

University of
South Wales
Prifysgol
De Cymru

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PREPARE TO CARE

Nursing, Midwifery & Allied Health Degrees

CONTENTS

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU

Make the biggest difference	3
Key skills and values	4

HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Adult Nurse	6
Children's Nurse	7
Learning Disability Nurse	8
Mental Health Nurse	9
Midwife	10
Operating Department Practitioner (ODP)	11
Occupational Therapist	12
Physiotherapist	13

PREPARE TO APPLY

Improve your application	14
Why USW?	16
Funding your study	18
Admissions	19
Student life and support	20
Student story	21
Our facilities	22
Application checklist	23

PREPARE TO CARE

Discover healthcare study at USW:
southwales.ac.uk/healthcare



IT'S TIME TO CHOOSE WHERE YOU CAN MAKE THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE



There are many specialist healthcare professions, each requiring different skills and strengths.

This booklet highlights what kind of person is needed for each role, to help you decide which path to take and understand where you can make the biggest difference to those who need your care.

By focusing on your abilities and experience in relation to what is required for your chosen role, your personal statement and application to study will be much stronger. You'll be able to demonstrate that you have what it takes and make your application the best it can be.

WHO YOU ARE IS AS IMPORTANT AS WHAT YOU KNOW

The NHS has six key values, which applicants need to demonstrate when applying for a healthcare course. A large part of your studies will take place in clinical practice, so it's essential that students reflect and uphold these values in everything they do.

1

Working together for patients: patients come first in everything we do.

2

Respect and dignity: every person is valued as an individual, whether that's a patient, their families or carers.

3

Commitment to quality of care: we insist on quality and strive to get safety, effectiveness and patient experience right every time.

4

Compassion: this is central to the care we provide, responding with humanity and kindness to each person's pain, distress, anxiety or need.

5

Improving lives: we strive to improve health and wellbeing.

6

Everyone counts: we make sure nobody is excluded, discriminated against or left behind.

In this booklet you'll see that different personal strengths and qualities are needed for different healthcare roles, but they all have these core values in common.

So to be an effective healthcare professional in any discipline, you need to be motivated to help others, able to take responsibility, be a teamworker, be good at listening and communicating, keep learning, have a positive attitude and be trustworthy.



EVERYONE COUNTS

ADULT NURSE

Adult nurses need a special combination of compassion and organisation to care for people and improve their quality of life. It's not easy work, so you'll need a true commitment to helping adolescents and adults with a range of health issues and challenges.

Good communication skills are essential, as well as the ability to build trusting relationships and treat people with dignity and respect.



IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR

CHILDREN'S NURSE

Caring for newborns to adolescents, you'll need to extend your thoughtfulness and compassion to also care for their families. Excellent listening and communication skills are vital, so you can include everyone in the decisions you make and inform the care you provide.

With a genuine enjoyment of working with children and a commitment to their wellbeing and development, children's nurses can make a difference now and long into the future.

