



Anglia Ruskin
University

Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education

FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Nursing)

Higher Apprenticeship

Undergraduate Blended Practice- Based Learning

Frequently Asked Questions

Contents

1.	Introduction.....	2
2.	Is this degree for me?	3
3.	Why Anglia Ruskin University?.....	3
4.	How will I benefit from the course?.....	4
5.	How is the course taught?.....	4
6.	Will I have to attend the University’s campus?	5
7.	When does the course start?.....	5
8.	How long will the course take?.....	5
9.	Course Structure	6
10.	What will I study?.....	7
11.	How is the course assessed?.....	14
12.	Career Options.....	16
13.	What are the entry requirements?.....	17
14.	What other skills are needed?.....	18
15.	What books will I need?	18
16.	How will the students support each other through the course?	18
17.	What support will I get from the university?	19
18.	What are the fees?	20
19.	How do I apply?	20
20.	Who do I contact with any questions?	20

1. Introduction

This Handbook has been written to give you more information about the **FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Nursing) Higher Apprenticeship**, and what it involves.

The **FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Nursing)** course was developed in response to a growing demand for qualified healthcare professionals within the country.

Anglia Ruskin University's Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education, works with healthcare partners to develop learning solutions that meet the short and longer term demands for skills within the UK Healthcare sector. With a long history of delivering practical work-based learning courses, we are offering new Healthcare Apprenticeships that will address these issues, and to develop health and social care practitioners, and associates through the new Apprenticeship Levy.

The FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Nursing) aims to enable you to:

- Develop an understanding of the professional knowledge, skills, attitudes and attributes required of a health care practitioner when delivering safe and effective person-centred nursing care.
- Act with integrity and adhere to professional values.
- Competently practise fundamental health care skills with knowledge and understanding of associated evidence based theory.

Successful completion of the course will also offer you a seamless transition into the final 22 months of the BSc (Hons) Nursing to become a Registered Nurse in Adult or Child Care or Mental Health with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

The following information will outline what and how you will be studying the FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Nursing), and how you will benefit from it. I hope you find it useful.

Clare Fazackerley
Degrees at Work, Anglia Ruskin University

2. Is this degree for me?

The **FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Nursing) Higher Apprenticeship** is designed to blend learning with employment, and so you can apply the skills you've learned immediately to your work. Mapped to the Healthcare Assistant Practitioner Apprenticeship Standard at Level 5, successful completion of the FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Nursing) will equip you to work as highly skilled assistant practitioner within your organisation.

Whether you are a school or college leaver, level 3-4 apprentice or are an existing staff member at Band 2/3 looking to progress your career, this course is for you.

3. Why Anglia Ruskin University?

Anglia Ruskin University is based in Cambridge and Chelmsford and is one of the foremost universities in the UK for work-based learning. We have developed teaching methods and specialist teaching teams that will enable students to learn in a dynamic and supportive environment.

The university has a history of providing innovative courses, and an established reputation for delivering relevant and highly practicable learning programmes for working people. We work with clients such as Harrods, Barclays Bank, Specsavers, the RAF and the NHS to design work-based training that develops their employees' skills and enhances their contribution to their workplace.

In total there are 55 universities in England offering Nursing Degrees. In the Nursing Times *Best and Worst universities for Nursing*, Anglia Ruskin are rated the highest in the East of England.

In 2016 the Government introduced the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) to recognise and reward excellent teaching, learning environment and student outcomes in UK higher education providers. Anglia Ruskin are delighted to have been awarded Silver.

You'll study in an exciting, modern faculty which has strong links with regional, national and international organisations, including healthcare trusts, social services, local and regional authorities, schools and academic institutions.

4. How will I benefit from the course?

You will engage with the concepts of reflective practice and evidence based practice to inform the delivery of safe and effective person-centred nursing care and develop the skills and attributes required for inter-professional team working, maintaining professional relationships, and acknowledge the contribution of a collaborative and integrated approach to care; recognising service users as partners in their care.

5. How is the course taught?

The course is delivered in conjunction with employers and includes work-based learning. You will therefore be supported in your work setting and developing within your existing role. All modules relate to nursing practice and you will be applying theory to practice.

Emphasis is on you applying theory to practice and vice versa. A range of learning approaches will be used for the theoretical component consisting of; face to face, on-line learning and workbooks. Development in practice will be via reflection, practice booklets, portfolios and personal development planning. You will be a student for one day per week either attending face to face sessions or working on practice competencies in a Health Care setting. The rest of your time you are an employee and will be applying your learning as part of your role.

