



PREPARING FOR YOUR TEST OF COMPETENCE

at Northumbria University



Our ethos

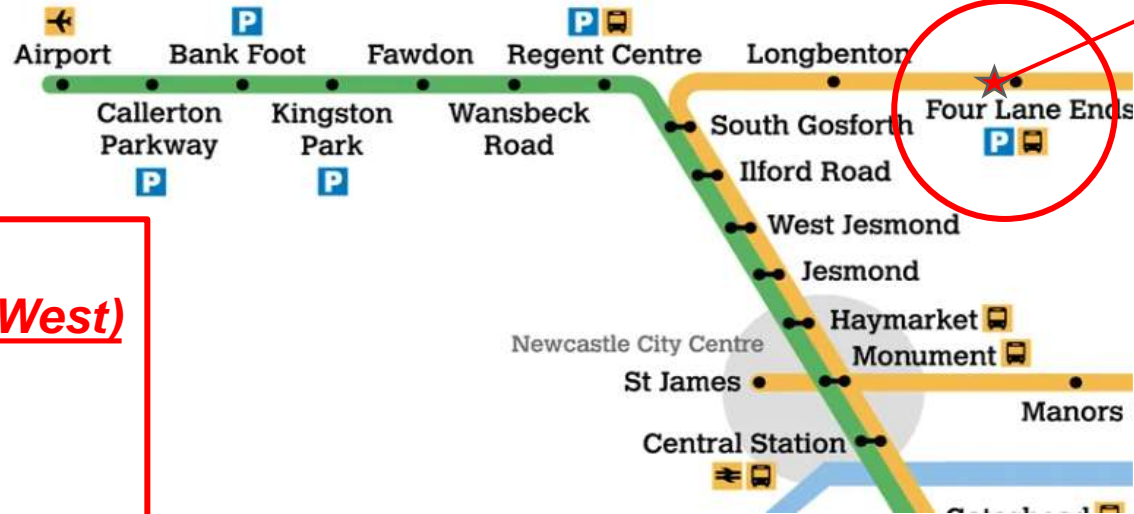
‘You, the Candidate, is at the heart of everything that we do here in the CTC. We work together to provide you with a positive and seamless experience in order to provide you with the best possible chance to succeed in your Test of Competence examination and fulfil your nursing career here in the United Kingdom’

Meet The Team



- We are friendly and supportive, and we want you to do well. We have a vast amount of clinical nursing experience, so you know that you are being assessed by experienced practitioners.
- We have nurses with experience across all specialities : Adult, Child, Mental Health, Midwifery, Nursing Associates and Learning Disabilities.

Getting to the Test Centre



Northumbria University
Coach Lane Campus (West)
Coach Lane
Benton, Newcastle,
NE7 7XA

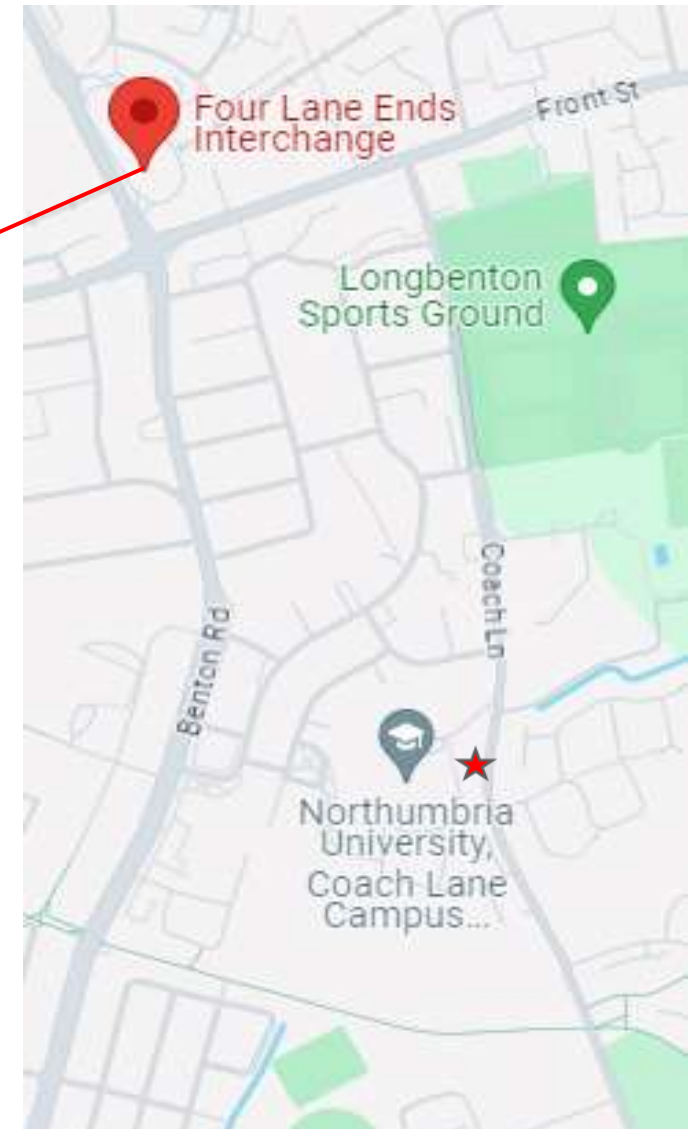
- Nearest Metro Station is Four Lane Ends (10-minute walk to campus)
- Catch the No. 1 bus from Newcastle Central Train Station to Coach Lane Campus (1 minute walk to campus)

Some useful taxi numbers in Newcastle upon Tyne are:

