Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) is a system whereby credit can be awarded for previous learning that has taken place either through formal courses of study (Accreditation of Prior Certificated Learning - APCL) or in other ways (Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning - APEL). The opportunity to use APL is supported by both the University of East Anglia and the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

In order to meet the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) requirements for Pre-Registration Nursing (2010) and to access this programme you will need to provide evidence of relevant previous study and experience (we refer to this as ‘prior learning’). To become a registered nurse, the NMC require all pre-registration nurses to complete a total of 2300 hours of clinical practice and 2300 hours of related theoretical knowledge. Some of these hours will be included within the MSc in Nursing Programme, the remainder will need to be completed before the commencement of the programme, and you will need to provide evidence of this prior learning in the form of an APL application and supporting portfolio.

APL applications will always be dealt with on an individual basis due to the diverse background of applicants. You are required to provide evidence of at least 1225 hours of previous, relevant learning. These hours need to be divided into health care practice hours and hours of theoretical study and will require you to identify a suitably qualified person such as a nurse, doctor or physiotherapist who has directly observed your competency in basic care skills in order for them to be signed off to meet the NMC requirements.

Your APL portfolio must provide evidence of:

- At least 390 hours of health care practice experience
- At least 610 hours of relevant theoretical knowledge

and must account for a total of at least 1225 hours (so you will need more than the minimum hours in either theory or practice or both). No more than 1450 hours will be awarded in total.

Where a student is awarded the minimum amount of APL (1225 hours) there will be no opportunity for them to complete the time requirements within the standard programme hours. Therefore, should they accrue any absences during the programme, this may delay completion of the MSc in Adult Nursing.

To confirm the relevance of your theoretical knowledge, you will need to map your learning to the programme outcomes, a form will be available to assist you with this. In addition to providing evidence of prior learning, you will be required to have at least 28 NMC Progression Point 1 skills signed off by a qualified health professional to confirm your competency, again, advice and documentation will be given to support this activity.

Your APL application and portfolio will need to be completed and accepted before commencement of the programme. Gaps in expected knowledge may be addressed via a personal plan.

Guidance on how to develop your APL portfolio, (including skills sign off and how to evidence that you have met the required outcomes supporting the NMC first progression point), will be available following successful interview.
WHY DO I NEED APL FOR THIS COURSE?
To register as a nurse with the NMC, it is a requirement that you have completed 2300 hours of relevant theoretical study and 2300 hours of health care practice experience (a total of 4600 hours). Whilst the remainder of these hours will be completed during the MSc Adult Nursing Pre-registration programme at the UEA, you will need to make a successful APL application to be credited with a total of at least 1225 hours (and a maximum of 1450 hours). These hours must be divided into health care practice experience hours and hours of relevant theoretical knowledge. You must have evidence of:
- A minimum of 390 (maximum 610) hours of health care practice experience
- A minimum of 610 (maximum 840) hours of relevant theoretical knowledge
- Confirmation by a qualified health professional (e.g. a registered nurse, medical doctor, occupational therapist) that you have achieved at least 28 of 57 NMC Progression Point 1 skills

SO DO I DEFINITELY NEED TO HAVE SOME HEALTH CARE PRACTICE EXPERIENCE?
Yes, you will not be able to join the programme without at least 390 practice experience hours and confirmation of your skill competence. (If you already are a nurse this course is not suitable and you may wish to consider our other professional nursing courses delivered at Degree and Master’s level).

WILL MY DEGREE BE RELEVANT?
Applicants with any degree will be considered, it will be up to you to demonstrate that your prior learning is relevant and transferable to the programme. Employability and research skills are built into most contemporary degree programmes, these are a good example of transferable learning.

DO I HAVE TO MAKE AN APPLICATION FOR APL OR IS IT AUTOMATIC?
You will need to apply for APL, each case is dealt with on an individual basis due to the diverse background of applicants. You will be provided with an application form and an APL guide to help you to make your claim. Please contact our admissions department for application details.

WHAT WILL I ACTUALLY HAVE TO DO?
You will need to create a portfolio of evidence that shows that you have prior learning and experience related to the outcomes that underpin the Nursing and Midwifery Progression Point 1 skills. These are listed for you in the ‘APL Guide’. You will also need to complete a Skill Development Profile with a qualified health care professional who is willing to confirm your competency of at least 28 of the 57 NMC progression skills required.
Health care experience is essential to meet the APL/NMC requirements for eligibility onto the two year programme. This will require you to identify a suitably qualified person such as a nurse, doctor or physiotherapist who has directly observed your competency in basic care skills in order for them to be signed off to meet the NMC requirements.

WHAT TYPE OF EVIDENCE WILL I NEED TO PROVIDE?
Here are some suggestions of the variety of evidence that may be used:
- CV
- Your degree transcript
- An example(s) of your previous coursework, if relevant
- The HEA student employability profile associated with your degree (searchable via www.heacademy.ac.uk/node/4434)
- Job description of current or previous roles
- Testimonials from employers confirming hours completed with them
- Appraisal documentation
- Certificates of relevant courses that you have attended
- Reflective accounts of practice experience
- Completed supplementary materials provided by UEA
- Completed Skill Development Profile (provided by UEA, this is required to confirm that you have met your progression point 1 skills)
- A 600 word reflection on the NMC (2015) Code (prepared for your interview)

IS THERE A LIMIT ON THE AGE OF MY EVIDENCE?
APL is usually considered based on activities completed within the last 2 years.

WHAT IF I DO NOT HAVE ALL OF THE EVIDENCE REQUIRED?
We have developed a range of workbooks and materials that you can complete to supplement your prior learning.

HOW DO I ENHANCE MY APL OPPORTUNITIES?
There are many opportunities where you can gain experience in a relevant health or social care setting(s). You could gain experience through your workplace, volunteering or through organising work experience. Gaining experience will not only help to make you a suitable applicant for this course, it will also enable you to gain a good insight into the profession which you wish to enter. It will help you to understand what working in the health sector is like, and whether a career as an Adult Nurse is the right career path for you.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?
If you have any questions about your application please email: admissions@uea.ac.uk or telephone: +44 (0)1603 591515
https://www.uea.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/apply