

**A Report on: Mapping Progression Routes in  
Health and Social Care**

**For**

**The Herefordshire and Worcestershire Lifelong Learning  
Network**

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## Summary

This report describes the activity of a short collaborative project between the University of Birmingham, the University of Worcester and the Open University. The aim of the project was to explore the potential for progression routes for graduate students between these institutions. An additional strand of activity focused on gathering information about awareness of and attitude towards the new 14-19 Diploma qualification.

An initial mapping process identified a number of potential progression routes for students between the University of Birmingham and the University of Worcester. These included progression for new graduates to move on to post graduate training in both directions i.e. Worcester new graduates to progress to Birmingham post-graduate offerings and vice versa. Subsequent mapping with the OU identified similar progression routes.

Potential routes between UoB and UoW were identified for the following subject areas; health, social care and sport & exercise science. Identified routes were then 'reality tested' through a process of meetings and discussions with programme leaders and admissions tutors for the relevant courses. This process resulted in the identification of new collaborative working between the University of Birmingham and the University of Worcester across the following subject areas:

- Sport & Exercise Science
- Primary, Clinical & Community Care
- Physician Assistant Studies

In addition, links between marketing staff for Health Sciences in the University of Birmingham and the University of Worcester have been initiated.

With regard to Sport & Exercise Science, there are currently no plans to develop progression routes for students but staff are planning future collaboration on research projects.

Interviews with admissions tutors identified a number of key issues regarding the new 14-19 Diploma qualification. Staff say that they are unclear about the content and level of the diploma and that this will make assessment of a learner's suitability for a course very difficult. Where courses are oversubscribed this added difficulty may result in future diploma students potentially being overlooked.

It is suggested that staff across institutions should receive some form of training input to raise knowledge levels related to the new 14-19 Diploma. This work has already started in the University of Worcester and the University of Birmingham plans to explore the utility of cross-sector (schools, FE & HE) awareness training.

Potential routes between UoB students and UoW students to OU Postgraduate qualifications and Top-up Degrees have been identified, and could provide different specialist routes as well as the opportunity to gain higher qualifications through distance learning for students who prefer this mode of study alongside work.

## Background

The context of this project derives from a desire to develop further the collaborative working between the University of Birmingham, the University of Worcester and the Open University. As part of its work, the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Lifelong Learning Network wished to map the Health and Social Care Courses (in the first instance) at The University of Birmingham, the University of Worcester and Open University and look for progression opportunities within the curricula between the institutions. In addition, it was felt that the project could link with the '14-19 Diploma Alignment Project' by examining awareness amongst HE admissions tutors of these new Diplomas for two streams (Society, Health & Development and Sport & Leisure ).

## Objectives of the Project

- Research the courses available within the Institute of Health, Social Care and Psychology at the University of Worcester
- Research courses available in the Colleges of Medicine and Social Science at The University of Birmingham
- Research courses available at Open University
- Examine alignment between 14-19 Diplomas in Society, Health & Development and Sport & Leisure and University of Birmingham level 4 courses.
- Analyse the information for progression opportunities between the two universities
- Feedback the information to the Partnership steering group
- Begin discussions about formalising Progression Agreements

## Project Approach

The project began in September 08 and finished at the end of November 08. Throughout September information was collected at the collaborating sites. Throughout October, the data was jointly analysed by representatives from all institutions with a view to identifying potential pathways. During November, the two project officers identified potential progression pathways between the universities and made a judgement about which pathways could lead to the timely development of formal progression agreements between the universities. In addition, other potential collaborative working was identified. Alignment between 14-19 Diplomas with level 4 programmes was also examined.

The final part of the project involved a feedback session to the partnership steering group and Herefordshire & Worcestershire Lifelong Learning Network.

## Activity Report - The University of Birmingham

The following report describes activity in terms of the route explored, naming specific courses examined and the key contact person for the programme or area of study. The description outlines the nature of study offered and key issues/comments arising from meetings. The outcome for each strand is also provided.

