

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

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Award titles

Programme Title(s)

Wrexham University Professional Certificate Return to Practice (Adult Nursing)

Programme to be included in Graduation Ceremonies

No

Delivery period

September 21 – open ended approval provided by NMC subject to annual monitoring.

Intake points

November and/or February – In negotiation with our regional partners.

Regulatory details

Regulatory details
Awarding body
Wrexham University
Programme delivered by
Wrexham University
Location of delivery
Blended – Online and at Plas Coch Campus
Faculty/Department
Faculty of Social and Life Sciences
Exit awards available
None
Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation
NMC (2020) Quality Assurance Framework for Nursing, Midwifery and Nursing Associate Education NMC (2019a) Part 3: Standards for Return to Practice Programmes NMC (2018c) Part 2: Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment NMC (2018d) Part 1: Standards Framework for Nursing and Midwifery Education. NMC (2018b) Future Nurse: Standards of proficiency for registered nurses. NMC (2019b) Guidance on Health and Good Character The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) of the United Kingdom are appointed by the UK government to review and approve all registered nurse programmes. The NMC standards are a legal requirement on all Approved Educational Institutions (AEIs) and must be adhered to in full for approval. Successful completion of the Return to Practice (RTP) programme would lead to students being eligible to re-join the Adult Nursing register (at the part where their previous registration lapsed) held by the NMC.
This information is correct at the time of validation, please refer to the PSRB register for current accreditation status.
Please add details of any conditions that may affect accreditation (e.g. is it dependent on choices made by a student?) e.g. completion of placement.
Only students who have completed the full Return to Practice programme and submitted a

Regulatory details
self-declaration of health and good character may apply to re-register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC, 2019a).
HECoS codes
100279 – Adult Nursing
UCAS code
N/A
Relevant QAA subject benchmark statement/s
There is no nursing Subject Benchmark Statement relevant to this part time module/ programme. Students have previously met Subject Benchmark requirements on qualification/registration in their nursing fields. The programme is mapped to the PSRB standards from the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC, 2020, 2019a, 2018b, 2018c).
Mode of study
Part time
Normal length of study for each mode of study
Up to 12 months part time
Language of study
English
Transitional arrangements for re-validated provision if applicable
N/A – previous programme complete and closed.
The following University Award Regulations apply to this programme (highlight the appropriate ones and delete the others)
<p>General Regulations and Definitions</p> <p>Regulations for Bachelor Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates and Foundation Degrees</p> <p>Award Regulations for Certificates of Attendance, GUCCE and Professional Certificates</p>

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Date of validation event:	25 May 2021
Date of approval by Academic Board:	25 August 2021
Approved Validation Period:	Sept 21-Sept 26 with open ended NMC approval
Transitional arrangements approved (if revalidation)	N/A
Date and type of revision:	Enter the date of any subsequent revisions (Detail the type of revision made and the implementation date) February 2024 – updated standard entry criteria related to applicants outside of EU to meet NMC requirements.

Criteria for admission to the programme

Standard entry criteria

Entry requirements are in accordance with the University's admissions policy, please click on the following link for more information. [Admissions policies](#)

The University's entry requirements are set out on our Admissions webpages. Specific entry requirements for entry to the RTP programme are as listed below:

Each application is considered individually and in line with the Wrexham University Recruitment and Selection Policy for Post Registration Nursing Professional Programmes:

- Must previously have held a valid nurse registration (part 1 or 3) with the NMC as an Adult Nurse, with no current fitness to practice conditions barring return to nursing.
- Applicants with previous NMC fitness to practice barring/conditions of practice are required to disclose previous restrictions/conditions upon application. This is not an automatic bar to entry on to the RTP programme, each case will be reviewed on its merits. The programme leader will liaise with the University placement insurance providers and our regional Practice Partner to establish if a clinical placement is possible with NMC conditions/supervision enhancement considered.
- All applicants are subject to an enhanced DBS check and Occupational Health clearance prior to clinical placement. The offer of a place on the RTP programme is conditional upon the DBS check and Occupational Health outcomes being deemed satisfactory by Wrexham University.
- Provide self-declaration of health & good character.
- The applicant is capable of safe and effective practice at a level of proficiency appropriate to the programme to be undertaken and their intended area of practice in clinical/health assessment, care management and planning and evaluation of care.
- Applicants must demonstrate previous academic study at Level 5 or Level 6; those without recent/relevant academic study may be advised to consider an academic skills module prior to commencement of the programme.
- IELTS at least 7.0 in reading, listening and speaking and at least 6.5 in writing taken within the two last years for applicants outside of the European economic areas.
- Provide robust evidence of temporary Covid-19 NMC registration/insufficient working hours if pursuing recognition for prior learning.
- Copy of NMC previous registration or provide NMC Pin for staff to cross reference
- Original copies of Nursing and educational certificates.
- All short listed applicants must attend an interview.
- Each application is considered individually.

