



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

MSc

Mental Health Nursing with Registered Nurse Status

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

24 months

Apply by: **9 January 2026**

Starts on: **26 January 2026**

About this course

Gain eligibility to apply for professional registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council as a mental health nurse on this pre-registration master's degree. With a grounding in mental health conditions, you'll discover the professional standards for mental health nurses and how to lead the delivery of compassionate care in hospital, forensic and community settings.

Introduction

This two-year master's degree equips you with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes needed to become a mental health nurse.

We'll prepare you to care for individuals across the lifespan, from child and adolescent mental health to conditions such as Alzheimer's.

With an emphasis on evidence-based practice, the programme will reveal the indivisible link between mental and physical ill health. You'll discover the principles of mental health nursing practice, local and global determinants of mental health, and how to manage complex care needs.

Your learning will be brought to life through extensive clinical experience, working with patients in a variety of settings, including inpatient wards and forensic and community settings.

Developed in collaboration with leading healthcare providers in the North West, the programme will be taught by experienced, working and registered practitioners. We'll

help you develop into a caring and compassionate nurse, able to support individuals and their families, and ready to lead and coordinate care as part of a multi-professional team.

On successful completion of the programme, you'll be eligible to apply for professional registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council as a mental health nurse.

Who is this course for?

The programme is a pre-registration award for graduates wanting to study mental health nursing for the first time at Masters level. Please note, it is not a professional development programme for qualified mental health nurses or a conversion course.

What you'll learn

- Professional standards for nurses, midwives and nursing associates, as set out by the Nursing and Midwifery Council
 - Relevant legal, professional regulatory and ethical frameworks
 - Anatomy, physiology, genomics and behavioural sciences
 - Commonly encountered mental health and physical health conditions
 - Local and global determinants of mental health
 - How to assess patient needs and plan, provide and evaluate care
 - How to provide compassionate, evidence-based and person-centred nursing care
 - How to recognise deteriorating health needs
 - Public health principles including the promotion of good health and prevention of ill health
 - Leaderships styles and management skills in mental health nursing
 - Care planning, delivery, interventions and referrals for complex health care needs
 - Collaborative working practices
-

Accreditation

On successful completion of the course, you'll be eligible to apply for professional registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as a mental health nurse. Registration with the NMC is a pre-requisite to practice as a mental health nurse in the UK.

Accreditation in detail

Nursing and Midwifery Council

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) are the independent regulator for nurses and midwives in the UK, and nursing associates in England.

They set the professional standards that nurses, midwives and nursing associates must uphold in order to carry professional registration.

^ [Back to top](#)

Course content

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

Year one

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>PRINCIPLES OF MENTAL HEALTH NURSING PRACTICE (MNUR700)</u>	20
<u>DEVELOPING AND ENHANCING SKILLS FOR PRACTICE (MNUR701)</u>	20
<u>LOCAL AND GLOBAL DETERMINANTS OF MENTAL HEALTH (MNUR702)</u>	20
<u>RESEARCH FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE (MNUR703)</u>	20

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

Year two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>SKILLS FOR REGISTRATION (MNUR704)</u>	20
<u>LEADING IN MENTAL HEALTH NURSING (MNUR705)</u>	20
<u>DISSERTATION (MNUR706)</u>	60

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

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

You'll learn through a blend of timetabled lectures, seminars, skills and simulation sessions, individual and group tutorials, and directed study time. Clinical placements complement theoretical study across both years of the course.

Service users have been involved in the development of the programme and will be invited to provide bespoke sessions outlining their experiences of being a patient nursed on a ward or in the community.

How you're assessed

Assessments include written and numeracy exams and a dissertation. There are also observed practical exams conducted in our simulation suites and assessments on your clinical placements conducted by your practice assessors.

All module and clinical placement assessments must be successfully attended, completed and passed in order to complete the programme and have the opportunity to register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council as a mental health nurse.

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.

^ [Back to top](#)

Careers and employability

There are many reasons to consider a career in mental health nursing. It offers you the chance to make a difference to the lives of individuals, their families and their carers and play a vital role in modern health care. You'll graduate eligible to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council as a mental health nurse

Owing to the national shortage of mental health nurses, as well as the global demand for British trained nurses, there are many opportunities for graduates to work in mental healthcare settings locally and around the world.