Our online learning management system (LMS) offers a range of learning methods that include tutor-led online group discussions, review of texts and case studies, and reflective activities. You will develop skills such as critical thinking, decision making, communication, team working, leadership, problem solving, teaching and clinical skills for safe and effective practice.

Reflective activities are used to encourage you to bring issues from your workplace setting to the online forums for discussion with your peers.

You will acquire the knowledge and skills to support your team in providing quality care, as well as transferrable skills and professional values required within your role to ensure that the safety of the public remains paramount.

6. Will I have to attend the University's campus?

Yes. While much of the course content is self-directed and can be accessed at any time that suits you online via our Learning Management System (LMS), you will be required to attend face to face workshops each week during term time. This is a mandatory requirement.

Our course is delivered at both our Chelmsford and Cambridge campuses – you'll study from the campus that is most convenient for you.

You will also be entitled to use the University's facilities for the duration of your course such as the Library, Counselling Service, Students' Union, IT Services and Careers Service, even from a distance, and you'll be able to use the campus gym facilities when on site.

NB It is the responsibility of you and your employer to cover additional costs such as travel or accommodation expenses.

7. When does the course start?

The course commences in September and January each year.

8. How long will the course take?

The course is part-time over 20 months and has been specifically structured to meet the needs of the employer, to reflect the theory and practice components and allow more time to be spent in practice. Submission dates are in line with the university academic requirements.

9. Course Structure

FDSC ASSISTANT PRACTITIONER (NURSING) MODULE TITLE AND CREDIT DETAIL

Year 1	
Module 1 (30 credits) Fundamental Knowledge for Health Care Practice	Module 3 (30 credits) Knowledge and Values for Health Care Practice
Module 2 (30 credits) Fundamental Skills for Health Care Practice	Module 4 (30 credits) Clinical Skills for Health Care Practice Medicine calculations for safe practice 1 (0 credit)

Year 2	
Module 5 (60 credits) Work-based Learning in Health Care	Module 6 Field specific modules (60 credits) Contemporary Issues in Adult Health Care Engaging in Mental Health Care Contemporary Issues in Children’s and Young People’s Health Care

10. What will I study?

Fundamental Knowledge for Health Care Practice (30 credits)

This theory module will be delivered at the beginning of the course to prepare you for all areas of nursing care. Understanding the importance of patient safety is a key strand within this module and you will be introduced to your responsibilities in maintaining patient safety, the safeguarding of vulnerable people and the key drivers underpinning this.

You will also be introduced to the Health Care Support Worker Code of Conduct (2013) and the professional and NHS Constitution values required for health care practice. A range of communication and study skills will be central to your experience, as will the development of knowledge in relation to human anatomy and physiology.

Understanding the concept of health and an introduction to the prevention of ill-health and promotion of healthy behaviours will prepare you to recognise the health care professional's role in public health.

Recognising that for many you this will be your first experience of Higher Education, study skills such as identifying personal learning styles, literature searching, preparing reference lists, presentation skills, reflective practice, understanding marking criteria and using feedback will be addressed. You will also be supported to identify types of literature and evidence to support care provision /practice.

To support the early development of team working skills, you' understanding of personal, lay and professional perspectives of health be will assessed through a team presentation. Bioscience knowledge will be assessed through a multi-choice exam.

Fundamental Skills for Health Care Practice (30 credits)

The module focuses on the five cluster skills (adapted from the NMC 2010):

- Care, compassion and communication
- Organisational aspects of care
- Infection prevention and control
- Nutrition and fluid management
- Medicines management

You will also be assessed on your inter-personal and professional attributes reflecting the 6Cs:

- Care
- Compassion
- Competence
- Communication
- Courage
- Commitment

In addition you will complete a pledge linked to the 6Cs and supervisors will approach service users for feedback on your performance.

As part of the practice element, you will identify a patient's journey and explore other services related to that journey.

The taught component will include portfolio development. You and supervisors will be supported in practice by the module leader, Education Champions and link tutors.

Knowledge and Values for Health Care Practice (30 credits)

The Francis Report (2013) and Patients Association (2015) highlight the importance of delivering individualized care that responds to human needs rather than system-driven protocols. In response to this, you will be supported to understand the significance of prioritising patients as central to the role of a health care worker. Person-centred care will be further addressed through the exploration of patient autonomy and patients' rights. The concepts of advocacy (including raising concerns) and candour will also be studied to provide you with an understanding of the legal and ethical parameters that support the delivery of safe care.

