

# SWAP East - Access to Nursing

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**Information relating to the following SWAP East programmes:**

**Access to Nursing**

**Access to Nursing & Social Services**

Details of where these programmes currently run can be found on the SWAP East website at [www.scottishwideraccess.org/east-our-programmes](http://www.scottishwideraccess.org/east-our-programmes)

## Who is SWAP for?

SWAP is for adult learners who want a second chance at education and who aim to fulfil their academic potential by studying for a higher education qualification. Our programmes are designed to provide a supportive environment for adults returning to education and you don't usually need any formal qualifications for entry.

## SWAP Eligibility Criteria

SWAP access programmes are specifically aimed at adults who have been out of full-time education for some time and who have not studied at university before. A SWAP access programme could be for you if:

- You don't have any qualifications above SCQF level 5 (Standard Grade/Intermediate 2, GCSE, National 5) **and** you have been out of full-time education for 3 years or more. **OR**
- You have qualifications at SCQF level 6 or above (Highers, A Levels, HN) **and** you have been out of full-time education for 5 years or more.
- You are able to commit to college on a full-time basis (around 18-20hrs per week).
- You aim to progress to university or HNC/D level study.

**You are NOT eligible to be a SWAP student if you already have a university degree (Ordinary or Honours).** If you previously only completed 1 or 2 years at university, you may still be eligible but you **MUST** phone the SWAP office to discuss this further.

**If you are unsure if you meet the SWAP eligibility criteria, please contact us for advice.**

## About the Programme

All SWAP Access to Nursing programmes are made up of at least 18 units and involve a range of academic subjects. You must pass each of the units in order to successfully complete the programme. Each SWAP programme includes:

- **Core units** in communications, maths and IT. The number of units you study and the level you study at may vary depending on what you intend to move on to.
- **Academic units** in a range of relevant subjects such as biology, human biology, care, physiology, psychology or immunology. The units studied will vary from college to college and from year to year.
- **Preparation for Higher Education.** Alongside academic units, you will work through a variety of personal development and study skills materials aimed at helping you develop the skills and confidence you will need to succeed at university level study.

At the end of the programme each student is awarded a SWAP profile grading ranging from AAA-CCC. These grades are a reflection of your performance across all of the subjects studied throughout the year.

### Where do these programmes run?

Details of all current SWAP East programmes can be found on the SWAP East website at [www.scottishwideraccess.org/east-our-programmes](http://www.scottishwideraccess.org/east-our-programmes).

### What does it lead to?

SWAP nursing programmes lead on to degree programmes in **Adult Nursing, Mental Health Nursing, and Learning Disabilities Nursing** at partner Scottish universities. To find out what degrees you can study and where, and what you will need for entry, use the [SWAP progression route search](#) on the SWAP East website.

Before applying to a SWAP programme we'd recommend that you do some research on the degree programmes you might like to move on to. It is a good idea to have a look at university websites, speak to university admissions offices and attend university open days. The [UCAS search facility](#) will help you find out which degrees are offered where.

There is **no guarantee** that you will be offered a place at university, however each year the vast majority of SWAP students who successfully complete the programme do secure a place on one of their chosen degree programmes. Universities will take into account the strength of your UCAS personal statement and your tutor's reference when deciding whether to offer you a place, and offers are normally conditional on your achieving specific SWAP profile grades at the end of the programme.

**Entry to nursing degree programmes is competitive and universities will want to see that applicants have researched their chosen area of nursing and have a good understanding of the role and responsibilities of the profession.** Applicants who have relevant experience, gained for example, through paid employment, voluntary work or work shadowing, stand a much greater chance of success.

## Midwifery or Child Nursing

Unfortunately SWAP Access to Nursing programmes are **NOT** a route into degrees in either Midwifery or Child Nursing. Places on these degree programmes are strictly controlled in order to try to match the supply of graduates to the number of available jobs. Currently Midwifery is offered at three Scottish universities (Edinburgh Napier, Robert Gordon Aberdeen, and University of the West of Scotland) and Child Nursing at four universities (Edinburgh Napier, Robert Gordon Aberdeen, Dundee, and Glasgow Caledonian). Entry is very highly competitive with demand for places significantly outweighing supply. Adult returners who want to study either Midwifery or Child Nursing should get in touch directly with the relevant university nursing department for advice on what qualifications they will need to obtain for entry.

## Funding

The funding you are entitled to will depend on your individual circumstances. Course fees are fully funded for the vast majority of SWAP students, and most students are also entitled to a college bursary to help with living costs. We'd strongly recommend that you get in touch with the relevant college student funding team for advice on what funding support you will be entitled to. You don't need to wait until you apply before you do this - indeed it's probably best to know exactly what the situation is *before* you apply.

Looking ahead, for advice on fees and funding at university you should get in touch with the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk). You might also find it helpful to consult the [Scottish Government Guidance on Student Funding](#).

## How do I apply for a SWAP access programme?

Once you know which programme you want to join, you apply directly to the college you want to study at. Application is normally via the college's online application system on the college website. You are likely to be invited for an interview at the college, which will also provide an opportunity for you to ask any questions you have about the course. Applicants are normally also given a short test to check that they have the level of communications and maths needed to cope with the demands of the programme. SWAP nursing programmes tend to be popular so it's a good idea to apply early as you can – colleges usually open for applications around Jan / Feb and aim to have courses filled by the start of the summer break in June.

**If you have any questions or would like further information on anything SWAP related please get in touch with us at SWAP East:**

**Tel: 0131 650 6861 or email: [swapeast@ed.ac.uk](mailto:swapeast@ed.ac.uk)**

**Or have a look at our website [www.scottishwideraccess.org](http://www.scottishwideraccess.org)**