Non Standard entry criteria

There are none.

Record of Prior (Experiential) learning (RPEL)

Any programme specific restrictions are outlined below:

In March 2020, the NMC established the Temporary Covid-19 register for qualified nurses whose registration had lapsed during the previous 5 years, who opted to return to practice under direct supervision. To apply for consideration of RPEL towards RTP clinical practice hours, the student will be required to produce a verified record of their clinical practice hours worked whilst on part of the NMC Temporary Covid-19 Register. The Programme Leader, in collaboration with our Practice Learning Partners at the regional Health Boards, may

approve RPEL of up to a maximum of 50% of the minimum practice hours (i.e. minimum 450 clinical placement hours may be reduced to 225 hours minimum). The hours approved will not exceed the number of hours worked under the Temporary Covid-19 NMC emergency register. The caveat to offering RPEL is that tripartite communications between the RTP student, Programme Leader/Academic Assessor and Practice Assessor/Practice Supervisor will take place in order to decide whether the minimum number of practice hours needs to be increased in order for the student to succeed in practice. Once the Temporary NMC Covid-19 Register closes, Temporary Covid-19 registrants will have 24 months in which to use their hours towards the RTP programme, thereby completing all required elements of 'revalidation' and returning to the register within a 36 month window.

The RPEL provision includes NMC registrants with insufficient hours who may also apply for sufficiently evidenced hours to be considered for up to a maximum of 50% (depending upon the evidence of hours previously worked) of the minimum practice hours. All registrants applying for RPEL to reduce their clinical hours, must successfully complete all assessment elements of the RTP programme to proceed to re-registering with the NMC on completion.

Further details on the RPEL policy can be provided by the Admissions team on request.

DBS Requirements

As part of the admissions process for the Return to Practice (Nursing) programme, all students must complete an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) disclosure, which covers working with both children and adults; the cost is met by the University and completed in line with Wrexham University's policy and procedure. A self-declaration of criminal record status and good health and character must be produced and any issues arising resolved prior to commencement of the programme (please refer to The Wrexham University Recruitment and Selection Policy for Post Registration Nursing Professional Programmes for details of actions required with DBS). Students are informed that they must notify the Programme Leader if there are any changes to their DBS status (this is also detailed in the Programme Handbook). The students must also complete a self-declaration of their criminal record status and good health and character prior to completion in preparation for their details to be sent to the NMC for uploading.

Failure to declare a conviction, which is subsequently revealed by a DBS check may result in exclusion from the programme. The nature of declared convictions is taken into consideration following our Consideration of Criminal Convictions Policy and Procedure. In line with the Universities Disciplinary Procedure for Students, all students are required to disclose a criminal record acquired either before or during the student's enrolment with the University.

Occupational Health Clearance

All applicants successful in being offered a place on the programme will be subject to satisfactory occupational health clearance due to the nature of clinical work and potential placements in an NHS/other healthcare setting. This also includes a requirement for relevant immunisations prior to securing a place. This is carried out between an occupational health provider through a service level agreement between the university and provider. Provision of occupational health immunisations of healthcare staff are adhered to (please see document Chapter 12 of Green Book which indicates on pages 85-86 the inoculation and immunization plan for the vaccine administration). Wrexham University occupational health provider notify us if there are any local outbreaks of disease to monitor and action if any further requirements are needed to ensure students are adequately protected. We also subscribe to Public Health Wales and Public Health England to receive email notifications of any outbreaks.

It may be beneficial and is recommended that students hold a full UK driving licence and use of car as this will maximise practice placement opportunities on the course.

