (Honours) Adult Nursing or the BSc (Honours) Mental Health Nursing.

Placement Provider

Is the organisation providing access to a practice learning environment for the purposes of nurse education. It may include your Learning Sponsor and any third-party providers of practice placements as required to meet the competencies and outcomes of the Nursing Degree.

Practice Learning Opportunities

Refer to the specific learning and development experiences required within the Practice Learning Period to gain sufficient work based knowledge to complete the nursing programme.

Practice Learning Period

Refers to a period or periods of learning in practice, where you are formally identified as a supernumerary student of nursing and are not included in the workforce roster, which may take place within your place of employment or with a third party.

Practice Tutor

Is the individual appointed by The Open University to provide support, guidance and quality assurance in respect of a student's learning in practice and the Mentor's assessment of the student's competence throughout the Nursing Degree.

Pre-Registration Nursing Programme

Is the route that students use to qualify as a nurse when studying with the Open University, by applying for, being accepted upon, and studying the BSc (Honours) Adult Nursing or BSc (Honours) Mental Health Nursing with the Open University.

Regulatory Authority

Is the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

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Staff Tutor/Education Manager

Are the individual(s) appointed by The Open University to maintain oversight of the delivery of the Nursing Degree at the local level, including the line management of Associate Lecturers and Practice Tutors and the maintenance of relations with the Learning Sponsor, usually via the Employer Link.

Further clarification

If you have any queries around the content provided within this document and how to interpret it, please contact the Nursing Team via the Student Support Team by telephoning +44(0)300 303 5303. Alternatively, you can contact your Student Support Team through the 'Contact Us' option on the [Help Centre](#) if you are a current Open University student.

If you have any comments about this policy document and how it might be improved, please submit these to SPR-Policy-Team@open.ac.uk.

Alternative format

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact the Student Support Team via <http://www.open.ac.uk/contact/> (phone +44 (0)300 303 5303), or your dedicated Student Support Team via StudentHome if you are a current Open University student.

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Appendix A

Circumstances under which students may be considered for an extension to complete their qualification.

Criterion	Conditions and notes	Supporting evidence required
1. Death of a close family member, partner or dependant.	A close family member is defined as someone on whom you are dependent (emotionally or financially) or who was dependent on you.	Hard copy or email notification followed by documentary evidence. Certified copy of death certificate (an exception may be made if the death occurred within six weeks before application).
2. An unforeseen prolonged incapacity of yourself or a close family member due to serious illness, accident or medical condition	If you were aware before the module start date of the medical problems, the condition needs to have worsened or deteriorated since then, i.e. it could not have been anticipated at the outset of the module that the illness or condition would have adversely impacted on your study.	Hard copy or email notification followed by documentary evidence. Certificate, letter or medical statement from GP or consultant confirming the situation. (The period of the illness needs to have a bearing on the timing of the withdrawal).
3. Disability	The reasonable adjustments made by the University, have not enabled you to study effectively; or The impact of a disability on your studies has been more severe than anticipated; or There has been an increase in your disability/disabilities affecting your studies since the module start date.	Corroborative evidence from University records e.g. tutor or Student Support Team (SST) Certificate, letter or medical statement from GP, consultant, non-medical helper or a support person or organisation confirming the situation.
4. An unforeseen prolonged incapacity of yourself due to pregnancy or maternity/paternity	If you were aware of the pregnancy before the module start date, the impact on your study of the pregnancy or maternity/paternity must be greater than might reasonably have been anticipated.	Hard copy or email notification followed by documentary evidence. Certificate, letter or medical statement from GP or consultant confirming the situation.

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Criterion	Conditions and notes	Supporting evidence required
5. An unforeseen prolonged incapacity of yourself due to gender reassignment	If you had undertaken gender reassignment before the module start date or by then you were aware of the arrangements to do so after that date, the impact on your study must be greater than might reasonably have been anticipated.	Hard copy or email notification followed by documentary evidence. Certificate, letter or medical statement from GP or consultant confirming the situation.
6. An unforeseen change in employment circumstances with the effect that it is not reasonably possible to continue to study due to the extreme nature of the work, poor communications or the absence of study facilities.	Other than in the case of a posting of a member of the British armed forces, circumstances which may occur in the course of normal working life such as change of job, relocation, an increased workload or reasonable travel requirements will not be considered.	Hard copy or email notification followed by documentary evidence. E.g. letter or email from your employer or commanding officer.
7. Maladministration on the part of the University.	Action or inaction which could be classed as maladministration on the part of the University and which has affected your academic progress. This does not extend to circumstances that are beyond the control of the University.	Any relevant evidence to support your application e.g. record of student contact.
8. Other exceptional circumstances of a serious nature beyond your control.	Circumstances beyond your control that significantly reduced the time available for study over a sustained period.	Supporting evidence e.g. report from emergency services, social services, police or counsellor.
9. Caring responsibilities	If your caring responsibilities were in place before your module start date, the impact on your study must be greater than might have reasonably been anticipated.	Hard copy or email notification followed by documentary evidence. E.g. Letter or medical statement from GP, consultant, non-medical helper or a support person or organisation confirming the situation.

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