**1. Route:** BSc Nursing (Worcester) to MSc Primary, Clinical & Community Care (Birmingham)

**Contact:** Dr Ellen Ward (Birmingham)

**Description:** The Division of Primary Care in Birmingham has developed an MSc in Primary, Clinical & Community Care and offer a range of modules and one day CPD sessions for health care staff. This is the first year that the MSc will run. Dr Ellen Ward is keen to build relations with the University of Worcester to market the whole range of offerings to potential students. Straightforward progression agreements are unlikely at this stage as the MSc is more suitable for health care staff with some practice experience rather than new graduates. However, it is envisaged that new graduates will want to take advantage of key modules and/or one day CPD sessions once in practice. This may then lead them onto the MSc in Primary, Clinical & Community Care at a later stage.

**Output:** Potential progression route and stronger collaborative working between the University of Birmingham and the University of Worcester.

**Action:** It has been arranged for Dr Ellen Ward and her team to meet with the relevant personnel at the University of Worcester to discuss future progress.

**2. Route:** BSc Sport & Exercise Science (Birmingham) to MSc Nutritional Therapy PG Cert Changing Health Behaviours MSc Sports Coaching MSc Sport and Physical Education MSc Sports Management MSc Outdoor Education (Worcester)

**Contacts:** Dr Michael Parkes Dr Martin Edwards (Birmingham)

**Description:** Dr Michael Parkes reports that most students do not wish to progress onto post graduate training but rather are more concerned about gaining employment. His view is that when students

take up post graduate training it is specifically to enhance employment prospects through registration to practice e.g. MSc in Physiotherapy or Dietetics.

Dr Martin Edwards has already worked with Worcester with a joint PhD student and feels that there is some utility to developing relations further however; as yet it is not clear how. At the student progression route level, there appears to be little opportunity for collaborative working as most Birmingham Sport & Exercise Science students tend to go to other Universities e.g. Bangor if they want post graduate study – They only do post graduate study if it enhances their job prospects and at present, students do not view Worcester as a place to go as their courses don't have any professional affiliation or accreditation. The development of an MRes in Sports & Exercise Science is underway and this may be a potential route for Worcester students.

**Output:** A new avenue for collaborative research has been identified between the University of Birmingham and the University of Worcester.

**Action:** Worcester Head of Sports Institute and Dr Martin Edwards are in discussion.

**3. Route:** BSc Sports Therapy & Rehabilitation, BSc Sports & Exercise Science (Worcester) to MSc Physiotherapy (Birmingham)

**Contact:** Michelle Arnold (Birmingham)

**Description:** Michelle Arnold reports that due to the very low numbers allocated to Birmingham by the Strategic Health Authority (this year it was 18 places) it is highly unlikely that any progression agreements with any single institution would be suitable. However, she is happy to meet with the relevant people at Worcester to organise cross fertilising activities e.g. building relations, raising awareness and marketing.

**Output:** A new link between marketing personnel in the University of Birmingham and the University of Worcester

**Action:** Michelle Arnold and Claire Gilliam will link up with marketing team at Worcester. Claire Gilliam is responsible for marketing at the Dept. of Nursing and Physiotherapy.

**4. Route:** BSc Nursing, BSc Midwifery (Worcester) to PGDip Physician Assistant Studies (Birmingham)

**Contacts:** Professor Jim Parle (programme leader) (Birmingham)

**Description:** The PGDip in Physician Assistant Studies is a new programme developed to train for this newly developed role in the NHS. The course wishes to recruit between 45 to 50 students each year and

Nurses with a 2i are eligible. Prof. Jim Parle believes that the development of a link between institutions would benefit either newly graduated nurses who felt that they would prefer a more diagnostic role and/or mature, experienced applicants who have some clinical or bioscience experience.

**Output:** Potential progression route for nurse graduates from the University of Worcester to the University of Birmingham's Physician Assistant programme.

