

Proposals for an MSc in Nursing - Additional Information1. Justifications for an MSc in Nursing

- 1.1. There is a need for more able researchers to evaluate nursing practice to develop a more scientific base for the discipline (Briggs Report 1972)
- 1.2. There are many nurse-graduates seeking further study and research opportunities in London (300-400 graduates qualify from shortened nursing courses for graduates or from nursing degree courses each year). At present MSc courses in allied subjects particularly sociology and education attract these students. (Hayward 1982)
- 1.3. There is only one similar course in Great Britain, at Manchester. This caters for senior professionals who are not necessarily graduates.
- 1.4. Nurse training in general is requiring a greater appreciation of the contribution of research. Basic (UKCC) and post basic, (JBCNS) curricula include research modules and research based teaching. However tutors lack a sound understanding of research methods and nursing research studies, necessary for such teaching. (UKCC 1982 Proposed Curriculum)
- 1.5. As funding for full-time postgraduate studies has been reduced (D.H.S.S. Nursing training fellowships have been discontinued) a part-time research and professional course would seem a logical development.
- 1.6. In order to bridge the gap between academic pursuits and nursing practice a course is needed. Clinical, practice research is seen as relevant to most nurses and current nursing thinking will be reflected in the content and debates of this course. (Roper 1977)

- [Briggs Report (1972) Committee on Nursing. HMSO
 Hayward J. (1982) Universities and nursing education. Journal of Advanced Nursing 7 371-377.
 Roper N (1977) Justification and use of research in nursing. Journal of Advanced Nursing 2, 365-371.
 United Kingdom Central Council (1982). Proposed curriculum for general nurse training.]

2. Purpose of the Course

The course aims to:

- 1). Provide an evaluation of the body of research in nursing, its relationship to knowledge and the development of theory.
- 2). Give a comprehensive review of research techniques and their applications in nursing.
- 3). Prepare students to initiate and undertake research.

Students will gain advanced theoretical and applied knowledge in nursing and research methods. They will also develop skills in reviewing literature criticising research reports and in presenting and defending their own ideas for research.

As numbers will not exceed 12 each year most of the sessions will be of participative seminar type. Hours of self study will be expected to equal hours of teaching.

Year 1 will consist of 40 days teaching at the college, students attending an Easter and Summer School of one week each, planned for research exercises with practice in statistics and computer use.

Objectives: on completion of year 1 students will be able to:

- 1) present clear and critical accounts of most established nursing models.
- 2) use theoretical ideas to generate research questions and plan nursing care.
- 3) Assess the relationship between research findings and knowledge in several areas of recent progress.
- 4) Plan and present research proposals, choosing appropriate methods of data collection and analysis.
- 5) Justify ideas for improving care through use of research findings.

Year 11

Each student will have a supervisor for a research project of their own design which involves empirical work in a clinical or work setting of their choice. Projects should reflect the use of theoretical models for design of the question, critiques of related work and choice of data collection methods and analysis.

Students will have 12 months for project work. Fortnightly seminars will be held for presentation and group discussion on students' practical research problems and advanced statistics.

30 days of study in Year II will be scheduled for project work, which includes, seminar and tutorial time. This may appear over generous, but empirical work is very time consuming in social and clinical work and in fact this is a shorter period than that allocated for many undergraduate projects. The Easter and Summer schools will be devoted to advanced statistical sessions, some philosophy lectures and to research presentations by staff (these will not be examined separately).

- Objectives:
- 1) Students' project work should demonstrate an understanding of the relationship of theory to a research question, project design and execution.
 - 2) Practice with data collection and analysis should give a working knowledge of most problems relevant to nursing research.

5. Students

Up to 12 part-time "day release" students will be selected from nurse-graduates working within Greater London.

4. Resource Implications of an MSc in Nursing

Teaching Staff

One of the great attractions of this course is the availability of interested and expert lecturers. All lecturers in nursing studies at Chelsea have research degrees and have expressed their willingness to contribute to the course. Therefore only one additional member of staff would be needed for lecturing for the following additional duties.

- 1) Co-ordination and planning of the teaching sessions
- 2) Liaison with the District Health Authority Nursing Officers in regard to students research projects
- 3) Selection of students

Non nursing lecturers would also be requested to make a contribution. These include philosophers of science and statisticians, as well as some biological science teaching on laboratory research techniques.

Lecture Rooms and Space

A new departmental building in progress will provide excellent seminar and study areas for students.

Library

Research journals and nursing texts are available in the library. A fund for obtaining copies of unpublished research reports may be attracted from outside sources.

5. Sources of Funding

District Health Authorities have already been approached with a view to sponsorship of post graduate nursing students for this course. Course fees and necessary study have been promised for at least 6 students from 2 D.H.As.

A pump priming fund may also be granted by one of the D.H.'s for a full time lecturer for this course.

The Royal Marsden Hospital has also given the services of their Director of Nursing Research for some teaching as an honorary lecturer.

6. Examinations and Assessment

Candidates will take one examination for each of the three courses in September of the first year. 75% marks will be derived from examination and 25% from course work. ~~Course work will include 2 essays, 2 seminar papers, 2 research projects.~~ OUTLINES

Any candidate failing a first year examination may be allowed, at the discretion of the examiners, to proceed to the second year but will be required to retake this examination at the end of the course.