Suitability for Practice Procedure

The Suitability to Practice procedure will apply to the Return to Practice (Adult Nursing) programme where concerns may be raised by clinical staff, our Practice Learning Partners, fellow students or members of the public. This procedure applies to students enrolled on a programme of study who undertake placements or professional practice as part of their studies, and whose professional conduct and practice during the period of academic study is a key element of their satisfactory progress toward an award and toward professional recognition.

As with our other professional courses, the Suitability for Practice Procedure is invoked by staff in cases where the student has exhibited behaviour which is inappropriate in terms of professional standards, leading to concern that they are unsuitable for their chosen profession. There may also be concerns in respect of the student's health (either physical or mental) and its impact on professional practice, which could lead to the implementation of the procedure. Following enrolment, students can access this procedure on 'MyUni' via Student Administration, Moodle and in the Programme/Module Handbook and Practice Supervisor / Practice Assessor Handbook.

Aims of the programme

This programme enables previously NMC registered nurses to re-examine their role and professional responsibilities as they prepare to return to the full register. The students will explore contemporary themes in modern nursing/healthcare, underpinned by relevant evidence. Clinical/practical skills will be refreshed in preparation for their renewed role in the clinical workplace. The RTP programme offers a flexible and accessible approach to empowering students to renew their confidence in providing patient-centred care in the field of Adult Nursing.

The programme also provides RTP students' access to a clinical placement to enable them return to the clinical environment in a supportive and supervised manner. The regional Placement Unit (based at Bangor University as commissioned by Health Education and Improvement Wales - HEIW) and our Practice Placement Partners will arrange the placement and we will involve the student with these arrangements to ensure they have a placement that can be flexible with their personal circumstances. The practice placement is fundamental to developing and achieving all the identified practical nursing and clinical skills necessary to return to the register.

The programme has been written to meet the NMC Part 3: Standards for Return to Practice programmes and Future Nurse: Standards of proficiency for registered nurses as prescribed by the NMC. To this end, the programme aims to develop registered nurses who are able to:

- Utilise the knowledge, skills and attitudes gained from the programme, to practise in their chosen field of Nursing.
- Deliver high quality, essential and immediate care to all people.
- Deliver complex care to clients/service users in their field of practice.
- Act to safeguard the public, and be responsible and accountable for safe, person-centred, evidence-based nursing practice.
- Act with professionalism and integrity, understand and apply the principles of courage,

transparency and the professional duty of candour whilst working within agreed professional, ethical and legal frameworks and processes to maintain and improve standards.

- Practise in a compassionate, respectful way, maintaining dignity and wellbeing and communicating effectively.
- Act on their understanding of how people's lifestyles, environments and the location of care delivery influence their health and wellbeing.
- Seek out use all appropriate opportunities to promote health and prevent illness.
- Work in partnership with other health and social care professionals and agencies, service users, carers and families ensuring that decisions about care are shared.

Distinctive features of the programme

The RTP programme has been delivered at the University for a number of years, and links directly to the Welsh Government/HEIW strategic direction to meet the nursing workforce shortage across Wales. The commissioners (HEIW) remain focused upon supporting this course through funding of tuition fees and student bursary where eligible (currently for students domiciled in Wales). In collaboration with our Practice Partners, the Programme Leader has actively engaged both Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) representatives in full consultation of the development of the programme, and also the recruitment strategy for the region. Further consultation with members of Outside In (our University 'service-user' forum group) and previous students has created a 360 degree review of the new RTP programme, creating a rounded experience for future students, whilst safeguarding the public at all times.

Other Features of the course are:

- Delivery underpinned by our Active Learning Framework (ALF) and the NMC, with more of the academic content delivered online, creating greater accessibility and flexibility for students. Academic classes will mostly be delivered either live online or pre-recorded. Two days of live classes a week from 10am-3pm* (*with the exception of clinical skills classes which are longer) – offering a more flexible and family-friendly approach. This also enables students living in more rural areas to reduce the travelling requirements of attending campus.
- All students are allocated an Academic Assessor also known as personal tutor within the University, who will support them through the academic and professional journey as they return to nursing. They are also supported in the clinical placement areas by a nominated Practice Supervisor and Practice Assessor, overseeing their practice development to ensure they are ready to return to the full register. Practice placement areas are further supported by Practice Education Facilitators and a Link Tutor (currently provided by our regional partners at Bangor University – linked to HEIW commissioning). Clinical placements are sourced across North Wales, with many opportunities to complete the clinical elements nearer home. Clinical placements are an essential assessed component of the RTP programme, with a minimum of 450 hours (record of prior hours notwithstanding) in the clinical workplace, working under supervision in a supernumerary role.
- Simulation classes have been added to the programme in line with similar learning opportunities across pre-registration programmes. A total of 5 clinical simulated shifts/classes will be delivered at the University to offer a more rounded experience in Adult nursing. The simulation classes will contribute to student clinical placement hours