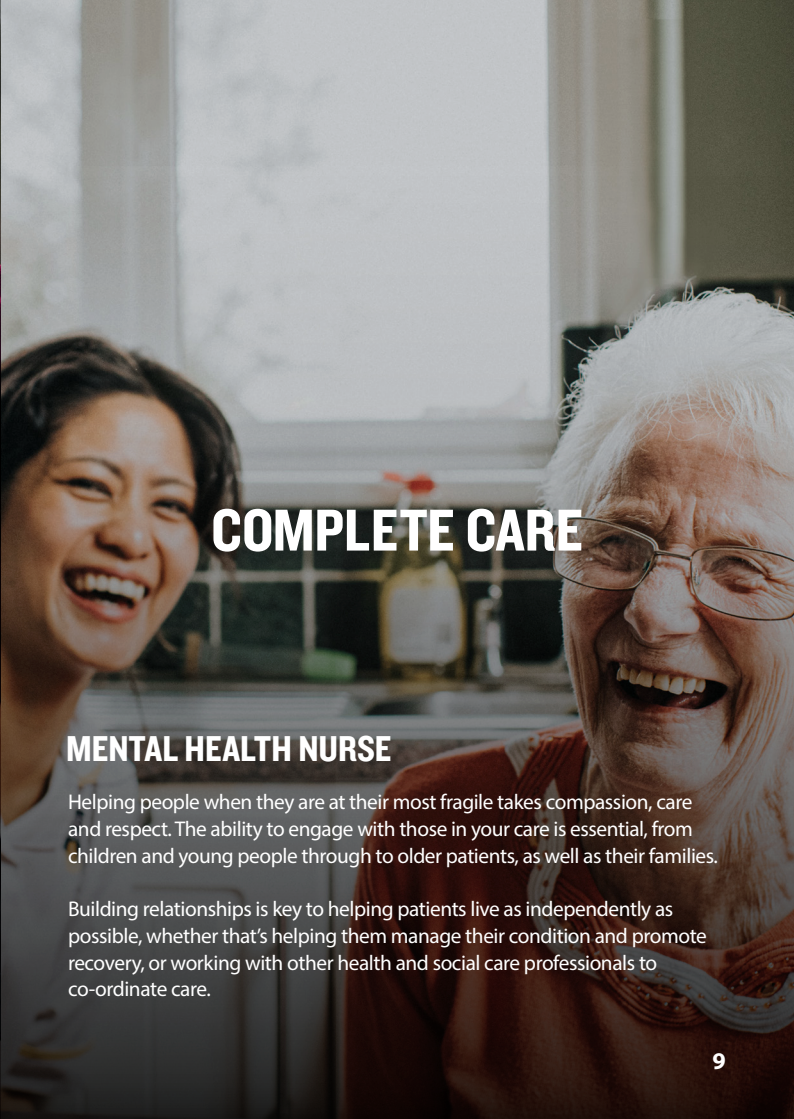


CARING, COMPASSIONATE AND COMMITTED

LEARNING DISABILITY NURSE

Learning disability nurses need a fundamental commitment to social inclusion for vulnerable people, and to promoting the rights of those in their care.

This is specialist healthcare that requires you to really get to know people in your care who are affected by learning disabilities, so that with compassion and creativity, you can tailor your support to help them live an independent and fulfilling life.



COMPLETE CARE

MENTAL HEALTH NURSE

Helping people when they are at their most fragile takes compassion, care and respect. The ability to engage with those in your care is essential, from children and young people through to older patients, as well as their families.

Building relationships is key to helping patients live as independently as possible, whether that's helping them manage their condition and promote recovery, or working with other health and social care professionals to co-ordinate care.



A LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY

MIDWIFE

Patience, the instinct to care for others and good observation skills will serve you well as a midwife. But it's your emotional and mental strength that will make you great.

USW is Nursing and Midwifery Council approved, so you'll graduate from us as a qualified midwife. We will support you, challenge you and guide you, doing everything we can so that you're ready to offer expert care to those who will rely upon it.



COOL, CALM AND COLLECTED

OPERATING DEPARTMENT PRACTITIONER (ODP)

Patient support, safety and welfare are at the heart of this role. It requires people who are good at communicating and able to provide respectful care.

Experts of the operating theatre, ODPs work in tandem with anaesthetists and surgeons to support patients and families before, during and after surgery. The ability to react well in difficult situations is key, with strong observation skills to anticipate the needs of your patients and colleagues.

A close-up photograph of an occupational therapist, a woman with dark hair, leaning over and smiling as she helps a young child with a wide-brimmed hat. They are working together to plant soil into a small, rustic wooden bowl. The background is a bright, out-of-focus garden with green foliage.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE EVERYDAY, EVERY DAY

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Occupational therapists work with people who find everyday meaningful activities, 'occupations', difficult to do because of personal illness or disability, or because of environmental barriers such as homelessness. They work with people to tackle challenges and could, for example, support them with learning in school, going to work, taking part in hobbies or simply brushing their teeth.

An eagerness to listen, hear and enable people to live their best lives is essential in occupational therapy.

A photograph of a physiotherapist, a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a grey polo shirt. He is sitting on a table and holding a patient's leg, examining the knee and ankle. The patient is wearing a black sneaker. The background shows a bright, modern interior with large windows.

WITH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Physiotherapists are there to be supportive and encouraging during each person's journey in reaching their potential. Excellent communication and people skills are needed to explain conditions and treatments, with strong planning skills needed to deliver them.

Beyond the hands-on approach physiotherapists are compassionate communicators yet proactive motivators, who enable individuals to thrive and achieve the seemingly impossible.

IMPROVE YOUR APPLICATION

The personal statement is a key aspect of the selection process; it's your opportunity to explain to us why you want to do the course you have chosen, what has inspired you to choose that role, and to demonstrate the skills and qualities you have that suit that role.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO MAKE YOUR APPLICATION AND PERSONAL STATEMENT STRONGER:



Research and preparation – we strongly advise applicants to focus on a preferred discipline.



Demonstrate an insight and clear understanding of your chosen profession and how you are suited to this.



Provide evidence that shows you have a clear understanding of the course you're applying for.



Convince those reviewing your application that your motivations for studying a particular course are based on thorough research and knowledge of the subject.



Demonstrate that you understand and are committed to the NHS key values (see page 4).



