

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

for the award of

Undergraduate Health Sciences Open Award

Managed by the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

**delivered by Department of Psychology, Health and Professional
Development**

Date approved:	January 2019
Applies to students commencing study in:	September 2019

RECORD OF UPDATES

Date amended*	Nature of amendment**	Reason for amendment**
January 2019	Unused pathways removed	Programme simplification

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Awarding body:	Oxford Brookes University
Teaching institution and location:	Oxford Brookes University
Language of study:	English
Final award/s:	BSc Hons
Programme title:	Health Sciences Health Sciences (Health Care Studies) Health Sciences (Peri-operative Care) or bespoke title
Interim exit awards and award titles available:	BSc ord
Brookes course code:	HL11
UCAS code:	N/A
JACS code:	B000
HECoS code:	100246
Mode of delivery: (Mode of Study given in brackets)	Distance learning (full-time) Distance learning (part-time)
Duration of study:	1 year full-time 3 years part-time
Subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:	No subject benchmark statements available for generic degrees of this kind but cognisance has been taken of the FHEQ descriptors for Level 6
Professional accreditation attached to the programme:	N/A
Apprenticeship Standard:	N/a
University Regulations:	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/ Specific Regulations for Open Awards also apply.

SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

This top-up open award allows students in health and social care to progress from a Diploma or equivalent qualification in Higher Education to a Bachelor of Science. Students can choose, subject to entry criteria, between six subject-specific pathways and building a bespoke honours degree pathway by means of credit accumulation. The award capitalises upon opportunities for work-based learning and for bringing professional expertise and academic knowledge into dialogue. The recognition of the workplace as a forum for learning and development enables students to capitalise upon educational opportunities and to situate their professional practice in a rich context of academic theory.

SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY

- theorise and identify interventions and solutions for professional practice;
- demonstrate logical reasoning and a rich capacity for framing arguments;
- apply critical and reflective skills to workplace challenges, problems and dilemmas;
- situate professional practice in relevant socio-economic contexts;
- develop specialist knowledge and countenance contrasting viewpoints and perspectives.

3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY

- locate, retrieve and appraise material from a range of disciplines and perspectives;
- critically review the evidence supporting conclusions or recommendations and investigate contradictory information;
- apply research methods to professional preoccupations and practice challenges;
- demonstrate ability to bring professional knowledge and academic knowledge into dialogue.

3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY

- challenge received opinion and develop own criteria and confident judgement;
- effectively utilise a wide range of communication skills and discursive modes;
- reflect constructively and systematically on own experience and actions;
- evaluate own performance and respond appropriately to any identified learning needs;
- plan, justify and manage an individual programme of learning to meet identified learning needs;
- demonstrate effective problem-solving and decision-making skills;
- plan and carry out a small research study or project, using primary or secondary data, and submit this work for assessment, in the form of a dissertation;

3.4 DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY

- effectively locate information from multiple sources using systematic manual and electronic searching techniques in order to develop coherent evidence based practice arguments;
- engage effectively in a range of learning methods including the virtual environment and digital communication;

3.5 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

- demonstrate sensitivity to the diversity in culture, lifestyle and viewpoints of others;
- recognise the potential for discrimination and sensitively explore issues of equity and diversity.

In addition to the above, each pathway will have unique learning outcomes as follows:

BSc (Hons) Health Sciences (Health Care Studies)

Demonstrate detailed and current knowledge of the economic, political and cultural contexts impinging on the health and social care sector

[Brookes GAs: Research Literacy; Active Citizenship]

BSc (Hons) Health Sciences (Peri-operative Care)

Demonstrate detailed clinical and contextual knowledge pertaining to perioperative care
[Brookes GAs: Research Literacy; Active Citizenship]

SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

There are five named pathways and one open award pathway. Due to the nature of the open award, students are supported in planning an individual programme of study designed to support and reflect their professional role and requirements. An individually planned programme must be submitted to the Open Award programme team, where it is scrutinised for coherence and relevance in meeting the stated aims and its compliance with the University Open Award regulations.

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Status*	Semester of delivery**
U42173	Perioperative Care 5: Advanced Surgical Practice	30	6	Compulsory for Perioperative Care pathway; Acceptable for open route	2
U43784	Research Design	15	6	Compulsory for all pathways	1
U44171	Clinical and Professional Leadership	15	6	Compulsory for Health Care Studies, Perioperative Care pathways; Acceptable for open route	1
U44175	Facilitating Workplace Learning	15	6	Compulsory for Health Care Studies pathway; Acceptable for open route	1
U44180	Improving Quality in Healthcare	15	6	Compulsory for Health Care Studies, Perioperative Care pathways; Acceptable for open route	2
U49770	Work-based learning	15	6	Compulsory for Perioperative Care pathway; Acceptable for open route	1 or 2
U49771	Work-based learning (double)	30	6	Acceptable for open route	1 or 2
U49799	Dissertation	30	6	Compulsory for all pathways	1 and 2
U44189	Independent Study (double)	30	6	Compulsory for Health Care Studies pathway; Acceptable for open route	2

*e.g. optional, compulsory, etc – including an indication of whether they are compulsory for any interim/exit awards
**1, 2, 1or2, or 1&2

The use of compulsory modules in relation to pathways is as follows:

Updated January 2018

Health Care Studies	U44175 Sem 1	U44180 Sem 2	U44171 Sem 1		U44189 Sem 2	U43784 Sem 1	U49799 Sem 1 & 2
Perioperative Care	U49770 Sem 1, 2	U44180 Sem 2	U44171 Sem 1, 2		U42173 Sem 2	U43784 Sem 1	U49799 Sem 1 & 2
Open route	Option	Option	Option	Option	Option	U43784 Sem 1	U49799 Sem 1 & 2

Key:

U42173 Perioperative Care: Advanced Surgical Practice	U43784 Research Design
U44171 Clinical and Professional Leadership	U44175 Facilitating Workplace Learning
U44180 Improving the Quality of Healthcare	U49770 Work-based learning
U49771 Work-based learning (double)	U49799 Dissertation
U44189 Independent Study (double)	

4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Open Award Route

To be awarded a Degree without Honours a student must have obtained at least 120 credits at level 4 and 180 credits at level 5/6, including at least 60 credits at level 6. If the student has brought credit to the programme from other institutions, one third of the award - a minimum of 105 credits - must be gained at Oxford Brooked University. The minimum period of continuous enrolment immediately prior to the award being made is one semester.

To be awarded a Degree with Honours a student must have obtained at least 120 credits at level 4 and 240 credits at level 5/6, including at least 120 credits at level 6. A minimum of 120 credits must be gained at Oxford Brooked University. The minimum period of continuous enrolment immediately prior to the award being made is two semesters.

Titles

Award titles will depend on chosen pathway, as follows:

Health Care Studies	BSc (Hons) Health Sciences (Health Care Studies)
Perioperative care	BSc (Hons) Health Sciences (Perioperative Care)
Open route	The student may agree a title with the Open Award Programme Committee in

	accordance with regulation B3-1. Titles must reflect the programme or study, and they may not be significantly similar to the titles of other extant awards at Oxford Brookes University. If the student does not propose a title or fails to reach agreement with the Open Award Programme Committee, the generic titles 'BSc (Hons) Health Sciences' or 'BSc Health Sciences' shall be used to confer an exit award.
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4.3 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

N/A.

SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

There is a commitment to student-centred learning, with an emphasis on contracted learning activities and educational staff acting as facilitators. It is recognised that students are experienced professionals whose skills and knowledge have led them to design and undertake individual programmes of learning. Their programmes will build on existing knowledge and skills, and will provide opportunities for academic learning whilst further developing the professional practice of self and others. In order to draw on students' experience and prior learning, and encourage innovation and development within the practice areas, a student-centred and facilitative approach is taken to teaching and learning.

Student-centred learning is achieved through a partnership approach, wherein students either choose an appropriate pathway or design their own bespoke programme. It is acknowledged that students are best placed to identify own learning needs, and that tutors may facilitate this process. Tutors and facilitators are available for guidance, to give feedback, and to allow students test out ideas and develop own plans and arguments.

The assessment methods will, to a large extent, be dependent upon the modules selected by an individual student for inclusion in a programme. Graduate Attributes are developed through the programme, and for bespoke programmes their development is confirmed by the Open Award programme committee. Students can expect to be introduced to the concept of Graduate Attributes during induction, and will have tutorial discussions with their academic advisor, which will focus on identifying module content and activities leading to their acquisition of Graduate Attributes, and their experience of them.

The programme conforms to the University's Open Award Regulations (B3); an approved variance to the regulations exists in respect to regulation 1.1 in the following manner: 'Should a student's proposed programme conform in all respects to any of the specialities indicated on the 'named stage' of the programme, their award shall take the name of that speciality'.

On completion of the programme, award classification is conducted in line with Section B2.7 of the Honours Degree regulations so that for students whose prior learning is at Oxford Brookes, the class of Honours degree shall be decided on the average of the marks obtained in the best fourteen level 5 or above acceptable module credits, which carry the highest marks. The marks for the best six acceptable level 6 honours module credits will always be included in the average. All students must have four graded acceptable level 6 honours module credits at the University for the purposes of classification.

SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The following entry criteria apply:

- Applicants must hold a DipHE or equivalent qualifications in a health or social care subject, or they must undertake the APL module U49721 as a pre-requisite to commencing the programme. The crediting of existing qualifications into the programme shall be in line with University regulations A2-5 and accordingly, no applicant shall be given APL equivalent to more than two-thirds of their target award

- Applicants will normally be working in the fields of health or social care.
- For students whose first award is not in English and for whom English is not a native language:
 - IELTS 6.5 or above (with 6.0 or above in reading and writing, 5.5 or above in listening and speaking), or alternatively
 - PTE 58 or above (with 51 or above in all skills)
- Applicants for full-time study must demonstrate a meaningful connection to the health or social care field, either by reference to their previous study or most recent employment.

In addition, the following requirements shall apply for admission to a particular pathway:

Health Care Studies	N/A
Perioperative care	Completed DipHE Operating Department Practitioner or equivalent award or APL module U49772
Open route	N/A

6.2 DBS AND OTHER PRE-COURSE CHECKS REQUIRED

N/A.

6.3 JOB ROLE/EMPLOYER PROFILE (DEGREE AND HIGHER APPRENTICESHIPS)

N/A

SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Most students will be in-service health or social care professionals who are seeking career advancement linked to academic progression. Others will be in the process of refocusing career and study opportunities and may be between jobs in the sector. Graduate status is required for many career grades within the public sector.

The curricular and pedagogic regime of the programme includes considerable input from employers and practice partners – both in terms of curriculum co-production and in terms of programme contributions from visiting speakers from relevant industries/professions. Students undertaking work-based learning modules will require employer sign-off on their learning contracts by the end of Week 1 of the relevant semester.