

Programme Audit/Major Modification report

Programme provider:	The Robert Gordon University
In partnership with: (Associated practice placement providers involved in the delivery of the programme)	NHS Grampian NHS Orkney NHS Shetland NHS Tayside NHS Highland NHS Western Isles Isle of Wight NHS Trust
Date of review:	16 Jul 2019
Type of Modification	Desktop
Provision reviewed:	Specialist Practitioner - District Nursing (Mandatory Integrated Nurse Prescribing)
Title of current programme:	MSc Advancing Practice (District Nursing)
Title of modified programme if changed:	
Academic level of current programme:	England, Wales, Northern Ireland <input type="checkbox"/> Level 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 7 SCQF <input type="checkbox"/> Level 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level 11
Academic level of modified programme if changed:	England, Wales, Northern Ireland <input type="checkbox"/> Level 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 7 SCQF <input type="checkbox"/> Level 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 11

Reviewer:	Bernadette Martin

Outcome of Approval Panel Meeting	
Outcome:	Recommended for approval
Conditions and NMC standard(s)/requirement(s) they relate to:	<p>Resources None identified</p> <p>Admission and progression None identified</p> <p>Practice learning None identified</p> <p>Fitness for practice None identified</p> <p>Quality assurance None identified</p>
Date conditions to be met:	
Recommendations and NMC standard(s)/requirement(s) they relate to: Note: recommendations will be assessed through the AEI annual self-assessment report	None identified
Date conditions met:	
Programme start date:	09 Sep 2019

Summary

Summary of modification request

Robert Gordon University (RGU), school of nursing and midwifery (the school) has an established record of delivering the specialist practitioner qualification district nursing (SPQ DN) with the mandatory integrated nurse prescribing (V100) programme at master's level. The SPQ DN programme was approved by the NMC on 12 June 2013.

The NMC approved a major modification on 29 July 2016 to restructure the programme from two master's level programme into a single master's programme, the MA Advancing Practice programme which includes the SPQ DN programme.

RGU presented a major modification to approve the delivery of the SPQ DN programme for a new practice learning partner (PLP), the Isle of Wight (IOW) NHS Trust. The experience RGU has in the delivery of distance learning education to remote and rural areas reflects the model of education to meet the needs of the DN service required by the IOW NHS Trust.

This desktop modification review involved a review of documentary evidence and a telephone discussion with RGU school academic strategic lead and the SPQ DN programme lead. A detailed programme plan and signed memorandum of understanding between IOW NHS Trust and RGU demonstrates how the organisations will work together to ensure an effective partnership approach to the delivery of the SPQ DN programme. This also provides evidence of how RGU and the PLP will ensure comparability of the student experience and maintain quality monitoring processes.

Documentary evidence provides clear evidence that the proposed modification with the new PLP adheres to the Standards for specialist education (NMC, 2001).

The school has an established service user and carer strategy; the involving people and communities strategy encourages meaningful engagement within the school's postgraduate educational provision. This will be reflected in the proposed delivery. The programme team report how service users and carers have contributed to the development of the school's service user and carer strategy and their enthusiasm to continue to be involved with the MSc Advancing Practice programmes. Specific examples of service user and carer involvement in the SPQ DN include: recruitment interviews, volunteering to support the development of history taking and physical assessment skills and students reflect on service user and carer feedback within the ongoing record of achievement (ORA) practice assessment document. These will continue in the IOW provision.

Issues raised in a Care Quality Commission (CQC) quality report required the attention of IOW NHS Trust and their existing approved educational institutions (AEIs). Documentary evidence was provided of the AEIs' joint response to the NMC on 11 April 2019 with all actions taken to demonstrate improvements.

A telephone discussion with RGU school's academic strategic lead and the SPQ DN programme lead confirmed RGU's confidence that there are no risks to students' learning or the public. The practice learning environments have the required governance in place to support students' learning in practice. This will be monitored through ongoing student evaluation which is facilitated through the approved ORA practice assessment document which requires students to evaluate their practice learning. Programme and module evaluations are undertaken both formally and informally in the same way as students who study at the RGU main campus.

