

# Questions to ask about courses

By working through the questions in the table below, the content and the practicalities of the course(s) will become clearer. This information is useful in making your final decision regarding whether or not to undertake the course.

Questions to ask about courses		
Question	Question description	Notes
1. Does this course meet my learning needs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teaching methods – workshops, e-learning, videos etc. Does this match the methods I enjoy most, eg open learning or classroom contact?</li> <li>Course outline and options</li> <li>Exams and assessment</li> <li>Is practical work included and assessed (in practice) and what proportion of the course is devoted to this?</li> <li>What are the arrangements for the practical work? Is a mentor needed? What time commitment are they expected to give? Are they responsible for assessment?</li> <li>How much time will it take away from the service provision at work?</li> <li>How much work will have to be done at home?</li> </ul>	
2. What are the facilities like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Library and computer availability</li> <li>Is it necessary to have a computer at home?</li> <li>Refreshments and other provisions for comfort</li> <li>Is the journey reasonable and practical? How far will I have to travel? Is there adequate car parking?</li> </ul>	
3. Is there any additional support for students?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there a system to support individual learning?</li> <li>Will time need to be set aside for reflection and learning at work?</li> <li>Is additional learning support available with support for special needs (eg dyslexia)</li> </ul>	

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4. How does this education provider perform?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What percentage of students complete their studies?</li> <li>• Is the pass rate and drop-out rate information readily available?</li> <li>• How does the organisation ask for and act on feedback?</li> <li>• Are standards checked by an external moderator?</li> </ul>	
5. What qualification is awarded?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the course accredited at diploma, degree, or postgraduate level?</li> <li>• Are any academic credits awarded, and if so, how many?</li> <li>• Can the course be used towards gaining other awards, eg degree or Masters programmes?</li> <li>• Is the learning transferable to other areas of work?</li> </ul>	
6. How much will it cost?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it affordable to the general practice nurse, practice and primary care trust?</li> <li>• Is any financial assistance available?</li> </ul>	
7. What will the course enable you to do differently?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is essential to be clear about the overall benefit of attending the course to ensure that it is going to meet your needs and the needs of your employer</li> </ul>	