and create exposure to elements of practice/mandatory skills which may be more challenging in specific placement areas.

- Tuition fees and bursary to cover some living costs are available for most students (domiciled in Wales). For students residing in England, course fees have been reduced by 50% (when compared with standard fees for a similar credit bearing course/module).
- Nurses working on the NMC Temporary Covid-19 Register may use robust evidence of their hours to apply for RPEL. This may reduce the minimum number of hours required to complete the programme by **up to 50%**, facilitating a faster return to the full NMC register. In addition, NMC registrants with insufficient hours may also apply for RPEL when satisfactory evidence of completed hours is provided (see RPEL section above).
- Return to the full NMC register is subject to successfully passing all elements of the programme, after which students will be able to apply for Registered Nurse (Adult) posts available across Wales. All students successfully completing the programme, have excellent employability opportunities ahead of them. The RTP programme links directly to the University's employability strategy, and is further endorsed by the workforce/employability strategies of our regional Practice Learning Partners.
- RTP students will be supported to conduct parts of the application/recruitment process and their studies in Welsh if they choose; students may request to be assessed in Welsh.

Credit Accumulation and exit awards

On successful completion of the 40 credits at Level 6, the student may be awarded a Wrexham University Professional Certificate (along with a transcript listing the title, level and credit value of the module successfully completed as part of a PSRB approved programme). In addition, the Academic Assessor confirms they have completed an approved Return to Practice (Adult Nursing) programme and forwards the necessary documentation for the RTP student to apply to re-register as an Adult Nurse to the NMC.

Programme Structure Diagram, including delivery schedule

Part-time delivery - Level 6

Mod Code	NHS6A7	Mod title	Return to Practice (Adult Nursing)	Credit value	40	Core	Semester 1 or 2
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Intended learning outcomes of the programme

Knowledge and Understanding

	Level 6
A1	Critically examine current health and social policy and relevant evidence, demonstrating how it informs safe and effective practice in contemporary nursing, including the legal, ethical and professional context of adult nursing practice. (NMC, 2019a: 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6.1, 2.7, 2.8; 4.5, 4.7, 4.9)

Intellectual Skills

	Level 6
B1	Critically reflect upon the management of their personal and professional development needs in order to maintain their professional practice in adult nursing. (NMC, 2019a: 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6.1; 4.5, 4.7, 4.9)

Subject Skills

	Level 6
C1	Demonstrate safe pharmacological knowledge and medicines calculations prior to returning to adult nursing clinical practice (safeMedicate). (NMC, 2019a: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6.1, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9; 4.5, 4.7, 4.9)

Practical, Professional and Employability Skills

	Level 6
D1	Critically analyse the role of the registered adult nurse within the multi-disciplinary team, and the benefit of inter-professional practice on person centred care. (NMC, 2019a: 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6.1; 4.5, 4.7, 4.9)
D2	Demonstrate achievement of the necessary practice proficiencies & skills (and the minimum hours in clinical practice), as identified in the All Wales Practice Assessment Document for Return to Practice programmes, to fulfil the requirements for re-Registration with the NMC. (NMC, 2019a: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6.1, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9; 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6; 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9; 5.1, 5.3)

Learning and teaching strategy

WGU Strategy for Supporting Student Learning and Achievement (SSSLA, 2020) and the Active Learning Framework (ALF, 2020)

The RTP programme is aligned with the SSSLA and ALF; continuing to develop a highly relevant programme that meets the needs of the NMC and local workforce employers. By embedding great teaching and innovative assessment, this programme delivers education and clinical placements in line with regional and national expectations. It is anticipated that academic content may be delivered online, synchronously and asynchronously, with any face-to-face/direct contact utilised for wider clinical skills development and discussion. This creates an opportunity for students from more rural areas of North and mid-Wales or with complex family considerations to access the programme in a more accessible manner.

