1. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. **Programme Title:** MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice  
2. **Final Award:** MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice  
3. **Exit Awards:** PgC Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice  
                            PgD Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice  
4. **Awarding Body:** Glasgow Caledonian University  
5. **Approval Date:** 27th March 2015  
6. **School:** Health & Life Sciences  
7. **Host Division/Dept:** Department of Nursing and Community Health  
8. **UCAS Code:** N/A  
9. **PSB Involvement:** N/A  
10. **Place of Delivery:** Glasgow Caledonian University  
11. **Subject Benchmark Statement:** N/A  
12. **Dates of PSP preparation/revision:** N/A
2. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

The MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice aims to develop the capability of post-qualified nurses to meet the current and future political, clinical and organisational challenges associated with delivering safe and effective advancing practice. The programme’s intention is to provide high quality educational experiences to enable first level post-qualified nurses to acquire the requisite knowledge, skills and professional attributes associated with advancing professional nursing practice. The programme recognises that advancing nursing practice is a continuous process, predicated on developing and expanding nursing knowledge and skills to underpin decision-making and problem-solving in challenging and complex healthcare situations. Therefore, this programme has been developed to be professionally relevant and academically challenging in order to meet the contemporary and evolving demands of care delivery.

Using a range of dynamic and stimulating intra-professional and inter-professional learning opportunities, the programme aims to build on students’ existing professional knowledge, skills and attributes to enable them to extend their capabilities. The programme presented for re-approval is intended to support post-qualified nurses in advancing their professional practice and career aspirations. Students who successfully complete relevant core and elective modules and accrue 180 credits will be eligible for the academic Masters award of MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice.

Programme Philosophy
Nationally and internationally, Governments and other key organisations, have acknowledged that the delivery of contemporary healthcare systems will continue to evolve, requiring the contribution and involvement of a highly educated workforce. Crucially, this includes post-qualified nurses who will be expected to act as critical thinkers and problem solvers and as clinical leaders / managers / educators, who advance their own and others’ professional practice in the context of continually changing care delivery and multi-disciplinary working. Students undertaking this programme will actively engage in innovative learning processes which develop personal and professional attributes enabling them to lead developments in practice that focus on improving health outcomes across care boundaries and in a range of dynamic situations. Our vision for the MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice programme is that our graduates will be globally aware; politically astute; and strategically engaged, in order to ensure the continued advancement of professional practice at local, national and international levels.

The educational aims of the MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice programme draw on our leading position as one of the largest nursing departments in Scotland, a globally networked World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Nursing Education, Research and Practice Development and our renown expertise in Applied Health Research, as follows:

1. To provide a flexible, accessible, student-centred educational experience, making effective use of learning technologies to meet the varied needs of students.
The MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice will be located within the School’s Masters Framework for Advancing Practice within which students are supported in developing clear and coherent pathways of study to meet their professional and personal needs. The MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice provides opportunities for students to demonstrate progression and achievement in the following areas:

A Professional Knowledge and Understanding
B Intellectual Skills
C Professional Values, Skills and Attributes
D Transferable/key skills

Each of the aforementioned areas exhibits affinity with each other in representing the expectations of professional learning and development of post-qualified nurses undertaking the MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice. This programme has been specifically designed to provide the opportunity for students to demonstrate these attributes through the achievement of the following intended programme related learning outcomes. The relationship between these areas and modules within MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice is demonstrated within the curriculum map (pages 37 & 38).

This programme will enable first level post-qualified nurses to attain the MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice and as such this programme has been informed, by the following documents:

- SEHD Modernising Nursing Careers (2006)
- NHS Education Scotland Post Registration Career Framework for Nurses, Midwives and AHPs in Scotland (2012)
- Department of Health Advanced Level Nursing: A Position Statement (2010)
The MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice programme will be hosted by the Masters Framework in Advancing Practice. The credit structure for this programme will accord with accumulating 180 Masters level credits by undertaking a combination of mandatory core modules (equaling 90 level 11 credits) and elective modules (equaling 90 level 11 credits). Core modules within this framework involve the study of Research Methods i.e. “Evaluating Evidence to Develop Research and Inform Practice”, and a Research Dissertation project.

The elective modules selected by students require being relevant to the named exit award and selected from the modules hosted by the programme. Students will also have the option, where appropriate, to select modules available within other programmes hosted by Masters Framework in Advancing Practice. This credit structure has been adopted to promote a flexible and responsive programme within the MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice.

**MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice**

To be eligible for the award of MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice the student must attain accreditation of 180 SCQF credit points with a minimum of 150 being attained at Level 11 (GCU Qualification Framework, 2010). All core modules specified within the programme are compulsory (i.e. Evaluating Evidence to Develop Research and Inform Practice and Masters Framework Research Dissertation). In addition to the Masters Research Dissertation which requires to have a focus on advancing nursing practice, to maintain the integrity of the named award, students must select and successfully complete a minimum of 30 credits from modules hosted by this programme (i.e. programme elective modules) and a maximum of 60 credits from other elective modules available within the Masters Framework in Advancing Practice. A worked example of how students might accumulate credit for the named exit award of MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice is identified below. Programme Elective modules, are identified within Appendix 2.

**Other Exit Awards**

Students who wish to exit the programme at an earlier juncture, or who are unable to meet the academic requirements of the MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice may elect to exit with PgD Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice (120 credits) or PgC Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice (60 credits). To maintain the integrity of these named awards, students who wish to exit with PgD Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice must select and successfully complete a minimum of 45 credits from modules, which are specifically hosted by this programme and the Research Methods module (Evaluating Evidence to Develop Research and Inform Practice). Students who wish to exit with PgC Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice must select and successfully complete a minimum of 30 credits from modules, which are specifically hosted by this programme.
Professional Recognition – NMC Teacher and/or Higher Educational Academy Fellow

Fulltime International Students who successfully complete the elective modules entitled “Leading in Education: teaching, learning and assessment in academic practice” and “Education Practice for Health and Social Care” will be eligible to apply to the Higher Education Academy for professional recognition as an HEA Fellow.

Students will be provided with guidance on how to progress conferment of professional recognition on completion of these modules.

Fulltime and Part-time home students, who are current NMC registrants, and wish professional recognition as NMC teacher and HEA Fellow will require registering on and successfully completing the PgC Education in Health and Social Care before moving onto to the MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice programme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scottish Higher Education Masters Level</th>
<th>Credit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MMB723191 Evaluating Evidence to Develop Research and Inform Practice (Core)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMB723450 Quality Improvement to Promote Excellent Practice (Programme Elective)</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMB723473 Recognition of the Acutely Unwell Adult (Programme Elective)</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMB723442 Applied Pathophysiology for Advanced Practice (Programme Elective)</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMB723445 Chronic Heart Failure: Optimising Health from Diagnosis onwards (Programme Elective)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMB722342 Masters Framework Research Dissertation (Core Module)</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exit Award – MSc Nursing: Advancing Professional Practice</td>
<td>180</td>
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8 ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS


With the following Exceptions (applications pending):

Students undertaking programme elective modules which involve more than one assessment component, must pass all components to successfully pass the module which in relation to this programme will be detailed by GCU Exceptions Committee (Case number pending release by Governance and Quality Enhancement).

Programme elective modules which detail an OSCE have, in accordance with departmental practice for modules which clearly learning linked professional and technical skills development for safe and effective clinical nursing practice, a pass mark of 70%, which in relation to this programme will be detailed by GCU Exceptions Committee (Case number pending release by Governance and Quality Enhancement).