Existing RGU quality assurance (QA) mechanisms are aligned to the proposed delivery; the addendum for educational provision for IOW NHS Trust clearly details how the current QA and governance processes will be applied and operationalised. Educational audits of the practice learning environments will be shared in line with local AEI agreement; the raising and escalating concerns and fitness to practise information is available in student facing documentation. The programme team confirmed the rationale for the modification and provided detail on how these mechanisms will be applied, supporting confidence that effective governance and QA mechanisms are in place to support the new PLP delivery of the programme.

The major modification is recommended to the NMC for approval.

Feedback from key stakeholders

Presenting Team

Not applicable - Desktop review

Mentors, sign-off mentors, practice teachers and employers

Not applicable - Desktop review

Students

Not applicable - Desktop review

Service users and carers

Not applicable - Desktop review

Examples of notable and innovative practice and standards they relate to

None identified

Potential risks to compliance of education standards and standards they relate to

None identified

Potential risks to the student learning environment and standards they relate to

None identified

Any other risks to public protection

None identified

Areas for future monitoring

None identified

Outcome recommendation

The major modification is recommended to the NMC for approval.

NMC Standards

Please refer to the [Standards for specialist education and practice \(NMC, 2001\)](#), current programme specific circulars accessed via the [NMC Website](#) and Section one of the Mott MacDonald [QA Handbook](#).

Recording the qualification of specialist practice

Standard 9: Entry Requirements

An entry on the relevant and appropriate part of the register

Have completed a period of experience of sufficient length to have consolidated **pre-registration outcomes** and to have gained a deeper understanding in relevant professional practice.

What we found:

The entry requirements are clearly detailed in the programme documentation and meet the requirements for the SPQ DN programme; the application process and entry requirements are unchanged since approval by the NMC in June 2013.

Applicants from the new PLP must meet the approved RGU SPQ DN entry requirements; they will be identified and sponsored by their employing organisation. They require disclosure and barring service (DBS) clearance; each student will have a learning agreement which ensures protected practice learning. The programme team confirm that all educational audits are up to date and in place and that there's an educational audit sharing agreement across AELs who provide NMC approved programmes in the IOW NHS Trust. The process is clearly set out in the programme documentation.

Selection is undertaken through a joint interview with the employing organisation; a member of the RGU programme team will attend the interview. Applicants are required to submit a short written role summary with their application which justifies their appropriateness to undertake the programme. This is reviewed by a service user and carer who formulates questions for interview. The programme team outlined the recruitment process confirming that applicants must meet the

NMC approved entry requirements. IOW NHS Trust has identified three funded places for RGU's SPQ DN programme.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 9.4: Length and content of programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No less than first degree level • No less than 32 weeks • 50 percent theory and 50 percent practice <p>Key Principles :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combination of core and specific modules – core no less than 1/3 and no more than 2/3 of total • A coherent programme of learning • Flexible modes of delivery • Linked to higher education accreditation • Credit for APL and APEL
What we found:
<p>The length and content of the programme is unchanged from the approved programme.</p> <p>Key principles are unchanged from the approved programme.</p> <p>Programme documentation details how students from the IOW NHS Trust will have a comparable learning experience with existing students. The dynamic</p>

curriculum delivers a blended learning approach with online and face-to-face content. Discussion with RGU school's academic strategic lead and the SPQ DN programme lead confirms that students are supported by the IOW NHS Trust to attend the main RGU campus and undertake five compulsory face-to-face learning contact days. In addition, the V100 theory will be delivered at the main RGU campus.

This blended learning approach continues to support the flexible approach of the programme; the majority of the theory is delivered online enabling student flexibility and meeting the specific needs of the IOW NHS Trust. There's agreement that students will have access to the AEI library resources; all module tutors provide online support through the virtual learning environment (VLE), teleconference and collaborative VLE sessions in line with the distance learning approach. RGU online library study skills are available through the VLE.