The module will build on knowledge of bioscience and clinical skills to further enhance delivery of safe and fundamental care. Communication skills are also important in this endeavour and will be considered across a range of service user groups including those with sensory impairment, learning difficulties and dementia.

Exploring health inequalities and health behaviours will further provide you with insight into the challenges faced by individuals in managing their health.

Your understanding of values based health care and the professional knowledge used to deliver safe care will be assessed through a written reflection and bioscience knowledge will be assessed through a multi-choice exam.

Clinical Skills for Health Care Practice (30 credits)

This Module is intended to equip you with the underpinning knowledge and practical clinical skills for practice as Senior Health care support workers/ Assistant Practitioners. You will receive a combination of lectures and clinical skills sessions to link the theory of the anatomy and physiology of the body with core skills and observations. You will develop these skills in clinical settings, where appropriate, or through simulation within the Skills laboratory.

The clinical skills relate to the BSc (Hons) RN curricula to support the step-on to the BSc course following completion of the FdSc. As you are employed in health care settings, mandatory training is provided in-house for Moving and Handling, basic life support and in hospital life support, and therefore these are not included.

Supported by a strong evidence-base from core texts by simulation within the clinical skills labs, you will develop confidence and understanding of your role in supporting patient healing and working within a multi-disciplinary team to support patient outcomes.

The module will equip you with the basic skills for managing adult, child and mental health patients within a clinical setting, including: clinical intervention and acute deterioration management.

Underpinning all aspects of the module will be the NHS Constitution, the 6Cs, the Recommendations from the Willis Report (2015) and the Health care Support Worker Code of Conduct (2013).

The assessment for the module is a portfolio/work-book demonstrating development of clinical skills and relevant underpinning knowledge.

Work-based Learning in Health Care (30 credits)

This module enables you to develop your role in your own area of practice. The module looks at developing a range of skills including: risk assessment, managing quality of care, teaching and assessing others and the development of knowledge and skills related to the work setting. The module will include core content related to clinical governance, teaching and assessing and management of change.

Understanding the place of clinical governance, standard setting and audit in providing and maintaining quality care for service users is important to all health care professionals. Risk assessment and management are equally as important in supporting patient safety and you will have the opportunity to consider how patient safety may be enhanced through carrying out clinical audits and evaluating existing provision against evidence based standards. Approaches to change management will be explored through devising an action plan addressing an area of service development.

Teaching and assessing others whether it be new members of staff, health care assistants or others, is a key aspect of developing health care practice. Theory underpinning what makes a good learning environment and the use of formative and summative assessment will be explored. In addition, you will identify areas for development within your own area of practice, guided by your employer.

The assessment of the module consists of a portfolio of evidence which will include: personal development plan; service improvement action plan, report of an audit, reflection on teaching and assessing a colleague and how you have developed leadership and management skills relevant to scope of practice.

Field Specific: Contemporary Issues in Adult Health Care (60 credits)

This module will provide the opportunity to develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of the pathophysiology, pharmacology, ethical and legal issues and challenges faced by those affected by long term and life limiting conditions. Effective integrated care is critical to the patient experience and you will explore the impact of national drivers from a theoretical and practice based perspective, with a focus on the use and effectiveness of care pathways.

Preventing the development of long term conditions and life-threatening disease, promoting health and wellbeing and supporting adults with long term conditions to live well independently are key aspects of the nurse's role. You will explore the concept of empowerment and the factors (psychological, physiological, social-economic and genomic) influencing a person's health choices and readiness for change. With understanding of national policy and the 'Framework for Personalised Care and Population Health for Nurses, Midwives, Health Visitors and Allied Health Professionals' (DH, 2014) you will be expected to engage with the importance of nurses as health promoting practitioners, delivering person-centred care and Making Every Contact Count (MECC) (DH, 2014).

The assessment for this module requires you to take a case study approach and consider the patient journey, analysing the effectiveness of integrated care for a patient with a long term condition or life shortening illness. You will complete practice competencies within your work setting.

Field Specific: Engaging in Mental Health Care (60 credits)

This module will explore the nature of mental illness and mental health nursing practice within a biopsychosocial, cultural and historical context. You will be asked to identify and explore both the purpose and process of assessment and care planning with people using mental health services. It intends to challenge you pre-existing values, beliefs and opinions and aims to facilitate the development of core principles that support a philosophy of recovery led and service user focused care across the lifespan.

