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**Would you like the opportunity to gain a third level qualification supported by UNISON and Southern Health and Social Care Trust?**

**Are you interested in improving your practice and potentially pursuing a career in nursing, social work, allied health professions or management in the health sector?**

**If yes,**

**The Open University module *K102* *Introducing Health and Social Care,* (Level 4) might be for you.**

**Applications must be returned by**

**Friday 16th June 2023**

**Places will be offered subject to funding being available**

**Application and information packs available from the UNISON website**

[**https://www.unison-ni.org.uk/education-and-training**](https://www.unison-ni.org.uk/education-and-training)

**or**

**Samantha Thomas**

[**samantha.thomas@Southerntrust.hscni.net**](mailto:samantha.thomas@Southerntrust.hscni.net)

**If you would like information on the course, please contact**

**Caitlín Ní Chathail, UNISON at** [**k102ni@unison.co.uk**](mailto:k102ni@unison.co.uk)



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Thank you for your interest in applying for the Open University module Introducing Health and Social Care (K102) run through Southern Health & Social Care Trust in partnership with UNISON.

In order to be eligible to be considered for a place you must meet the following criteria:

* have worked within health and social care (full-time or part-time) for at least two years;
* present evidence of completion of a course lasting at least 4 months;
* have completed any present relevant training within the Trust by October 2023.

Your line manager must be prepared to release you to attend tutorials for up to 36 hours over ten months (plus travel time), and they must sign your application to formally authorise this release. All those selected will get release from the Southern Trust to attend tutorials and to access to the UNISON Study Skills programme and UNISON sponsored project preparation day. Service delivery is paramount and places will be offered to those who meet the criteria and whose release can be facilitated by line managers.

Course fees are £1,074. Funding is limited. Places on this course are funded directly by UNISON (members only), by the Trusts via the Department of Health and through the Student Finance NI (SFNI) grant programme. All those who are eligible for a full Student Finance grant and meet the criteria above will automatically get a place. To be eligible you must have:

* a household income between £16,843- £26,029 for 22/23 (calculated as earnings of you and a partner, if applicable, as evidenced on your March payslip or P60).  If your income is up to, you may be eligible for a partial grant.

You won’t normally be eligible for funding if you already hold an honours degree **or** if you’re applying for a course that **is equivalent or lower in level than your first higher education course**. You must be studying towards:

* a first degree, for example, a BA, BSc or BEd
* a Foundation Degree
* a Certificate of Higher Education
* a Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
* a Higher National Certificate (HNC)
* a Higher National Diploma (HND)

All other applicants will be competing for funding from the UNISON/Trust pot. Please complete and return the enclosed application form. If you have questions about eligibility, please contact Caitlín Ní Chathail at [k102ni@unison.co.uk](mailto:k102ni@unison.co.uk)

**Further information on the course can also be found at Open University site:** [**https://www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/k102**](https://www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/k102)

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**K102 Introducing Health and Social Care Course**

**Information for Managers**

**What is the course about?**

This is an Open University course which is being run in partnership with the Southern Trust and UNISON. It offers a broad foundation in health and social care and awards 60 university credits at Level 4. It provides underpinning knowledge for QCF modules and is mapped to the Knowledge & Skills Framework. It is also a compulsory module in a number of OU diploma and degree programmes including Nursing (Adult, Mental Health, Learning Disability and Children and Young People’s Nursing), Social Work, BSc in Health & Social Care and BSc in Healthcare & Health Sciences. It is open to staff working in any department and from any discipline. The cost of the course is £1,074 and places are limited. Places are funded directly by UNISON (members only), by the Trust (subject to securing funding from Dept of Health) and through a means tested grant via Student Finance NI.

**There are six modules:**

**Block 1:** explores what it means to be a carer, firstly in the context of informal or family care and then moving on to formal or professional care. It examines the requirements for being a professional carer such as professional standards as well as the demands and rewards of being involved in providing care.

**Block 2:** explores human development across the life course through the lens of three case studies. The first focuses on the impact of migration on human development, the second considers how involvement in crime affects people across the life course and the final case study focuses on the needs of people with learning disabilities transitioning from children to adult services. The Block also explores the impact of disadvantage and discrimination to human needs across the life course. These issues will be considered through the lens of a video case study of a preschool play group supporting migrant families service in Edinburgh.

**Block 3:** examines the important issue of safeguarding. You will learn about the definitions of risk in the context of both adults and children's services. You will also explore the ways in which health and social care services respond to promoting wellbeing and protecting people who are vulnerable. These issues will be considered through the lens of a video case study of a drug and alcohol service in Belfast.

**Block 4:** introduces some of the core concepts of sociology and how these can help you develop a deeper understanding of health and social care needs and services. In particular you will learn about the importance of identity and how identities change in particular contexts. You will also learn about how needs change as people move through important transitions such as ageing and becoming more dependent.

**Block 5:** explores the settings in which care takes place and is managed. You visit a wide variety of care environments, from domestic homes, to residential and hospital settings, exploring their physical, social and psychological impact and the extent to which they are enabling or disabling. In particular you will consider the service user and also the professional perspectives on navigating services. These themes will be illustrated with a video case study of an educational mental health resource in Oxford.

**Block 6:** introduces innovation and digital delivery of health and social care services. You will learn about why technological innovation is important and the advantages and challenges of digital service delivery. You will consider your own digital footprint and use of social media. The issues of this block are illustrated through a video case study of a digital app to support the treatment of people with post-traumatic stress disorder filmed at the National Centre for Mental Health in Cardiff.