RGU school staff report that students will engage in collaborative online discussions and tutorials will be offered across modules. They outline their extensive experience of this blended teaching and learning strategy and report that this will continue as approved. The delivery works well for existing remote organisations. Student facing documentation provides detailed information and guidance.

The assessment strategy continues to meet the approved programme; there's a range of formative and summative assessments which ensure fitness for practice and eligibility for NMC registration. External examiner reporting confirms the validity and reliability of the assessment process.

In line with the approved programme students will be supported in the practice learning environment by a practice teacher (PT) or a sign-off mentor (SOM). Students must complete a period of 23 weeks practice learning which is recorded and assessed through the student ORA. The PT or SOM must confirm that the student has completed the NMC practice requirement and that they meet the requirements of the SPQ DN programme including the mandatory V100.

There's a tripartite arrangement at mid-point and at the end of the programme between the PT or SOM, the students and the identified personal tutor; in line with the approved programme this will continue to be undertaken as a teleconference or through Skype. The programme lead confirms that if there's an issue with a student a face-to-face meeting would be undertaken; this would be

the process for the proposed new PLP delivery. The student and PT and SOM handbooks confirm the process.

PTs and SOMs are supported in a variety of ways including attendance at bi-annual study days at the RGU campus, access to the programme VLE, and ongoing access to the school practice education team. The RGU team confirmed that the programme lead will attend a two day visit to the Isle of Wight to prepare both the PTs and SOMs and the trust practice education facilitators (PEFs) who will be supporting and assessing students in the practice learning environment. The PTs and SOMs have access to the resources identified in the PT and SOM handbook.

RGU has employed an associate lecturer with due regard who is based in the Isle of Wight with established links to the team at RGU. The RGU team described the support students, PTs and SOMs will receive from the local associate lecturer and how student issues and concerns will be directly addressed.

The recognition of prior learning process will continue as the approved programme.

Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 11: Learning Outcomes

- Clinical Nursing Practice
- Care and Programme Management
- Clinical Practice Leadership
- Clinical Practice Development

What we found:	
The mapping documentation is extensive and continues to meet the approved programme. Modules have been mapped to the programme outcomes and demonstrate the taught content and assessments. There's mapping of the programme learning outcomes and individual modules to the Standards for specialist education and practice (SPQ, NMC, 2001), the voluntary standards for district nursing (QNI/QNIS, 2015) and the Standards of proficiency for nurse and midwife prescribers (NMC, 2006).	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 12: Content of education for common core	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content 	
What we found:	
<p>Unchanged from the approved programme originally approved on 12 June 2013. The mapping of the programme and module learning outcomes to the Standards for specialist education and practice (NMC, 2001) confirms that all the common core learning outcomes are included. The programme content reflects DN practice.</p> <p>The V100 community practitioner nurse prescribing element is mandatory and integrated in the programme.</p>	
Outcome:	Standard met

Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Core Standards 13: Common Core Learning Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Nursing Practice • Care and Programme Management • Clinical Practice Leadership • Clinical Practice Development 	
What we found:	
Unchanged from the original approved programme on 12 June 2013 and major modification on 29 July 2016.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Programme specific standards

Standards for entry	
What we found:	
As detailed in Standard 9, the entry requirements are stated in the programme documentation and meet the NMC Standards for entry to the programme.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Programme specific standards	
Specific Learning outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical nursing practice • Care and programme management 	
What we found:	
Unchanged from the original approved programme on 12 June 2013 and major modification on 29 July 2016.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

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V100 Community Practitioner Nurse Prescriber	
Please indicate whether the V100 is an integrated or optional element of the Specialist practice programme.	Integrated
Please indicate whether the V100 is to be approved at this event or provide the date it was approved.	12 Jun 2013
What we found:	
The IOW NHS Trust has committed to students attending the current delivery of the V100 compulsory contact at the RGU campus. RGU senior team confirm that if student numbers increase the V100 sessions would be video-conferenced and facilitated by the attendance of a member of the programme team.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

NMC Circular 03/2011 - Resources to support programme intentions

Programme providers must provide evidence at programme approval that resources are currently available to support programme intentions.

