Programme length:
The programme is offered on a part time and full time basis as a taught modular basis followed by a period of supervised independent research.

Location:
Coach Lane Campus

Enquiries:
Postgraduate Framework Administrator
School of Health, Community and Education Studies

Contact details:
Tel 0191 215 6169
Email hs.pgf-enquiries@northumbria.ac.uk

Entry requirements:
- Applicants should normally have a first degree at least upper second honours degree standard and/or Masters Degree in a relevant subject area or equivalent.
- Relevant professional qualification.
- Where English is not the applicant’s first language, a minimum IELTS score of 6.5, with a minimum average score of 6.5 in Academic English, is required on entry.

In addition, applicants would be required to:
- Articulate their sphere of influence in healthcare and the anticipated payback of their participation on the course to care provision.
- Undertake an interview at which research area should be articulated.
- Identify funding source and practice support.

Application procedure
For further information prospective applicants are advised to contact the programme director in the first instance.
Programme Director:
Dr Susan Carr
Tel 0191 215 6217
Email sue.carr@unn.ac.uk

The Professional Doctorate in Health and Social Care is housed within the multi-professional Postgraduate Framework. The course aims to provide doctoral level education that facilitates the development of leading-edge understanding and knowledge of health and social care professions and the articulation of that knowledge for practice. It is run on a 2-year modular basis followed by 2 to 3 years of supervised independent empirical study.

Professional doctorate of:
- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Social work
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational therapy
- Family therapy
- Health care
- Social care

It is anticipated that additional titles will be available in the future.

Programme aims
- Develop research that adds to the existing knowledge base and the development and enhancement of the profession and its policies and strategies.
- Translate ideas into a form that is understandable by and meaningful to the profession.
- Make an original contribution to the knowledge base of the professional area and articulate the potential impact on practice.

Attendance
Attendance is by block delivery of 2 or 3 days per month. The University teaching year is divided into three semesters, normally 15 weeks long. Most teaching occurs within the first 12 weeks of each semester. There is a vacation in each semester. Despite there being no formal teaching outwith these block periods, students are expected to pursue independent topic-related study during this time. Electronic learning and communication methods will be utilised both during teaching days and outside them.
Disseminate that research and its outcomes to the professional audience for application to practice
- Re-conceptualise professional practice and translate that vision into action
- Develop a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of professional practice.

Study themes
The modules of study are inter-related around three domains of knowledge: critical practice, research skills and professional development, with the module explicitly integrating these domains.

Facilitated participation in the School research activities will allow the students to experience research in practice and thereby provide research project experience wider than, but complementary to their individual research projects.

Programme outcomes
Having completed the programme, candidates will have:
- Developed further understanding and knowledge of their profession.
- Attained critical analysis and research skills and become proficient in using these.
- Interacted with other professionals in their field to provide support and to exchange and disseminate knowledge, good practice and research.
- Produced an original piece of research that adds to the existing knowledge base and the development and enhancement of the profession and user care.

Assessment
There are no examinations (other than the oral defence of the thesis on completion). All modules are assessed individually using a variety of methods including: seminar presentations, written assignments, case studies and project development.

Core Modules
- Research Skills - Approaches, Designs & Methods
- Research Skills - Management and Governance
- Research Skills - Perspectives on Evaluating Practice
- Critical Practice 1 - Exploring and Analysing Practice
- Critical Practice 2 - Practice Need and Provision
- Integrating Knowledge Domains

Option modules
Option modules will also be available for you to choose from.