**Action:** Prof. Jim Parle will link with appropriate contacts at Worcester.

**5. Route:** BSc Nursing, BSc Midwifery (Worcester) to MSc/PGDip Occupational Health (Birmingham)

**Contacts:** Lisa Hill (Birmingham)

**Description:** After discussion with Lisa about the potential for progression through this route it was highlighted that the course at Birmingham requires quite high levels of numeracy which Nurses in the past have struggled with. An examination of the level of numeracy and statistics training that nurses receive at Worcester was required. In addition, an assessment of the student desire for this course is required.

**Output:** Potential progression route for nurse graduates from the University of Worcester to the University of Birmingham's Occupational Health programmes. Also, the potential to develop a bridging course for nurses to develop numeracy skills to the appropriate level for these courses.

**Action:** To follow up on identification of numeracy teaching on Worcester nursing courses and the level of desire. If nurses would like to progress and numeracy levels are insufficient, a discussion to explore the utility of a 'bridging course' should follow.

**6. Route:** PGCert Changing Health Behaviours (Worcester) to MSc/PGDip Health Protection, MPH/PGDip/PGCert Public Health (Birmingham)

**Contacts:** Tricia Henley (Birmingham)

**Description:** After a discussion with Tricia about the potential for progression through this route and the same issue was highlighted as with Occupational Health. There is a requirement for quite high levels of numeracy which students in the past have struggled with unless they have done a first degree which has a strong numerate element. It was agreed that further detail was needed regarding the level of numeracy and statistics training that students on this course at Worcester receive

before proceeding. Another issue for this route was that this course is not running this year at Worcester.

**Output:** No clear is associated with this route at the end of this phase of the project.

**Action:** More work is needed to assess why the PGCert in Changing Health Behaviours did not run. If the issue is low demand then the utility for creating a progression route from this course is low.

## Activity Report – The University of Worcester

Route: BSC Nursing and BSc Midwifery (Worcester) to Physician Assistant (Birmingham)

Contact: Jan Quallington and Janice Clarke

Description: An initial meeting with Jan Quallington, Head of Quality for the Institute of Health, Social care and Psychology indicated that Worcester is keen to explore the possible progression opportunity to this particular programme. A meeting has been arranged for January 2009 between Professor Jim Parle (Birmingham University) Jan Quallington, Janice Clarke and Liz Davies-Ward.

Output: Progression Agreement from BSC Nursing and Midwifery Programmes to Physician Assistant Birmingham.

Action: A meeting is currently being arranged between the relevant personnel.

Route 2: Changing Health Behaviours PgCert (Worcester) to Health Promotion MSc/PGDip/ PG Cert (Birmingham)

Contact. Victoria Mason

Description: This programme has not yet recruited sufficient number of students to run a viable course. However, the content of the programme indicates this might be a good progression route for students wishing to undertake the MSc Health Promotion at Birmingham.

Output: Progression Agreement from PG Cert to Msc Health Promotion

Action: Liz Davies-Ward to speak with Victoria about ways in which the LLN might support the marketing of this programme and then link Victoria with Tricia Henly at Birmingham.

Route 3: BA Hons Social Work (Worcester) to Community mental Health (recovery programme) MA/Dip/Cert.

Contact: Dr Debbie Evans

Description: The University runs a very successful Social work programme and has recently validated an MSC in Social Work. The Birmingham programme is very specifically related to mental health and is therefore more attractive to those working in this field.

There may be an opportunity to develop a Progression Agreement from Birmingham's Social Work programme to the MSC in Social Work delivered at Worcester.

Output: A Progression Agreement from Birmingham's Social Work programme to the Msc Social Work at Worcester.

Action: To meet with Dr Debbie Evans and discuss this in more detail and arrange a meeting with a member of the Social Work department at Birmingham.

Route 4: BSc Hons Sports Therapy and Rehab (Worcester) to MSC Physiotherapy (Birmingham)

Contact: Mick Donovan Head of Institute and Gareth Jones

Description: A meeting took place with Mick Donovan and the progression maps were explained in detail. He is keen to explore possible progression routes with his Birmingham equivalent. Interim discussions with Birmingham have indicated that the opportunity to collaborative is more in the area of research.

The Birmingham Physiotherapy programme is highly competitive and places on this programme have been limited this year to 18 funded places by the Strategic Health Authority (SHA).

