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Addysg a Gwella Iechyd  
Cymru (AaGIC)  
Health Education and  
Improvement Wales (HEIW)

# **Community Nurse Education Specialist Practitioner Qualification (SPQ) Guidance**

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# HEIW Guidance for Commissioned Specialist Practice Qualifications (SPQ)

## Introduction

Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) is responsible for commissioning education and training to meet the needs of the NHS in Wales. Development of the Nursing workforce within community and primary care settings is paramount and support the vision set out in The Welsh Government's 'A Healthier Wales' national strategy (2018), which shifts the provision of services close to where people live. This focus on delivering more local community-based care has increased demand for community nurses in diverse roles including specialist children's services, chronic conditions management, community mental health, community learning disability and general practice.

SPQ Education programmes commissioned by HEIW includes the following:

- District Nursing
- General Practice Nursing
- Community Childrens Nursing
- Community Mental Health Nursing
- Community Learning Disability Nursing

HEIW provides funding for the university fees for Nurses who are employed by NHS Wales or health bodies that provide NHS healthcare services. Their employment contract may be a substantive, seconded or honorary.

All prospective applicants for these programmes of education should ensure that they have obtained the agreement of their employer to their release for training prior to submitting an application for a place on a course with the University.

Each University that HEIW holds contracts with to deliver these education programmes will be notified annually of the number of places HEIW wants to commission, which is based on what has been requested by the health boards/trusts via the "Integrated Medium-Term Plan" IMTP Process.

## Education Provision

Nurses can undertake specialist community nursing education on a full time/part time or modular basis to achieve the SPQ relevant to their areas of work. All programmes are validated by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and on completion Nurses can apply to the NMC to have an annotation added to their registration.

- The University can deliver the education over 1 Academic Year full time and 2 years part time and pro-rata for individual modules.
- The University can deliver full time education on a minimum of 2 days a week or block equivalent for 45 weeks per Academic Year.
- The University can deliver part time education on a minimum of 1 day a week or block equivalent for 45 weeks per Academic Year.
- Education is mapped against the Professional Framework for Enhanced, Advanced and Consultant Clinical Practice (HEIW, 2023)
- On completion of the programme a Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip),120 Credits is awarded.

## University Providers

Programme	Lot / Sub-Lot Region	Delivery	Bangor University	Wrexham University	Swansea University	University of South Wales
SPQ District Nursing (DN)	3a. North (BCUHB & North POW)	Blended Learning		✓		
	3b. West/ Central (South & Mid POW, HDUHB, SBUHB)	Blended Learning			✓	
	3c. East/ South (CTMHB, CVUHB & ABUHB)	Blended Learning				✓
SPQ General Practice Nursing (GPN)	4. All Wales	Distance Learning	✓			
SPQ Community Childrens Nursing (CNN)	6. All Wales	Distance Learning				✓
SPQ Community Mental Health Nursing (CMHN)	7. All Wales	Distance Learning	✓			
SPQ Community 8. Learning Disability Nursing (CLDN)	8. All Wales	Distance Learning	✓			

## Delivery Methods

### **Blended Learning**

Learning combines Face-to-Face learning with online learning in a cohesive, inclusive education Programme. It uses multiple methods to deliver learning by combining Face-to-Face interactions with online activities. Online activities may be Synchronous or Asynchronous.

### **Distance Learning**

Is an approach to learning that allows learners to study remotely and not be required to attend a university environment. Education providers utilise technology to deliver the learning to the students.

### **Synchronous Learning**

Where the educator is present (online or Face-to-Face) at the same time as the students. Students can ask questions and interact with the educator and other learners in real time.

### **Asynchronous Learning**

Where teaching materials are posted online, and learners work through them in their own time, for example, through video clips and multiple-choice quizzes. Learners can ask questions and interact with the educator and other learners via discussion boards, forums, and emails.