What we found:

The programme continues to meet the NMC standards in terms of resourcing, with sufficient appropriately qualified academic staff employed. The academic programme team have recorded teacher qualifications and specialist qualifications, including V100 and V300 prescribing. The NMC registration status of all registrant academic staff and the programme external examiner was checked on the NMC register.

The programme team have extensive experience in the delivery of education to remote practice learning environments; examples of how this is operationalised were provided. As detailed in Standard 9.4 an associate lecturer post has been established to support students locally on the IOW.

A signed memorandum of agreement between RGU and IOW NHS Trust confirms resources are in place with an intention to offer the programme from September 2019.

Outcome:	Standard met
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Date standards met:	
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Revised outcome:	
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Evidence and references list

RGU, MSc advancing nursing practice, district nursing, addendum for educational provision for NHS Isle of Wight, June 2019

RGU, MSc advancing nursing practice, volume one, overview and resource document, June 2016

RGU, MSc advancing nursing practice, volume two, course specification, June 2019

RGU, MSc advancing nursing practice, volume three, module descriptors, June 2019

RGU, MSc advancing nursing practice, volume four, mapping document, June 2019

RGU, MSc advancing nursing practice, overview and resource document, June 2018

RGU, MSc advancing nursing practice, district nursing, student handbook, September 2018

RGU, MSc advancing nursing practice, district nursing, ongoing record of achievement, undated

RGU, MSc advancing nursing practice, district nursing, practice teacher, sign-off mentor handbook, September 2018

RGU, the service school education collaborative strategy to support student learning in practice, April 2019

RGU, strategy for involving people and communities, April 2019

Wessex multi-professional practice placement audit document, south IOW district nursing team, 3 June 2019

Wessex multi-professional practice placement audit document, north and east IOW district nursing team, 3 June 2019

RGU, cause for concern process guidelines for staff and students, March 2017

Revised RGU, MSc advancing nursing practice, district nursing, addendum for educational provision for NHS Isle of Wight, June 2019

RGU, staff curricula vita, undated

NMC register check, registrant teachers, external examiner, 10 July 2019

RGU, recognition of prior learning guidelines, August 2016 (in the monitoring section of the document repository on the portal)

RGU, response to QA visitor initial report, 12 July 2019

External examiner annual report, 6 July 2019

Teleconference with the programme team and senior school representative, 16 July 2019

Signed memorandum of agreement between RGU and IOW NHS Trust, 8 July 2019

Personnel supporting programme approval	
Members of Approval Panel	
Not applicable - Desktop review.	
Programme Presenters	
Teleconference with the programme lead and senior school representatives, 16 July 2019.	
Were any service providers visited?	
<i>Not applicable - Desktop review.</i>	
Meetings with others	
Mentors / sign-off mentors	
Practice teachers	
Service users / Carers	
Practice Education Facilitator	
Director / manager nursing	
Director / manager midwifery	
Education commissioners or equivalent	
Designated Medical Practitioners	
Other (please specify)	
If there were no representatives present during the approval event please state why:	

Not applicable - Desktop review.

Meetings with students

Nursing					
Adult		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Mental Health		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Children's		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Learning Disabilities		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Midwifery (3 year)		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	
Midwifery (18 month)		Year 1	Year 2		
SCPHN		HV	SN	OH	FHN
					RPHN
Learning and Assessment in Practice		Mentor	Practice Teacher	Teacher	
Nurse Prescribing		V100	V150	V300	
		Adult	Mental Health	Children's	

Specialist Practice				
		Learning Disability	General Practice Nursing	Community Mental Health Nursing
		Community Learning Disabilities Nursing	Community Children's Nursing	District Nursing
Additional evidence viewed				
No additional evidence viewed.				

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Issue record

Author:	Bernadette Martin	Date:	25 Jul 2019
Checked by:	Judith Porch	Date:	09 Aug 2019
Approved by:	Helen Shapcott	Date:	13 Aug 2019