The module is designed to be accessed through either face-to-face or work-based learning delivery patterns, and will be assessed via a case study. You will complete practice competencies within your own work setting.

Field Specific: Contemporary Issues in Children's and Young People's Health Care (60 credits)

This theory and practice module will build on existing knowledge and experience to explore contemporary issues in child nursing across a wide range of areas. It will support you to develop an understanding of the assessment needs of children and young people which will enable them to plan and deliver care in a variety of different practice areas. The importance of assessment, communication and partnership within an inter professional framework of care will be emphasised as the basis for developing the skills, knowledge and attitudes required to meet the needs of children, young people and your families/carers. The module will explore the developmental, emotional, physical, social and spiritual needs of children and young people and the importance of the explicit knowledge required to deliver holistic family centred care.

The factors that may impact on the health and wellbeing of children across a variety of settings will be considered during this module. You will explore the factors which enable and those which inhibit children and young people from achieving your innate potential, taking into account your cultural, spiritual, emotional, physical, intellectual, developmental and social needs. If children's nurses are to give effective care to children you must respect your rights and consider the needs of the whole family, ensuring that what you offer is designed to meet the children's expectations and needs.

You will evaluate the role of the children's nurse, focussing on the implications for children and young people living in contemporary society. The children's nurse's role in health promotion and the local, national and international policy which influence strategies and initiatives will be considered. Understanding how research, health care legislation and policy determine best practice for children's nurses will support you to examine practice and approach change in a dynamic way. Simulated skills will take place.

The assessment of this module involves a child /young person and family led case study, reviewing the development and wellbeing of the child/ young person and your family and opportunities for children's nurses to become involved in promoting the health of the family unit. You will complete practice competencies within your work setting.

11. How is the course assessed?

Assessment will be through a range of strategies and will include essays, online presentations, multiple choice tests, case studies, portfolios and practice assessment.

Please note that deadlines for submission of assignments are strictly enforced at the University.

In addition to the on-programme assessments for each module, the endpoint assessment must be undertaken to complete the Higher Apprenticeship. This takes place during the final three months of the Foundation Degree and comprises the following components:

- a) A multiple choice and short answer test
- b) An observation of practice undertaken in the workplace
- c) A reflective journal completed by the apprentice
- d) An interview

These elements are carried out by independent assessors who will be identified from the register of assessors (RoAAO). Time will be allocated to guide you in the process.

a) A multiple choice and short answer test

This assesses the following knowledge components of the apprenticeship standard:

1. Principles and philosophy of health and social care
2. Physiology, organisation and function of the human body
3. Lifespan developments and healthcare needs from prenatal to end of life/bereavement
4. Research and development in the health and social care sector to inform and improve quality of care
5. Provision and promotion of holistic person centred care and support, duty of care and safeguarding of individuals
6. Importance of the strategic environment in health and social care and the implications for the individual
7. Importance of current evidence based practice within scope of the role

b) An observation of practice undertaken in the workplace

The apprentice must be able to:

1. Communicate complex sensitive information through a variety of methods
2. Manage information, keeping accurate records and ensuring confidentiality
3. Use and promote a range of techniques to prevent the spread of infection including hand hygiene, the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and waste management
4. Promote and maintain a safe and healthy working environment
5. Identify and manage risks
6. Demonstrate and promote what it means in practice to provide person centred care and support
7. Treat people with dignity, respecting individual's diversity, beliefs, culture, values, needs, privacy and preferences
8. Show respect and empathy for those you work with; have the courage to challenge areas of concern and work to best practice; be adaptable, reliable and consistent;
9. Show discretion and self-awareness
10. Promote effective inter-professional and multi-disciplinary team working with peers, colleagues and staff from other agencies
11. Provide appropriate leadership within the scope of the role
12. Undertake defined clinical or therapeutic interventions appropriately delegated by a Registered Practitioner

c) A reflective journal completed by the apprentice

This is completed by the apprentice in the three months leading up to the end point assessment. The apprentice reflects on the development of the following components from the apprenticeship standard:

1. Case Management
2. Supervision and Teaching

The reflective account must also include evidence of the values and behaviours being applied in the context of case management and supervision and teaching.