Advance HE (Jones-Devitt, 2020) echo these institutional frameworks, inviting Approved Education Institutions (AEIs) to ensure higher education is accessible to all regardless of 'demographics or circumstance', whilst recognising that every student makes a contribution to the community through their academic journey. When linking flexible learning to the RTP programme, one statement highlights the desire to enable our students to maximise the opportunity:

"...contain sufficient challenge that students are likely to be cognitively and experientially stretched and to be informed by a spirit of criticality appropriate to each stage of a programme of studies..." (Advance HE/Jones-Devitt, 2020, p. 10)

The RTP programme at Wrexham University (WGU) aims to enable students to re-join the nursing workforce following a period of safe and competent learning, enhanced by a renewed sense of confidence.

The assessment for the RTP programme will include a clinical placement assessment by a Practice Assessor, and a critically reflective academic 'portfolio' of evidence. The NMC endorse five pieces of reflective writing as part of every nurse's revalidation to remain on the register, therefore this assessment compliments the revalidation process and encourages the RTP students to continue with this practice as they return to the active register. Personalised support for RTP students creates a sense of safety and confidence as students' progress to returning to the NMC register. A consistent Academic Assessor /programme leader in addition to their Practice Supervisor and Practice Assessor out in clinical practice, offer a collaborative approach to support the student. The Practice Assessor who ultimately 'signs-off' and confirms the student's competency, is also required to meet the NMC requirements for assessment in practice. It is recognised many RTP applicants have external factors such as caring requirements affecting their approach to studies. A compassionate and sensitive approach to supporting the students is imperative to assist them in achieving their success.

Students will be required to complete all elements of the programme in order to gain the intended award and completion of necessary NMC documentation to apply for return to the full NMC register as an Adult Nurse. The programme is divided into two parts:

1. academic delivery from the University,
2. followed by a supervised and assessed period in clinical placement;

only at the end of both parts will the students' achievements will be considered.

The University will work with students to support any reasonable adjustments where possible that have been identified as an additional requirement. Students will be expected to complete the programme within 12 months. If Exceptional Circumstances occur, students are able to apply formally through the University Exceptional Circumstances procedure, and if approved, the student may be granted a maximum of 6 additional months in which to complete all assessed components of the programme, otherwise the student will be

discontinued from the programme.

Assessment boards (module and progression/award) will take place at various points within the academic year. This will allow students who have opted for either full time or part time placement options to be able to complete their programme without delay and re-register with the NMC to regain their professional pin number. Again, this links directly to the employability strategy and meets the regional workforce objective of employing nurses as swiftly as possible.

Actions on Completion:

Once the student has achieved all the clinical practice and academic/module learning outcomes of the programme, they will be required to submit a self-declaration of their DBS status, health and good character. On receipt and confirmation that all requirements have been documented, the student will have met the Standards to re-join the NMC register. The University will notify the NMC that the student has completed an approved Return to Practice course and inform the student of the necessary documentation/communication they are required to send to the NMC to complete their NMC registration.

The Wrexham Graduate

At Wrexham University we aim to help students develop and enhance key employability skills and capabilities during their study. There are three key areas with different attributes, attitudes and skillsets and the aim is to help students have the opportunity to enhance and develop skills such as resilience, adaptability, confidence, team working, emotional intelligence and communication, creativity and acting ethically and sustainably. Programmes are designed to enable students to develop and enhance these skills via module content, module learning outcomes and assessment opportunities. Each module will help provide different opportunities for developing and enhancing these capabilities.

The Careers team are available to provide information, advice and guidance and access to resources for potential students, current students and graduates. WGUConnect provides students with access to an online directory of vacancies.

The Careers team can support students with employability and interview skills such as use of the STAR (Situation, Task, Action, and Result) technique that many recruiters use to gather relevant information about a specific capability that the job requires.