Output: Opportunity to collaborate in areas of research

Action: Head of Institute to liaise with Dr Michael Parkes Dr Martin Edwards (Birmingham)

Route 5: Bachelor Nursing (Birmingham) to MSc Advanced Social and Health care Studies (Worcester) and the MBA Health and Social Care (Worcester)

Contact: Carl Evans (Worcester Business School) Jan Quallington

Description: There is a great deal of commitment from both Universities to build solid relationships in this area. The University of Birmingham offer an MSc Primary, Clinical & Community Care (Birmingham) which could be very attractive to Worcester students working in Community Care and the MSc Advanced Social and Health Care Studies programme could be very attractive to Birmingham students working in Acute Care.

Outcome: A signed progression Agreement from the BSC Nursing to the range of MSc programmes available within the Institute of Health, Social Care and Psychology.

Action: To arrange a meeting between Dr Ellen Ward and Jan Quallington to discuss progression opportunities.

Route 6: BSc Sports and Exercise Science (Birmingham) Msc Nutritional Therapy, PG Cert Changing Behaviour; MSc Sports Coaching; MSc Sports and Physical Education; MSc Sports Management; MSc Outdoor Education.

Contact: Mick Donovan Head of Institute for Sports

Description: The mapping exercise revealed the potential for a Progression Agreement to be developed from the Birmingham Sports and Exercise Science to a range of MSc Courses delivered at Worcester.

A relationship at this level has already been formed and discussions between the two universities have taken place about how this might be taken forward. One key issue to explore is the affiliation status of the Sports Coaching qualifications at the University of Worcester. The staff at Birmingham have indicated that their students are more likely to progress onto coaching courses which are affiliated to a National body.

Output: A signed Progression Agreement from the BSc Sports and Exercise Science (Birmingham) to the range of MSc programmes at Worcester.

Action: Liz Davies-Ward to speak with Mick Donovan about whether his coaching courses are affiliated to a National body and if necessary, approach the LLN steering group to release funds for this activity to be explored in order to create a seamless progression.

### **Reflection**

The process of gathering information was relatively straight forward. Contacts at both Birmingham and Worcester were extremely supportive of the project and were happy to contribute in an honest and open manner.

The findings suggest that there is much potential for progression between the two universities in the area of Health and Sports Coaching. The progression from the Bsc Nursing and Bsc Midwifery to the Physician assistant programme in Birmingham is an exciting opportunity which is currently being explored. There are a number of other possible areas for progression in health related subjects which rely on the ability of students to demonstrate a good (Level 3) achievement in literacy and numeracy in particular. This may be an action for the future.

On paper, there are a number of exciting opportunities in sports coaching for Birmingham students to progress onto higher level programmes at UW However; more detailed discussion revealed that Birmingham students are unlikely to progress to coaching courses at Worcester which are not nationally affiliated or accredited and tend to look for employment opportunities rather than further studies.

I have spoken with the Head of Institute for Sport and this is an action for the future.

The project also examined the likelihood of students progressing from the Sports and Exercise undergraduate programme to the Physiotherapy programme at Birmingham. However, due to the reduction in numbers of funded places by the Strategic Health Authority competition is higher than in previous years.

However, there could be an opportunity for the two universities to develop in partnership, a level 4/5 programme for an 'assistant/associate physiotherapy' practitioner which could be funded by the LLN.

## **In summary**

The project has highlighted a number of potential progression opportunities between the two universities. It may require that some degree of curriculum development is required at both institutions to align the curricula more tightly to allow a more seamless progression.

## **Activity Report – The Open University**

The initial mapping of qualifications from Worcester University and Birmingham University to OU Postgraduate courses suggests that there may be 6 or 7 useful routes with the OU for Worcester and Birmingham graduates - particularly for nursing and social work graduates, but also for psychology – three in the Social Science Faculty, two in Health and Social Care and one in the Business School - each has slightly different entry requirements, as noted below. The OU's postgraduate qualifications offer different subject areas which could appeal in their own right to those wishing to move on and specialise. As long as the entry requirements are met by individuals, students from programmes identified from both Birmingham and Worcester would be welcomed into the OU, and any Progression agreements could only enhance the opportunities for students who would prefer to study by supported open learning.