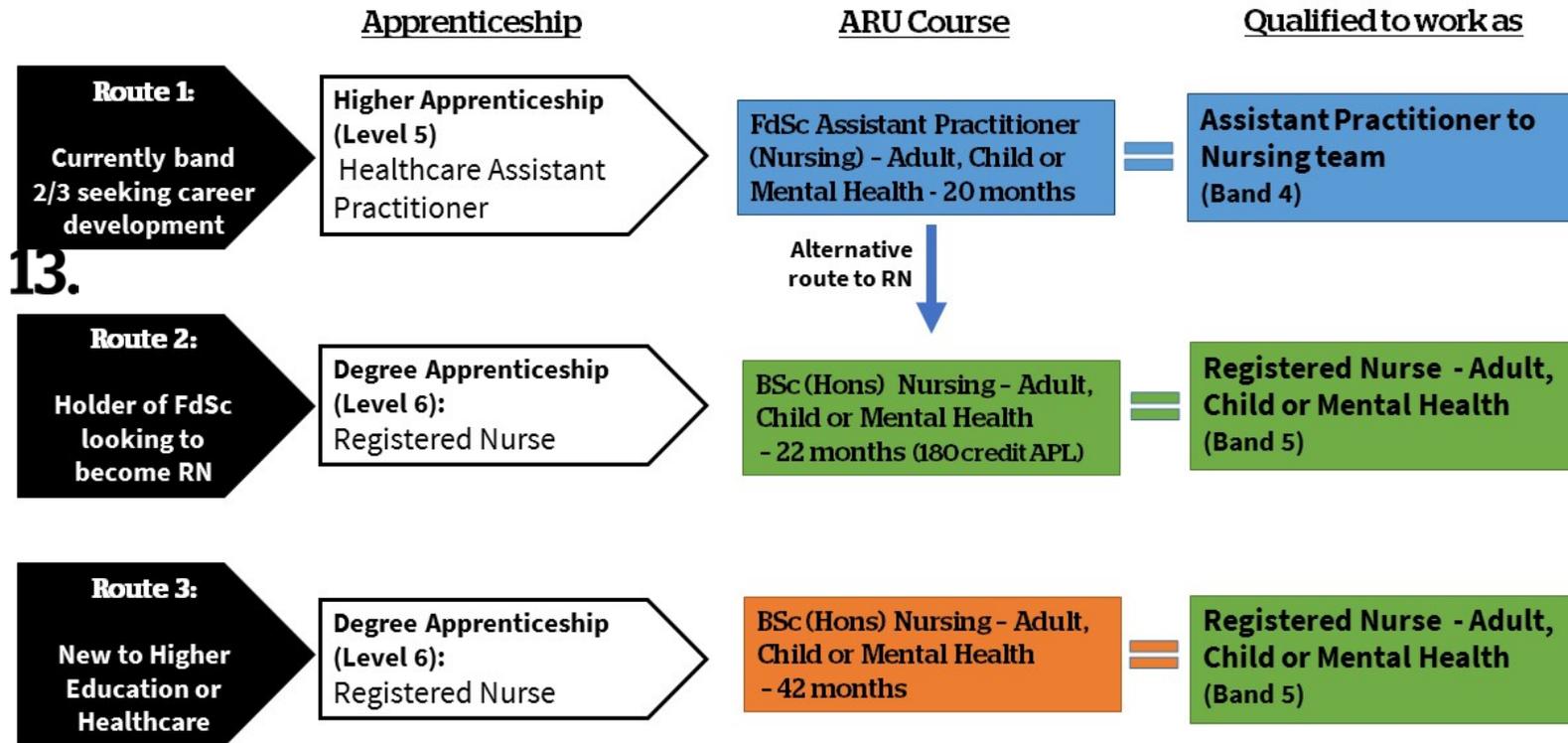
d) An interview

The final interview takes the form of a professional discussion to enable the apprentice to further showcase their knowledge, skills and behaviours.

The assessor selects the areas they wish to explore with the apprentice after reviewing responses to the multiple choice /short answer test, the reflective journal and the outcome of the observation of practice.

12. Career Options

Routes to Nursing careers via Higher and Degree Apprenticeships



13.

Upon completion of the FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Nursing) you will have the option to transfer to the Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship route at Level 6, you'll follow a seamless transition into the specialist fields of Adult, Mental Health and Child nursing and onto NMC Registration in a straightforward "step on, step off" structure.