Work based/placement learning statement

Clinical practice areas provide a rich source of experiences and crucially exposes the RTP student to working interprofessionally with colleagues across the multi-disciplinary team. Clinical practice areas provide a rich and varied experience for students, exposing them to the real world of nursing, inter-professional working practices, and multidisciplinary team working. Students will participate in shift patterns that expose them to the 24 hour care setting, and will interact with patients, clients and their families. The student uses their personal resources of life experience and knowledge to develop their inter-personal and communication skills together with re-establishing their technical skills and appropriate professional attitudes. An important aspect of this practical dimension of the teaching and learning strategy is that students are supernumerary, that is, not included in staffing numbers, so they are free within the constraints of the programme to pursue learning opportunities as they arise. Students will also have the opportunities to learn with, and from other health and social care professionals as well as fellow students. Such workplace

learning is facilitated by the nominated Practice Supervisor, Practice Assessor and Academic Assessor who through dialogue and negotiation with the student allows them to plan their educational experience within the framework of RTP programme as approved by the NMC.

Where possible, students may attend placements close to their place of residence or in a location which can be accessed without too much inconvenience. Students will be allocated to a single placement area for the duration of their RTP clinical placement, but specific learning experiences within a particular setting (e.g. hospital) may be arranged in negotiation with their Practice Assessor. The placement circuit covers a number of localities, but ordinarily students will not be expected to travel distances over thirty-five miles each way. All students will be expected to utilise public or personal transport to travel to their placement area. Students are required to fund their own transport costs. Students who have workplace commitments with our regional Practice Partners will not be permitted to remain in their current workplace for the placement element of their RTP programme. Students will evaluate their practice learning experience using the HEIW form to again ensure standardisation of feedback and enable staff to review accordingly.

Practice Assessment Document (PAD)

Students are encouraged to reflect upon their experiences in practice by recording them in their practice assessment document. The All Wales RTP Practice Assessment Document (PAD) is a repository of acquired knowledge and personal reflection and its careful completion provides a valuable learning tool throughout the programme. Within the practice assessment document is a record of clinical practice in which proficiency outcomes are assessed both formatively and summatively. The PAD completion process is designed to develop self-awareness, problem solving, team working, autonomy and reflective capacity. Furthermore, the use of simulation by the programme team based at the University, enhances the theoretical learning and development of key skills and core values in a safe learning environment that mirrors the challenges experienced in practice (and where necessary, used for the assessment of any practice learning proficiencies that are not achievable for the student in the clinical practice setting).

Practice learning proficiencies and skills must be summatively passed by the end of the clinical placement. All students will be expected to complete a clinical placement at a nominated, and educationally audited, placement setting. Clinical placements are for a minimum of 450hours (except for students where RPEL has been approved/applied) which is the equivalent of 12 weeks full time placement, or if working part time (students must engage in a minimum of 2 shifts/>15 hours a week) the placement may take up to 7 months to complete. The clinical placement is assessed using the PAD. Achieving practice learning proficiencies requires a nominated Practice Assessor to sign the student as proficient (a Registered Nurse with appropriate equivalent experience for the student's field of practice). The students' Academic Assessor (*the nominated Academic Assessor must be a registered nurse with appropriate equivalent experience for the student's field of practice, in addition to holding a Master's Degree/teaching qualification/ or working towards*) will also check that these are complete and submit the clinical proficiencies to the assessment board to allow ratification and completion of the programme. For students who have not completed all competencies within the minimum timeframe, a maximum 4 week extension may be permitted only with tripartite agreement between the Academic Assessor, Practice Assessor and student.

During the placement of the RTP programme, there are two in-point assessments:

1. Medicines Management
2. Leading, Managing and Coordinating care, in addition to the RTP practice learning proficiencies.

The nominated Practice Assessor and Academic Assessor will sign to confirm that the student is proficient and ready to return to the NMC register as a qualified nurse in their respective field of Nursing. Confirmation of the students' Good Health and Good Character' will be signed by a designated NMC signatory at the point of completing the programme, in addition to the student's own self-declaration. The NMC Future Nurse Standards of proficiency and Annexes A and B are mapped within the RTP PAD. The title of this document is the *All Wales Practice Assessment Document and 'Ongoing record of the Achievement Return to Practice Course'*. This document will be utilised for the student's achievement in clinical practice (or where required in simulated environments if a particular learning opportunity is not available in clinical practice).

