**What if I don’t meet the entry criteria for the Open University Route to Nursing for 2017?**

**Numeracy** ![C:\Users\allank4\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\7NE1DTY0\Math6[1].jpg]()

There is an opportunity to enrol for an evening numeracy class provided by North East College Scotland (NESCOL) at the Suttie Centre, starting on Wednesday 18th of January 2017. For more information about how to enrol on this course please get in touch ASAP with Karen.allan2@nhs.net

Dumfries and Galloway college offer a distance learning numeracy course and details of this course can be obtained by contacting:

Caroline Poland

Open Learning Coordinator

Complete Training Solutions (CTS)

Dumfries and Galloway College

Bankend Road, Dumfries, DG1 4FD

T: 01387 734269          E: polandc@dumgal.ac.uk     [www.dumgal.ac.uk/site/business/cts/home](http://www.dumgal.ac.uk/site/business/cts/home)

This option would provide you with good experience of completing a course of study via distance learning.

**Funding a Numeracy Course**

It is possible to apply for an Individual Learning Account to help fund a numeracy course. An ILA can provide up to £200 which an individual can use each year towards the cost of learning. You can check whether you will qualify for an ILA by following the link below. You need to be resident in Scotland and have an income less than £22,000 and not already hold a degree or other postgraduate qualification (Full eligibility criteria are at the link below)

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train/sds-individual-learning-accounts-ila>

**Literacy**

If you do not meet the criteria for literacy this could be achieved through gaining an SVQ 3 level qualification. Dumfries and Galloway college also offer a distance learning module called Communication 3, which would provide the necessary level of literacy qualification provided.

There is also the potential to apply to study the Open University Module ‘ An introduction to Health and Social Care’ (K101). This is one of the modules that is studied as part of stage 1 of the Nursing degree programme. Detailed information about the module, the course fees and how to apply is available at:

<http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/k101#details> (make sure you are looking at the information for Scotland)

Registration closes on **5th January 2017.** You must make an application to register for the course before this date and places are subject to availability. There would be another opportunity to apply for this course in September 2017.

**How can I meet the cost of the course?**

The cost of the K101 module is £893.00. It is possible to apply for SAAS (Students Award Agency for Scotland) funding in the form of a part time fee grant to cover the cost of the course. If your personal income is less than £25,000 or you are on certain benefits, then you could qualify for a grant to cover 100% of the course fees. Full details of how to apply for SAAS funding can be found at <http://www.saas.gov.uk/forms_and_guides/part_time.htm> .

**Other Routes to Nursing** 

NHS Grampian also offer opportunities for HCSWs to apply for a Higher National Certificate (HNC). The entry criteria for this route differ from the Open University Honours Degree route. HCSWs who successfully complete the HNC course of study are eligible to enter year 2 of the Nursing degree programme at the Robert Gordon University. Applications for the HNC will open in January 2017 and if you want to receive more information about this route, please email nhsg.hnc@nhs.net requesting that you be added to the mailing list.