## Recruitment and Selection

The Education Provider in partnership with the Employer, is:

- required to recruit Students, using a values-based approach, who can become registered, confident, proficient practitioners who can work effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary team caring for individuals accessing healthcare in Wales.
- required to assess all applicants to the Programmes in collaboration with Employers to ensure they hold the NMC professional regulator entry requirements.
- required to ensure that all applicants to the Programmes hold the suitable values and characteristics including compassion, resilience, academic aptitude, commitment, and motivation – only then should a place be offered.
- required to promote widening access to ensure the Programme is accessible to Students at all career stages.
- required to have processes in place to enable recognition of prior learning to avoid duplication of previous education.
- required to collaborate with Health Boards to recruit to achieve the Commissioning Student numbers.

In addition, the Education Provider will:

- annually provide HEIW with a report detailing all individuals that have accessed this funding.

## Workplace Supervision and Assessment

The university is required to:

- work in partnership with Employers to provide workplace supervision training to support quality assurance of Placement workplace assessments.
- notify the workplace Placement Provider of:
  - Any reasonable adjustments required to support Students with health and wellbeing issues, disabilities and/or additional learning needs.
  - Any other additional support required in order to facilitate a Student's Placement.
- liaise with Employers to integrate the All Wales Practice Assessment Document (PAD) to ensure consistent practice assessments across all Health Boards in Wales.
- support Students to undertake workplace learning assessments.
- support workplace Placement Provider Practice Supervisors and Practice Assessors to assess competencies.
- work with workplace Placement Provider Practice Supervisors and Practice Assessors to ensure Students receive meaningful feedback.

## Student Wellbeing and Support

The university must

- provide a comprehensive range of professionally delivered Student wellbeing services that incorporate, when appropriate, peer support. These wellbeing services must be free, impartial, non-judgemental and confidential.
- ensure Students feel part of a Community of Practice and have meaningful opportunities for peer support.
- provide all Students with a named personal tutor with understanding and expertise of the Programme, and who will be accessible to the students. The students must be able to regularly meet with their personal tutor in a timely manner to be supported with academic difficulties, personal issues and workplace learning concerns.
- provide Student support services that are clearly marketed and accessible to all Students

## Welsh Language

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure of 2011 was passed by the National Assembly for Wales and was given royal assent on the 9th of February 2011.

The Commissioner is therefore committed to the principle of treating the Welsh Language and English Language on a basis of equality.

The current standards that are relevant to these Contracts are as follows:

- The Welsh Language Standards (No. 6) Regulations 2017.

Universities are required to ensure that their services, communications and information are accessible to the public in both Welsh and English. This includes providing educational materials and other documents and learning in Welsh, offering Welsh language support for students and ensuring that staff are available to communicate in Welsh.

## Funding

Full time/Part time and modular courses will only be funded by HEIW **up to the point of achieving** the PG Dip (120 Credits) specialist practitioner qualification. Individuals that wish to complete a third year resulting in a full Masters of Science (MSc) degree will need to make alternative funding arrangements, for that year of study.

## Data Protection and Quality Monitoring

All staff in receipt of funding agree to the education provider they are studying with sharing their personal information with HEIW in the annual report for the purposes of monitoring. Health boards, Trusts and HEI's must incorporate privacy notices into their application process to ensure compliance with GDPR.

There is an expectation that all staff in receipt of funding will complete the HEIW baseline and exit surveys issued by the education providers on behalf of HEIW.

## Professional Regulation

Throughout the duration of their course, individual students **MUST** maintain their professional NMC registration. Local arrangements should be in place to ensure this. Students and their employer are jointly responsible for ensuring their professional registration remains up to date throughout the period of their course.

## Travel Expenses

Please note, **ONLY course fees are funded** by HEIW. Any associated travel costs will not be reimbursed.

## Contact Details

If you have any queries or need further explanation, then please email [HEIW.EdCommissioning@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:HEIW.EdCommissioning@wales.nhs.uk)