FdSc Assistant Practitioner (HA)

Degrees at Work 01245 686707

13. What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the personal specifications for the apprenticeship role that have been set out by your employer, these are the **entry requirements** for the FdSc course.

- You will be either an experienced Health Care Assistant or similar and substantively contracted to work for a minimum of 30 hours per week
- Your employer has confirmed their supported for you to undertake the course.
- You will need to provide evidence:
 - FE Level 3 (A Level or equivalent)*
 - Level 2 Maths and English
 - Demonstrate a good command of written and spoken English
 - Care Certificate (Health) or equivalent health care experience (essential)
 - Evidence of good health and character through an enhanced Disclosure Barring Service check (no more than 6 months old) and a statement of Good Health
 - Two references – employment and personal.

If you do not have these qualifications, you will be considered on an individual basis and may be asked to demonstrate literacy* by writing a short essay.

*Applicants with experience of health care will be considered on an individual basis for accreditation of prior learning (APL)/prior experiential learning (APEL).

Applications will be via a joint process with ARU and the employer. All short-listed applicants will be interviewed.

Applicants from outside the European Economic Area must provide evidence of achievement of the English Language Testing System (IELTS) test: at least 6.0 in the listening and reading sections, at least 6.0 in the writing and speaking sections and at least an overall score of 6.0.

NB If you are intending to progress to the Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship in the future, IELTS test scores of 6.5 are required across all sections). You will be asked undertake a numeracy test and writing an essay as standard before continuing with your Level 6 study.

If you have any questions about these entry requirements, please speak to your employer first.

14. What other skills are needed?

Working for a Foundation Degree is a big commitment, so you will also need to be motivated, well organised and have self-belief, determination and a willingness to learn. You'll need to have access to a web-enabled PC, and be able to use the Internet, Microsoft Office (especially Word and Powerpoint) with confidence.

15. What books will I need?

As part of the course you will be expected to read extracts from a variety of sources such as books, journal articles, reports etc. Most of these will be freely available online through Anglia Ruskin University Library, although in some instances you may prefer to purchase a key course textbook. All learning resources are available in electronic format.

You will be advised of any recommended books well in advance and tutors will point you towards relevant sources of information throughout the course.

16. How will the students support each other through the course?

We believe success on the course will be enhanced through bringing the students together to create a supportive community of learners. The structure of the course has been designed to encourage active participation and mutual support in order to build a community of learners and enable you to maximise the learning opportunities across the group.

While you will meet you and colleagues during face to face sessions on campus, you will keep in touch not only with tutors but other you studying the same modules as you.

Discussion boards and online forums encourage you to exchange any ideas or issues you face with other you, enabling you to draw on others experiences in a variety of backgrounds.

There are a variety of ways you can engage with others from text-based tool to audio or video. This can be either instantly with real time messaging systems or time delayed through email and discussion forums.

17. What support will I get from the university?

While you will need to take full responsibility for your own studies, you will have plenty of support to guide you in your success, including one to one online academic tutor support within each module, Distance Learning Facilitators, and Student Advisers.

Student services offers you help with academic advice and support, personal support, and improving your study skills as well as interview techniques and advice to help with promotion opportunities.

Study Skills Plus sessions offer one to one appointments and online resources such as:

- Academic Writing
- Maths and Numeracy
- Organisational Skills
- Critical Thinking
- IT Skills
- Presentation Skills
- Resourcing

Furthermore, you can access additional drug numeracy support through online tutorials including various online tutorials and a free app compatible with iphone, ipad and ipod.

Academic staff support you in practice placement and are linked to the employer. You will be supported by:

- **Course Leads:** Individual to each course and responsible for managing the course, ensuring learning outcomes and QA processes are met during the delivery, and monitoring student development

- **Director of Practice:** who leads on quality and governance of practice learning environment
- **Education Champion:** supports effective communication between the employer and ARU and ensures that any student issues are resolved promptly.
- **Clinical Educators:** supports health care you in practice
- **Link Teams members:** academic tutors who support learners in practice.

18. What are the fees?

The fees are covered by your employer and the Government. You will not be required to pay anything yourself, or take out a tuition fee loan. You are however responsible for travel to and from the campus and other learning venues.

19. How do I apply?

Your employer will provide you with a link to start your application, and we will guide you through the process on the contact details below.

20. Who do I contact with any questions?

Please contact Clare Fazackerley, Degrees at Work, Anglia Ruskin University on 01223 698423 or 07867 373340, or email clare.fazackerley@anglia.ac.uk.