



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
NEW UNIVERSITY

EST. 1891



FAQ: The move from Level 6 to Level 7 - SCPHN Qualification

Q: What is the difference between studying at Level 6 and Level 7?

A: Level 6 and Level 7 are two distinct levels of education. Level 6 refers to undergraduate study, typically leading to a bachelor's degree, while Level 7 denotes postgraduate study, usually leading to a master's degree or equivalent qualification.

Q: What qualifications are associated with Level 7 study?

A: Level 7 qualifications encompass postgraduate study and include master's degrees (MA, MSc), Postgraduate Diplomas, Postgraduate Certificates, and Professional Diplomas.

Q: Can I pursue Level 7 study without completing Level 6?

A: Generally, Level 7 study requires prior completion of Level 6 or an equivalent qualification. Most postgraduate courses expect applicants to hold a relevant undergraduate degree or have significant relevant professional experience in the field.

Q: What does that mean for the SCPHN Course?

A: Each University will set their own entry requirements but for the most part, as well as the obvious NMC registration, applicants will be required to have a relevant degree (nursing / midwifery), normally at 2:2 or above.

Q: How does the depth of study differ between Level 6 and Level 7?

A: Level 6 study (undergraduate level) provides a broad understanding of a subject area, covering fundamental concepts and theories. SCPHNs now require higher levels of autonomy, specialist knowledge and skill in order to achieve their full potential and to lead and contribute to the delivery of public health services. Level 7 study (postgraduate level) delves deeper into specialised areas, focusing on advanced knowledge, research skills, critical thinking, and independent study.

Q: What are the typical duration and workload for Level 7 programmes?

A: Level 7 postgraduate programmes vary in duration: master's degrees generally take one year full-time or two years part-time, while other Level 7 qualifications may have shorter durations, although Postgraduate Diplomas tend to follow the same duration as a masters.

Q: How do Level 6 and Level 7 qualifications impact future careers?

A: Level 7 qualifications, especially master's degrees, can provide a competitive edge, demonstrating specialised knowledge, research skills, and a higher level of expertise.