The role and preparation for Practice Supervisors and Practice Assessors (as well as Academic Assessors) is underpinned by a number of key documents. These documents are key to guiding the staff and students of the responsibilities each must uphold in order to best support the RTP student through their practice learning experience. Further clarity and questions frequently posed are also addressed in supporting documentation. The HEIW and NMC documents and guidance ensure a supportive approach is offered to each student, with each organisation being held responsible for ensuring staff are adequately prepared to undertake their role.

All placements are quality assured and audited every two years using the All Wales Placement Audit (by the regional Placement Unit at Bangor University; the HEIW commissioned placement unit for North Wales). Clinical placement areas are supported by a nominated Bangor University Practice Education Facilitator and a named Bangor University academic tutor. The RTP Programme Leader has a nominated Placement Officer to communicate with and will re-establish quarterly quality meetings with the Placement Officer and our regional Practice Partners to assure open and effective communication between all parties.

Welsh medium provision/ Employment Considerations

The programme will be delivered through the medium of English, however tutorials are available in Welsh on request as the nursing team at WGU has a number of fluent Welsh speakers. The Student's Union and Student Services both provide access to their services and resources in Welsh where available. Students are entitled to submit their assessments in the medium of Welsh, and placement opportunities using the medium of Welsh have been identified where available. If a Welsh medium assessment has been identified and no appropriate Welsh speaking tutor/assessor is available, the written assessment will be translated into English. The RTP Programme Leader is not a fluent Welsh speaker, but has awareness of the importance of student access to support in Welsh Medium. More recently, the Programme Leader has engaged with a WGU working group on supporting students in the Welsh medium, especially through digital resources, and continues to contribute to the development of access to such to enhance the student academic experience.

The most recent Welsh language standards issued by the Welsh language Commissioner in 2019 will remain fundamental to enabling students to access as much of their academic/practice development through the medium of their choice where possible. The RTP students will complete their clinical placements within North Wales creating opportunities to work with patients and colleagues through the medium of Welsh. The Programme Handbook and PAD are available in Welsh, as well as student feedback forms. Students are encouraged to approach Service-Users for invaluable feedback on their performance in the clinical setting and, again, this is often completed in the medium of Welsh. NMC core documentation in the Welsh medium has been sourced in preparation for programme delivery where available.

Assessment strategy

The assessment strategy for the RTP programme links to the learning outcomes of the programme and aims to best prepare the student for the clinical workplace on completion of the course. The written critical reflections (pass mark 40% at Level 6) are designed to mirror the NMC reflections required for professional Revalidation every 3 years for all registered nurses. The safeMedicate drug calculation examination is in line within Part 3 of the current assessment of pre-registration nurses throughout their training and assures the academic and practice staff the student has appropriate numeracy skills prior to re-entering the clinical workplace (a pass rate of 100% is required – with 3 attempts possible).

Finally, the RTP PAD is an extensive assessment document to be completed in the practice setting (pass or fail), with the student and their Practice Supervisor and Practice Assessor completing all elements as necessary. The minimum placement hours may be negotiated/extended to enable a student to take more time for successful completion of the PAD. The nominated academic assessor will work collaboratively with the nominated practice assessor to make a recommendation for student progression.

It is important to note that the 3 assessments have differing assessment attempt opportunities. Please see below more information in the table below:

Module code & title	Assessment type and weighting	Assessment attempts	Indicative submission date
NHS6A7 Return to Practice (Adult Nursing)	Assessment 1. Summative Written Assignment 100% 3 pieces of critical reflection (3000 words) (linked to LOs 1-3) In line with NMC Revalidation reflective portfolio.	2 attempts (with a third attempt provided at discretion of University Awards Assessment Board) if failed at first attempt, the overall module mark will be capped at maximum pass mark of 40%	Week 39, Semester 2
NHS6A7 Return to Practice (Adult Nursing)	Assessment 2. Summative Online examination – Pass/Refer safeMedicate drug calculation exam (2 hour examination) (LO4)	3 attempts with requirement to gain 100% pass mark. Module mark will not be capped if this assessment element not passed at first two attempts	Week 26/27, Semester 2 (prior to clinical placement)
NHS6A7 Return to Practice (Adult Nursing)	Assessment 3. Summative All Wales Practice Assessment Document for Return to Practice programmes– Pass/Refer Minimum hours must be completed as well as all practice proficiencies and skills assessed and passed (LO5)	2 attempts (with a third attempt provided at discretion of University Awards Assessment Board)	Approx. week 43, Semester 2 (pending completion of minimum clinical placement hours, may be later for students opting for part time placement hours)