**What release is required**? October 2023 to May 2024

Study Skills for K102 6 x 3hrs (18 hours)

K102 tutorials 5 x 2hrs (10 hours)

Project Prep Day 1 day (8 hours)

Study Time (as per Trust study leave policy)

Total 36 hours over 30 weeks (plus travel time)

In real terms it breaks down as:

First 8 weeks one session per week, either Study Skills or K102

Next 6 months less than one session per month - K102

Project prep day April 2024

**As this is a first-year university level programme, students will be expected to do between 10-14 hours per week of personal study in their own time. They have to complete 5 essay assignments, 4 computer-based assignments and one final project.**

**Where can it lead?**

K102 is a stand-alone qualification, providing underpinning knowledge for RQF in Care and is mapped to the Knowledge & Skills Framework. It is also a compulsory module in a number of OU diploma and degree programmes including Nursing (Adult, Mental Health, Learning Disability and Children and Young People’s Nursing), Social Work, BSc in Health & Social Care, BSc in Healthcare & Health Sciences. Pre-Reg Nurse training is available through the OU, QUB and UU. **Completion** **of the K102 does not** **guarantee a place on the Programme.** However, evidence indicates that K102 improves candidates’ ability to reflect learning and practice at interviews for the Nursing Programme. They also get an exemption from that module in the first year of the OU course. Applicants for the OU Nursing programme must meet the core criteria of a Level 2 English & Maths, e.g., GCSE A-C, Access course or Essential Skills as well as a substantive contract of at least 26 hours. Applicants to nursing in QUB or UU must have GCSE Maths A-C and will accept 120 OU credits of which K102 provides 60 credits in lieu of A Levels. QUB will accept 120 credits on relevant modules for their social work programme.

**How long does it last?**

It will run from October 2023 to May 2024. There will be 5 two-hour tutorials over that time, with additional support from your tutor by email and/or phone. In addition, UNISON has developed a Study Skills programme for the K102 course over 6 three-hour sessions which will run alongside the K102 tutorials to support your progress. We also host a project preparation day in April 2024.

**Will I get release?**

This course is being run in partnership with the Southern Trust, and release is at the discretion of your line manager. 36 hours of release (plus travel time) are required for the tutorials, study skills.

**Do I require access to a computer?**

Yes, this is essential as much of the tuition is delivered online and you will also have to complete a number of web-based tasks, so you need access to a computer and the internet. Basic internet and email skills are sufficient.

**How much work will there be?**

This is a university level course and requires a high level of personal commitment. In addition to attending the tutorials, you must complete five essay assignments, four computer-based assignments and a final project. The OU recommends that around 10-14 hours per week of personal home study will be required. All materials are provided.

**Will I get paid more?**

No, as this is an academic course, it will not change what you do within your job, though feedback from past participants has been very positive in terms of improving personal practice. It may also open up opportunities to progress within your job, or to a different job, which may result in increased pay.

**Do I have to be working in the field of Nursing or Care to do this course?**

No, unlike NVQ and QCFs, which reflect practice, this is an academic course. This means that you can work in administration, support services, security, estates, catering, labs or facilities and still apply.

**Is there a cost?**

The course costs £1,074. UNISON will provide funding for members though there is a limited budget so a selection process may be required. Trusts will support 3-5 places if funding is made available from the Dept of Health Support Workers Fund. For those who have a household income of up to £26,029 and who do not already have a qualification higher than Level 3 such as HNC, HND or degree, you can apply for a grant via Student Finance NI. This grant is means tested and thresholds increase for a full or partial award linked to number of dependents under 18.

UNISON will provide guidance to apply for the grant for those who qualify. Household income is calculated as income earned by you and your partner (if applicable) between April 2022 and March 2023. You will need a copy of your P60 or March payslip and that of your partner (if applicable) to verify income. It does not include income of other people in your household. If your household is in receipt of Personal independence Payment (PIP), Attendance Allowance, Industrial Injuries Benefit, Child Benefit, Working or Child Tax Credits – you do not include these as part of any household income.

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**K102 *Introduction to Health & Social Care* Application Form**

**In partnership with UNISON & Southern Health & Social Care Trust**

**Please note – K102 is an academic course and will require structured study time.**

**You should have completed any other current study/Trust courses before applying for K102**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name:** | | **Contact phone number:** | | |
| **Site:** | **Job title and grade:** | | | **Ward/Dept** : |
| **Line manager’s name & contact number:** | | | | |
| **Are you eligible for a full or partial grant via Student Finance based on a household income of less than £26,029? (Please use information from 2021 P60 form or March 2022 payslip)**  **Y*□*N *□*** | | | | |
| **Are you a member of UNISON?**  **Y*□*(*If yes, please state your membership no.*)**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **N *□*** | | | **Have you been employed in the Health Service for 2 years?**  **Y□        Year Started:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **N *□*** | |
| **Please outline courses (of over 4 months duration) completed since leaving school and the year completed? e.g., NVQ/QCF, Return to Learn, Essential Skills, HNC, HND, degree** | | | | |

**Applicant Signature** **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Line Manager Signature** **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***(Please ensure you have read the ‘Information for Managers’ sheet before signing*)**

**Please complete and return application form by Friday 16th June 2023 to**

**Samantha Thomas**

[**samantha.thomas@Southerntrust.hscni.net**](mailto:samantha.thomas@Southerntrust.hscni.net)

A limited number of places are available therefore a selection process may be used according to the number of applications received. Selection will take into consideration the need to maintain delivery of service and release to attend must be authorised by your line manager.