Roles and opportunities in mental health nursing have expanded significantly in recent years in the NHS, with private providers and in the independent and voluntary sectors.

You could pursue a career specialising in areas as diverse as children and young people's mental health, dementia care, forensic mental health services, or substance misuse.

As a master's graduate, you'll be well placed to pursue more advanced roles with greater responsibility. These include working as a:

- Lecturer practitioner
- Specialist practitioner
- Advanced nurse practitioner
- Consultant nurse
- Academic lecturer
- Academic researcher.

Alternatively, you may want to pursue a career in leadership and management or continue your studies at PhD level.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

^ [Back to top](#)

Fees and funding

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

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £9,535

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £29,100

Fees stated are for the 2025–26 academic year.

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 eligible for tuition fees and maintenance support from the Student Loans Company, you may qualify for the [NHS Learning Support Fund](#) for this course.

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.

Entry requirements

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

Postgraduate entry requirements

You should include a personal statement of no more than 700 words in support of your application. This should reflect on your understanding of the profession and relevant qualities valuable to a healthcare professional.

Applications are welcome from graduates with an honours degree in any subject. GCSE English and Mathematics at grade C (4) or equivalent are also required.

An interview forms part of the selection process. The interview follows the values-based recruitment (VBR) process and you will be expected to demonstrate the relevance of the NHS' values. Literacy and mathematics tests will also be conducted, in line with Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) requirements.

Recognition of Prior (Experiential) Learning RP(E)L

The NMC stipulate that the training of nurses responsible for general care must comprise a total of at least three years of study, which may in addition be expressed with the equivalent European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) credits. This must consist of at least 4,600 hours of theoretical and clinical training, the duration of the theoretical training representing at least one third and the duration of the clinical training at least one half of the minimum duration of the training.

In order to achieve these hours, successful entry onto the programme includes a portfolio detailing recognition of prior learning (RPL) that amounts to 620 theory hours and 570 practice hours, which must be approved by the relevant RPL assessor. These hours, added to the programme hours, will amount to a total of 4,600 hours. The 570 practice hours should consist of verified prior experience of care provision – this can be through paid work and drawn from one, or a range of, settings in which care of people's health and wellbeing is provided. This care may include the physical, cognitive, social, learning or developmental needs of children, families or adults.

Demonstration of this experience does not need to be in all areas highlighted here. Alongside working in traditional care environments such as hospitals and care homes, you could also have gained experience as a carer both formally and informally. This can be through paid or voluntary work. Working alongside those

who access social care is also acceptable. The emphasis is on the process of providing care for others.

In keeping with NMC guidelines, evidence of such activity will need to be evidenced. Signed verification of these hours by the organisation(s) or individuals involved in the provision/ receipt of care where this work has been undertaken will be required.

In regards to theory, a number of educational experiences may count towards the required theory hours. Courses such as counselling, health and social care courses that can be classed as certified learning will all be considered.

Please note: Meeting the minimum criteria does not guarantee a place on the programme as competition is high. You are encouraged to present the strongest possible application.

Declaration of Criminal Background

You will understand that as an allied health professions and nursing student, and when you qualify, you will be asked to treat children and other vulnerable people. We therefore need information about any criminal offences of which you may have been convicted, or with which you have been charged. The information you provide may later be checked with the police.

If selected for interview you will be provided with the appropriate form to complete.

Health Screening

The University and the School of Allied Health Professions and Nursing has an obligation to undertake health screening on all prospective healthcare students. Any offer of a place to study is conditional on completion of a health questionnaire and a satisfactory assessment of fitness to train from the University's Occupational Health Service. This will include some obligatory immunisations and blood tests. Please visit the [Higher Education Occupational Practitioners website](#) for further information.

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 MSc, 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](#).

IELTS

7.0 overall, with listening, reading and speaking at 7.0, and writing at 6.5. Please note, your IELTS test must have been sat and completed in person and not online.

[^ Back to top](#)