The qualifications have been checked with Faculty staff; however if we move on to Progression Agreements other parts of The OU would need to be consulted. The Partnerships Office of the OU in Milton Keynes is the main department responsible for work with Progression Agreements; contact Heather Barrett, Acting Senior Partnerships Manager. As well as the Faculties involved, other bodies within the OU to be consulted would be Student Registration, Credit transfer centre, Student Services, Strategy Unit, The OU in the West Midlands and Legal Services.

## **FACULTY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

**Route 1.** Birmingham – BSc Nursing; Worcester – BSc Nursing, BSc Midwifery to OU's Faculty of Health and Social Care Post Graduate Certificate, Diploma and MSc in Advancing Healthcare practice. (C92, E46, F52)

*Entry requirements* are a first degree in 'relevant subject'; registration as health care professional; 1 year post qualifying experience in health care and access to a practice environment.

The Postgraduate Certificate consists of 3 modules of 20 points each (60 points); the Diploma adds another 3 modules (120 points), the MSc is 180 points, the final 60 points consisting of a dissertation. Students can stop at any stage as each of the awards is valid in its own right

**Route 2** Worcester's Nursing DipHE students to OU's Top up BSc (hons) Nursing Practice (B47).

*Entry requirements* – a registered nurse with a Diploma of Higher education in Nursing (any branch) awarded by a recognised UK degree awarding body. There are three pathways to the BSc (Hons) Nursing Practice – Nursing Practice, Nursing Practice (Child Health) and Nursing Practice (Older people). Each pathway includes the same 3 X 20 point compulsory modules for the first 60 points, but with choices of relevant specialisms for the final 60 points

*CONTACT for further discussion about Progression agreements* – HSC Faculty Curriculum Office, Helen Partridge.

## **FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**Route 3** Birmingham – BA Social Work; Worcester – BA (hons) Social Welfare. to OU's Diploma and MA in Social Policy and Criminology ( E48, F18) and Certificate and Diploma in Social Science Research methods (C52, E12)

*Entry requirements* are a UK honours degree, ideally but not necessarily in the subject area.

The Postgraduate Diploma in Social Policy and Criminology includes a compulsory 30 point foundation course, plus 90 points chosen from 6 other 30 point modules; on top of the 120 points from the Diploma, the further 60 points for the MA includes a dissertation or a theoretical route.

The Postgraduate Certificate in Social Science Research Methods consists of a 60 point compulsory course; to gain the Diploma a further 60 points can be chosen from a range of 30 point modules.

**Route 4.** Birmingham and Worcester BSc Psychology to OU Postgraduate Diploma and MSc in Psychological research methods and MSc in Psychology

*Entry requirements* – Honours degree in psychology

**Route 5.** Birmingham and Worcester BSc Psychology to OU Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Psychological studies (E34) 120 points and/or MSc in Forensic psychology and criminology (F49) 180 points

*Entry requirements* – Honours Degree preferably in psychology or social Science

Both qualifications are made up of a compulsory foundation course of 30 points plus a choice of 30 point modules.

*CONTACT for further discussion about Progression agreements* - Helen Eaton, Faculty of Social Science

## **Open University Open Business School**

**Route 6.** Any student; but particularly students with a BSc in Health Management (Worcester) to OUBS MBA (Life Sciences)

*Entry requirements* –the first stage for those with a BA or BSc would be to take the Postgraduate Certificate in Business Administration (60 points) followed by 120 points from Stage 2 courses – total 180 .

To join the MBA programme students would need a minimum of 3 years' experience in a managerial, professional or technical role.

### **Science Faculty**

**Route 7** *Other OU Postgraduate options for future discussion are*  
MSc Science – frontiers in medical science strand  
Post Graduate Diploma and MSc in Medical Physics

*Contact* Dr Basiro Davey, Awards Director, Health Sciences and other project partners

# Mapping Matrix