POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Programme Title: Advanced University Diploma in Anaesthetic Care

Awarding Body: Staffordshire University

Teaching Institution: Staffordshire University/University Hospital North Staffordshire

Final Awards: Advanced University Diploma

Intermediate Awards: 

Mode of Study: Part-time

UCAS Codes:

QAA Subject Benchmarks: Operating Department Practice

JACS Code: B790

Professional/Statutory Body: 

Entry Year: 2016/17

If you require this document in a larger text or a different medium please contact us.
EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

- To address skill mix issues in the operating department by providing anaesthetic care development in accordance with the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland’s recommendations in their guidance document The Anaesthesia Team (http://www.aagbi.org/sites/default/files/assistance%20for%20the%20anaesthetist%20statement%20v2[1].pdf)

- To develop the anaesthetic care skills and knowledge of theatre nurses to expand their scope of practice within the operating department

- To develop knowledge of local and national policy and protocols relating to the provision of anaesthesia care in the operating and associated departments

- To develop the practitioner’s knowledge of clinical emergency situations and guidelines/protocols for the care and treatment of the patient.

What is distinctive about this programme?

The programme has been developed in conjunction with partners in the NHS and private sector to address skill mix issues in the operating department. Continued partnership working ensures that the programme remains clinically relevant.

The development of a Flexible Learning award leading to the award of an Advanced University Diploma provides students with a fully certified award rather than the module credits offered by other Universities. The award demonstrates academic rigour with a substantive element of work-based learning and assessment to demonstrate clinical competence in accordance with the requirements set out in the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland’s recommendations in their guidance document The Anaesthesia Team (http://www.aagbi.org/sites/default/files/assistance%20for%20the%20anaesthetist%20statement%20v2[1].pdf)

The part-time route provides flexibility to students and their employers. As the student will require supernumerary status to complete the practice elements of the award, the part-time route will reduce the need for employers to provide ‘back-fill’ for the students’ surgical or recovery duties. Flexibility is also enhanced by a blended learning approach, reducing the travel burden for students and keeping to a minimum the time taken out of clinical practice.

A bespoke, 60-credit module has been developed for this award. This allows a fully integrated approach to the assessment of the award which reflects the way in which skills and knowledge are called upon in clinical practice.
PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

What will this programme teach me to do? At the end of your studies you should be able to:

**Advanced University Diploma**

Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the key aspects of anaesthetic practice, including a detailed knowledge of contemporary anaesthetic equipment and drugs used in elective and emergency situations (*Knowledge & Understanding*).

Analyse and communicate data relating to the patient’s condition appropriately and accurately demonstrating effective problem solving and decision making in routine, complex and unpredictable situations (*Application, Communication, Problem Solving*).

Critically evaluate local and national guidelines and policies in relation to clinical emergencies, demonstrating their application in patient care and treatment during emergency situations (*Analysis, Application*).

Manage own learning and workload to demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for developing best clinical practice in anaesthetic care (*Reflection*).

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**PROGRAMME STRUCTURE, MODULES AND CREDITS**

Programme Title: Advanced University Diploma in Anaesthetic Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVEL</th>
<th>Teaching Block 1 (Sept – March)</th>
<th>Module: Applied Anaesthetic Care. 60-credits</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Assessment: 3000 word Case Study (March)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

|        | Teaching Block 2 (April – Sept) | Module: Applied Anaesthetic Care. 60-credits (continued) |
|        | Assessment: 45 minute Viva Voce, Clinical Practice Outcomes (August) |
HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT AND ASSESSED?

Teaching and Learning
Teaching and learning will build on your existing professional body of knowledge developed during your nursing studies and practice to date in the operating department. A series of 6 workshop-style events will develop your knowledge of:

- Essential anaesthetic equipment and standards for monitoring the patient’s physiological parameters during anaesthesia.
- Pharmacology.
- Invasive monitoring techniques and blood gas analysis.
- Specialist anaesthetic techniques (i.e. for head & neck surgery, obstetric and paediatric cases)
- Emergency anaesthesia
- Clinical emergencies and intercurrent disease.

The workshops will contain some taught content, but some will require you to research specific anaesthetic practices to contribute to group discussion either in the classroom or through Blackboard (the University’s virtual learning environment). Workshops will be supplemented by materials presented through Blackboard (e.g. articles to read, presentations to review, links to other learning activities) and simulated practice. You will also be required to participate in work-based development of your knowledge and skills in anaesthetic care which will be facilitated by a work-based mentor.

The Award will be delivered in collaboration with University Hospital North Staffordshire. To ensure equity between University-based and UHNS-based delivery, taught content will be based around a single session plan with associated learning outcomes. You will be expected to work at least 2 days per week with your anaesthetic mentor. During this time, as your level of skills and knowledge increases, you will be allocated to specialist areas of practice (i.e. ENT, Obstetrics and Emergency) to gain wider experience of anaesthetic practice.

Assessment
Assessment will focus on your ability to provide anaesthetic care in elective and emergency situations.

A 3000 word analysis of anaesthetic care will demonstrate your developing knowledge of a specified anaesthetic technique and associated patient care. This will be submitted at the end of teaching block 1 (see page 3).

A 45 minute viva voce (oral examination) will focus on clinical emergencies and the care and treatment of the patient. You will be required to learn about 5 emergencies, **two** of which will be picked at random on the day of assessment. You will also undertake assessment in clinical practice. Your work-based mentor will determine whether you are able to meet the practice outcomes devised for this award.

These assessments will be completed towards the end of teaching block 2 (see page 3).
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Entry Requirements (including IELTS score)

What qualifications would I need to join this programme?

The entry requirements for the award are normally:

- Registered nurse currently working in the operating department.
- The award may be open to registered nurses in clinical areas associated with the operating on condition that they can meet the requirement for supervised and assessed clinical practice.

Disability Statement

Staffordshire University operates a policy of inclusive teaching and learning to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to fulfil their educational potential. Details about how to apply to have your needs assessed can be found at: [http://www.staffs.ac.uk/study_here/disabled_students/index.jsp](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/study_here/disabled_students/index.jsp)

AWARD SPECIFIC INFORMATION

It is assumed that, due to your registered nurse status, you have a good knowledge of anatomy and physiology and relevant underpinning scientific principles.

You will require access to suitable IT equipment to access on-line materials and participate in discussion forums in Blackboard. It is also anticipated that individual tutorials to support the assessment process will be conducted via Skype to further reduce your travel burden.

Further information about the award can be found in the relevant Student Handbook and on the University Website. This includes information about optional modules, student support, and academic regulations.
**ADDENDUM FOR DELIVERY AT A PARTNER INSTITUTION**

This section should record any matters within the programme specification which do not apply to the delivery at the partner. It should also note any differences in delivery, course content, module choice etc.

| Name and location of partner | University Hospital of North Staffordshire  
Newcastle Road  
Stoke on Trent |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partnership Context</td>
<td>The awards listed below are part of a franchise arrangement with Staffordshire University.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awards to be offered at partner</td>
<td>Advanced University Diploma in Anaesthetic Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aims / Learning Outcomes</td>
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<td>Curricula</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching and Learning</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Admissions Criteria</td>
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<td>Specific Regulations</td>
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<td>Date of completion</td>
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All of the above sections should be completed as appropriate for each partner organisation.