



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

# MMedSci Occupational Health Nursing

## ONLINE - INTERACTIVE – INTERNATIONAL

### The programme

Occupational Health Nurses are the largest single group of health professionals delivering health services in the work place across the European Union. This ground-breaking programme provides an excellent opportunity for occupational health nurses to access a specifically designed programme that will enable them to develop knowledge and skills in key areas of their occupational health practice.

This programme was developed through extensive collaboration between European partner organisations supported by a grant to the HOHNEU project from the EU Leonardo da Vinci scheme. It provides an exciting opportunity for occupational health nurses to develop necessary skills and knowledge to address the needs of working populations across the European Union.

The course offers a varied and stimulating research-led learning experience, delivered on-line and through a range of blended learning materials which include high-quality articles; power point presentations; links to relevant online journals; links to a range of relevant web sites; a range of online activities and events including discussion groups and boards, seminars, electronic reflective diary and portfolio.

The course content addresses the central practice and legislative requirements for the development and delivery of occupational health nursing practice. It facilitates students to become reflective autonomous practitioners, with transferable knowledge and skills that will enable them to work alone or as part of multi-disciplinary teams in their specific organisations and country of employment. Mastering the art of reflecting in and on practice is therefore a critical element in the design of the programme and is evidenced in the assessment strategy.

**This course is an academic qualification only, and does not lead to a statutory qualification.**

### Aims

The programme aims to:

1. develop the students' critical understanding of research, policies and practice relating to occupational health nursing practice in a range of organisational contexts;
2. develop students' abilities to conduct rigorous reflection and research which is related to their own professional practice;
3. enable students to engage critically with current research and advanced scholarship in the field of occupational health nursing practice and develop a range of intellectual and transferable skills.

### Length of course

The course is normally conducted part-time over a three year period by online distance learning starting in September of each year. Each academic year consists of 30 study weeks and is split into two semesters lasting 15 study weeks each.

### Structure

Four 15 credit taught units are taken in each of the first two years (two simultaneously in each semester). All units are compulsory. The whole of the third year is taken up by an individual research project supported by University staff and written up as a dissertation worth 60 credits.

### Closing date for applications

The closing date for applications is the end of June preceding commencement of the course. Application is online – follow the links from the programme web pages.

### Entry requirements

- Bachelor's degree normally expected, although accreditation of prior learning for Masters level study is possible.
- Experience of working in occupational health settings
- Access to a PC with a suitable Internet connection
- Basic computer literacy and familiarity with the Internet
- Ability to use the English language must meet the minimum levels set (IELTS 6.5 or equivalent).

### Fees

The annual fee for the academic year commencing in September 2008 has been set at £1500 (UK pounds). Please note that the University of Sheffield does reserve the right to increase fees in line with inflation in subsequent years of study (UK inflation rate currently at approximately 2.1%).

### Contact us:

#### Programme Secretary:

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Further information:  
[www.shef.ac.uk/snm/online](http://www.shef.ac.uk/snm/online)

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# MMedSci Occupational Health Nursing - unit information

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## Unit 1: Becoming a Reflective Practitioner (15 credits)

This Unit will critically analyse practice through concepts of reflexivity and encourages critical thinking about professional knowledge, practice & clinical decision making. The students will gain personal & professional insight through critical analysis and challenge to their own practice.

## Unit 2: History & Development of Occupational Health Nursing (15 credits)

This Unit will analyze the foundations and development of contemporary Occupational Health Nursing practice, including history & principals of Occupational Health nursing, Occupational Health Nursing & workplace disease management, problem solving & the dynamics of Occupational Health Nursing practice.

## Unit 3: Workplace Health Surveillance (15 credits)

The unit will facilitate the critical examination of a range of theoretical, statutory and practical aspects of Occupational Health Nursing as it pertains to worker health; causes of ill health; identification of health hazards; health risk assessment and health surveillance.

## Unit 4: Workplace Environmental Surveillance (15 credits)

The unit will facilitate the critical examination of a range of theoretical, statutory and practical aspects of Occupational Health Nursing, exploring their role in the assessment and management of occupational health risk in workplace environments

## Unit 5: Workplace Health Promotion (15 credits)

This unit will critically review the socio political context and current workplace health policy frameworks for Occupational Health Nursing in the EU. It will critically analyse the effects on professional practice and the outcomes for individuals groups and communities. It will enable nurses to further develop their skills in working with individuals groups and communities to improve health and well being.

## Unit 6: Research Methodology (15 credits)

This unit introduces students to the purpose and principles of both qualitative and quantitative research. The meaning of research terminology is explored. Methodological techniques and practices associated with data collection and analysis are examined. Students develop the knowledge and skills needed to critically appraise, and effectively evaluate, the quality and contribution of research to their own areas of work.

## Unit 7: Occupational Health Nursing Management (15 credits)

The unit will prepare nurses who work as Occupational Health Nurses in the community, to seek out, analyse and implement effective management and leadership skills relevant to their health care practice and the teams in which they work.

## Unit 8: Research Design and Application (15 credits)

Through planning and designing their own research projects, students undertaking this unit are exposed to a range of intellectual and philosophical influences underpinning research. Some of the practical challenges encountered in research are identified and students are encouraged to explore ways of managing and resolving such challenges. The importance of conducting research that is ethically sound and sensitive to the needs of participants is emphasised.

## Unit 9: Research Dissertation (60 credits)

This unit allows the student to undertake a significant research project within the field of Occupational Health Nursing. The focus of the project will be aimed at improving an aspect of clinical practice or policy, thus improving the health care offered to individual's clients or groups. The student and project will be supported by an appropriate academic supervisor. All stages in the management of a research project will be covered from the initial proposal and ethical approval through to the presentation of the findings.

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Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



Harmonising Occupational Health Nursing in EU

Further information: [www.shef.ac.uk/snm/online](http://www.shef.ac.uk/snm/online)