Include details that are relevant to your application, eg, previous training or transferable skills. If you have studied or started a course with us previously, you must state this on your application too.



We expect you to have attended a USW Open Day before submitting your application.

YOU'VE GOT THIS HERE'S HOW USW WILL HELP YOU MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR POTENTIAL



1

Our graduates are ready for real life: by learning in the classroom and the workplace, you'll know how to care for those who need your support and have the right training to register as a professional.

2

Be part of a diverse community of learners, who all bring their skills, strengths and experiences to create a rich learning environment you won't find anywhere else.

3



Incredible facilities on campus: prepare for your placement with practical learning in a safe space.

4



Affordable study with tuition fee bursaries, plus grants to support you while you're on placement.

5



Exceptional support from experienced practitioners, people who will help you build on your strengths, learn new skills and start the career you've always dreamed of.

DON'T LET MONEY GET IN YOUR WAY

The need for skilled healthcare professionals is greater than ever. That's why places on our healthcare courses are currently funded by the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme.

This NHS funding package covers all your course fees, as well as offering grants, bursaries and loans to help with living and travel costs while you study.

To receive this funding, students have to commit to working in Wales for two years after completing their degree. You can find out more on the student money pages of our website, or on the NHS Wales website.

Please note you can choose standard student funding packages instead of NHS support, if you would prefer to do so.

Visit our website for details of all fees and funding options for healthcare students: southwales.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding/healthcare



YOU ARE MORE THAN YOUR GRADES



At USW, we have always taken your whole application into account.

We look beyond your grades and see the person behind the application. We consider your personal statement, your reference and your grades. This helps us build a picture of the type of student you will be and the healthcare professional you can become.

We encourage you to tell us about your skills, strengths and experiences that are relevant to your chosen role as part of your personal statement when you apply. You'll find more advice on page 14.

STUDENT LIFE AND SUPPORT

20

At USW, you'll be part of a supportive environment for studying and living, where new students quickly feel at home.

We know the work you will have to do isn't easy, so we're always here for you. There's a support network made up of experienced staff, a personal tutor, and a course and placement team, who all have an open door support policy.

USW has a diverse and welcoming community, so whether you've just finished your A levels or are returning to education, you'll find people just like you, who share your interests, beliefs, and motivations.



STUDENT CASE STUDY

RHYS PERRY
BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult)



“The support you receive at this University is second to none and the facilities on offer are first class.

The blended approach between theory and practical skills means everything I've learned in a classroom I've been able to put into practice in the Simulation Centre and out in a clinical environment.”

21

PRACTICE MAKES THE BEST PRACTITIONERS

Students prepare for clinical practice in our Simulation Centre on campus. It's a safe space where you can learn the skills you'll need out in the workplace.

The Centre emulates hospital and community settings to provide hands-on training in role-play scenarios. Here, you'll deal with everything from essential clinical skills to complex, multidisciplinary clinical scenarios.

You'll use the same equipment found in healthcare settings and, depending on the scenario, you'll work with actors and patient simulators that mimic the body's reaction to illness, care and treatment.



APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Research and preparation are key to a successful application, so here is a checklist:



Research the professions and courses available.



Attend an Open Day at USW.



Choose your discipline.



Decide whether to apply for the NHS funding package.



Make sure your personal statement evidences NHS values, as well as your understanding of and suitability for the role you're applying for.



Don't apply for a deferred place.



Include a reference with your application, not just the referee's details.



Apply for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check following an invitation from us to do so.

COURSES

BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult)

Full-time study – 3 years to qualify

BSc (Hons) Nursing (Child)

Full-time study – 3 years to qualify

BSc (Hons) Nursing (Learning Disabilities)

Full-time study – 3 years to qualify

BSc (Hons) Nursing (Mental Health)

Full-time study – 3 years to qualify

BSc (Hons) Midwifery

Full-time study – 3 years to qualify

BSc (Hons) Operating Department Practice (ODP)

Full-time study – 3 years to qualify

BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy

Part-time study – 4 years to qualify

BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy

Part-time study – 4 years to qualify

A flexible part-time route to study Nursing over four years is available to applicants currently employed as healthcare support workers.



**DISCOVER HOW TO TRAIN FOR
YOUR TOMORROW, TODAY.**
SOUTHWALES.AC.UK/HEALTHCARE

Information in this booklet is correct at the time of print (June 2022), but may be subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, call or check our website.

As part of its commitment to the Welsh language, the University provides information through the medium of Welsh. To find out more, visit: www.decymru.ac.uk

Fel rhan o'i ymrwymiad at yr iaith Gymraeg, y mae'r Brifysgol yn darparu gwybodaeth drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. I wybod mwy, ewch i: www.decymru.ac.uk

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