

PGCert

Critical Care

Study mode

Part-time

Duration

12 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

Join us at our Postgraduate Open Events

Meet us on campus or online in March 2026 to find out more about master's degrees and research opportunities at Liverpool.

[Register now](#)

About this course

Develop the key skills and knowledge required to assess, care for and manage critically ill adults. Adopting an evidence-based approach, underpinned by simulated activities and work-based learning, you'll discover how to deliver effective critical care and therapeutic interventions and demonstrate the core competencies applicable to nursing and allied health professionals working in critical care units.

Introduction

Advances in critical care medicine have resulted in seriously ill patients becoming increasingly complex to care for. This has resulted in the need for critical care staff to have a variety of specialised skills, in-depth knowledge and competencies.

This Postgraduate Certificate, informed by the UK standards and recommendations introduced by the Critical Care National Network Nurse Leads, will equip you with the expertise needed to care for critically ill patients independently.

If you're already working in a critical care setting in the UK, we'll guide you through every aspect of the assessment, care and management of critically ill patients. This will include developing your skills in advanced clinical reasoning, critical decision making, problem-solving and communication.

The course includes simulation activities and work-based learning to give you practical experience in assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating therapeutic interventions.

There is a flexible approach to programme delivery, with weekly lectures delivered on-campus and online, so you can choose to attend in-person or remotely as preferred.

The course is based in the School of Allied Health Professions and Nursing. You'll be learning from a multi-professional team of staff who have strong research profiles and are passionate about the improvement of healthcare and service delivery.

Who is this course for?

The programme is suitable for nursing and allied health professionals who are registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), predominantly working in critical care and have completed step 1 critical care competencies with support to complete step 2 and 3 competencies. Or for those registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), working predominantly in critical care and have support to complete the Allied Health Professionals Critical Care Capability framework.

What you'll learn

- Enhanced skills and knowledge in the assessment and care of critically ill adults
- How to conduct a competent assessment of an acutely or critically ill patient
- How to manage a critically ill patient and ensure care is tailored to their specific needs
- How to apply knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology to caring for seriously ill patients
- The Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Disability, Exposure (ABCDE) approach to the assessment and treatment of critically ill patients
- How to assess, plan, implement and evaluate therapeutic interventions
- Decision-making, clinical judgement and problem-solving skills
- Leadership, management and teamwork skills
- How to adopt an evidence-based approach to critical care
- Legal and ethical aspects of critical care.

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>APPLIED PHYSIOLOGY OF THE CRITICALLY ILL PATIENT (HEAL702)</u>	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>MANAGEMENT OF THE CRITICALLY ILL PATIENT (HEAL703)</u>	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Research-connected teaching and active learning are fundamental to this programme. Each module has around 90 contact hours for the theory and

simulation and a further 50 for clinical supervision to assist with the completion of the competencies.

You'll be taught through a combination of weekly interactive lectures, seminars, one-to-one tutorials and group work. These will be complemented by simulated activities and work-based learning to develop your clinical assessment and diagnostic skills and give you practical experience of managing critically ill patients.

Each weekly session is conducted both in-person and over Teams to enable you to participate on campus or remotely. Each session is also recorded to enable revision and catch-up.

How you're assessed

Authentic assessments, designed to mirror real-life tasks that you will be required to undertake in day-to-day practice, are a key feature of the course.

A clinical skills exam, an unseen short answer written exam, an extended literature review and oral presentation are all included in the current assessment methods.

This variety of assessments will enable you to undertake projects and present your findings to your peers. You'll demonstrate your critical thinking skills when assessing clinical situations, implement a robust and well-reasoned plan of action, and evaluate the effectiveness of tasks undertaken.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

The course will develop your critical care knowledge, skills and competencies and enhance your employability with a focus on leadership, management and teamwork.

You'll graduate able to plan and contribute to rehabilitation alongside a wider multidisciplinary team, utilising the latest evidence-based research to inform your practice.

The course is informed by the standards and recommendations for post-registration critical care nurse education introduced by the Critical Care National Network Nurse Leads. This includes a specific suite of core competencies applicable to critical care units.

Your enhanced skills and knowledge will open career progression opportunities in research, education, professional leadership and practice development across a range of critical care areas.

Alternatively, you may wish to progress onto our MSc Nursing.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

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International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this PGCert, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the

required level.

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

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