Assessment and award regulations

Derogations

1. SafeMedicate examination (Assessment 2.) will be set with a pass/refer, with a result of 100% pass to be achieved. A refer in the safeMedicate examination or the portfolio element will not cap the rest of the module, but must be passed at a subsequent attempt in order to pass.
2. Return to Practice nursing students will be permitted two attempts at each Assessment 1 & 3 of the module in the programme, but only one third attempt at Assessment 1 of the module may be permitted at the discretion of the Assessment Board. This excludes safeMedicate where three attempts are permitted.
3. There are no compensatory passes on the RTP programme due to professional body requirements, and all elements of the module must be passed. All three assessments must be passed to successfully pass the course and necessary documentation be submitted to the NMC for registration as an Adult Nurse.
4. Feedback on assessed work will be provided within four weeks of submission.
5. Any work submitted, however academically competent, which omits or includes details indicating unsafe practice or that in any way breaches confidentiality will be deemed a 'refer'.
6. University regulations for 40 credit modules at Level 6 in terms of overall learning, contact learning hours and independent hours will be superseded by professional body requirements (NMC (2019) Part 3: Standards for Return to Practice Programmes, and NMC (2018) Future Nurse: Standards of Proficiency for Registered Nurses).
7. Students must complete all elements of the programme in 12 months. ECs may be applicable for a maximum of 6 months to support course completion, whilst maintaining clinical currency from placement.
8. Once the Temporary NMC Covid-19 Register closes, temporary registrants will have 24 months in which to use their hours towards the RTP programme, thereby completing all required elements of 'revalidation' and returning to the register within a 36 month window.

Non Credit Bearing assessment

N/A

Accreditation

Students who complete and pass all elements of the programme will be eligible to apply to return to the NMC 'full' register as an adult nurse. Conditions for applying to re-register with the NMC include a declaration of health and good character (similar to the documentation at the start of the course). The Programme Leader confirms the student has completed an approved Return to Practice programme with the NMC and directs the student of the necessary documentation they must then forward to the NMC to complete readmission to the NMC register.

Quality Management

All provision is expected to comply with the University processes for quality assurance, the QAA Quality Code and any specific PSRB requirements to ensure the quality of the learning

and teaching on the programme. The University uses the following mechanisms to help evaluate, enhance and review programmes delivery;

Student Evaluation of Module forms
Student Voice Forum
Individual student feedback
Student representatives
Annual Monitoring reports
Periodic review and re-validation process
External Examiner reports
PSRB requirements and accreditation activities
National Student Survey (NSS)

The RTP programme is closely monitored by the NMC in to order to ensure it meets statutory and legal requirements. The programme will be monitored by internal and external quality assurance processes, including annual monitoring reviews and professional body scrutiny. Any changes to the programme that are identified, will be subject to major modification processes.

The safety and wellbeing of service users is of paramount importance, and any concerns that are raised in relation to a student not being supervised appropriately, or if the student is not considered to be fit for practice in any aspect of the clinical and academic engagement, the Suitability for Practice procedure will be followed in accordance with the NMC (2019) *Guidance on health and character*.

Support for Students

The University has a range of departments that offer support for students such as:

- Library & IT Resources
- Inclusion Services
- Careers Service
- Chaplaincy
- Counselling & Wellbeing
- Student Funding and Welfare
- Student Administration

Please access the [Wrexham website](#) to find out more about the Departments

The Student Union offers support for students, please access their [website](#) at to find out more.

All students at Wrexham University are allocated a Personal Tutor whose main responsibility is to act as the first point of contact for their personal students and to provide pastoral and academic support throughout their studies at the University.

Equality and Diversity

Wrexham University is committed to providing access to all students and promotes equal opportunities in compliance with the Equality Act 2010 legislation. This programme complies fully with the University's Equality and Diversity Policy, ensuring that everyone who has the potential to achieve in higher education is given the chance to do so. Please click on the following link for more information [equality and diversity](#)