Noda cars – 0191 222 1888

Blue Line taxis – 0191 262 6666

LA taxis – 0191 287 7777



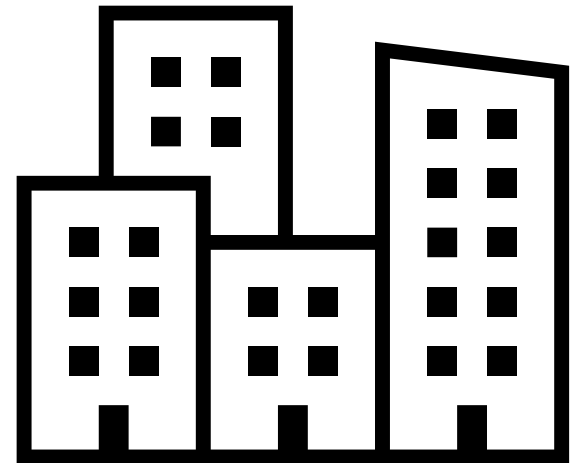
Accommodation

Candidates are responsible for arranging their own accommodation.

For your convenience, we have engaged with several local hotels with your comfort and safety in mind, as well as securing preferred/discounted rates for OSCE candidates.

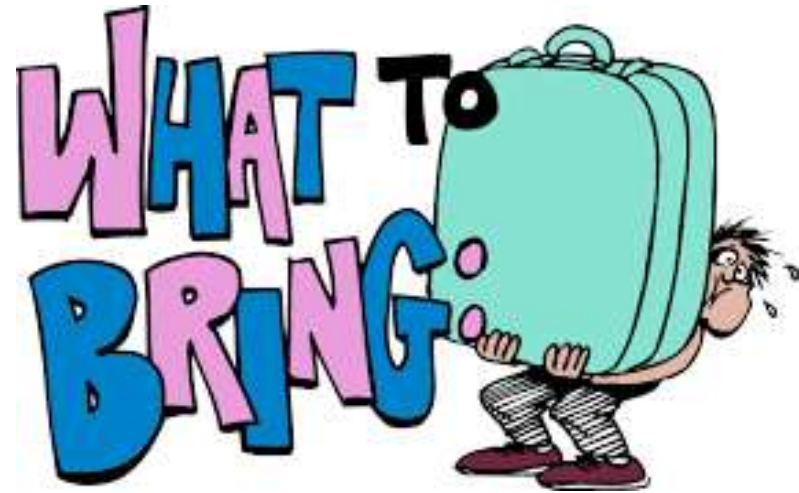
Your Booking Confirmation email has a link with the accommodation details.

- For those arriving in Newcastle upon Tyne by air, we recommend:**
Double Tree by Hilton Hotel (directly opposite Newcastle Airport main terminal)
- For those arriving in Newcastle upon Tyne by car, we recommend:**
Holiday Inn, Jesmond (approx 1.5 miles from Coach Lane Campus)
- For those arriving in Newcastle upon Tyne by rail, we recommend:**
Hampton by Hilton Hotel



What you need to bring with you

- **Clinical uniform** - usual workplace uniform or appropriate healthcare clothing – remember the “bare below the elbow” practice and protocol will be applied during the examination. *Please note that we do not provide uniforms.*
- **Water** – it's important to stay hydrated throughout the exam so please **BRING WATER WITH YOU.**
- **Documents** (originals only): refer to the list on your booking confirmation email
 - Qualification Certificate
 - Registration Certificate
 - Passport or UK photo identification
 - Marriage Certificate (if different name on passport)
 - Police Clearance and DBS
 - Name change affidavit (if relevant)
 - Certified translations (e.g. police clearance)
- **DO NOT FORGET TO BRING YOUR PASSPORT**
(you will not be able to sit the exam without it)



What to expect before your examination

- Check-in
- Passport check
- NMC ID documents collection
- Take a Photo
- Get changed
- Go into the briefing room



The Candidate Briefing

- Examination regulations
- Emergency procedures
- Equipment demonstration
- No mobile phones
- Comfort breaks (if necessary, pre-exam/between stations)
- Personal items
- Technical questions



What to expect in your examination

- Examination conditions
- Scenario instructions
- 10 Stations
- Video and Audio recording
- Examiner movement
- Waiting outside room in between stations
- Next station announced
- Viva questions



What happens after your examination

- Your identification documents will be returned to you
- Your result will be marked by the Examiner
- Your result will be reviewed by an Assistant Lead Examiner
- Your result may be moderated by another Assistant Lead Examiner
- The Results Team will process and issue your result
- Emails will be sent to your NMC registration email address
- Your result will be sent to NMC to complete your registration
- You will receive feedback on any failed stations when you receive your result.



An exceptional candidate experience

- Online learning materials to support preparation.
- Online mock OSCE information.
- Online examples of drug charts etc.
- Dedicated check-in and changing spaces for candidates.
- Access to University café and restaurant.
- Experienced clinical and non-clinical staff.
- Pastoral support for distressed candidates.
- Speedy results processing.
- Early (10 day) re-sit dates if needed.



Top tips for candidates



- Listen **CAREFULLY**, to the Examiner briefing.
- This is a REAL scenario – so act as you would in clinical practice.
- Take time to read the scenario **CAREFULLY**, for helpful information.
- Note the scenario setting, as it will affect your patient's care. Is it Hospital or Community?
- Gel cleanse your hands properly throughout, using WHO guidance.
- Wear the correct PPE throughout, if and where required.
- Check your patient's identification and allergy status, **CAREFULLY**.
- Check **ALL** the relevant documentation is fully completed.
- Verbalise or demonstrate the disposal of any clinical waste.
- When advised that your station has ended, please **STOP**.

Top tips for candidates (cont.)



- Before each station, if you are not sure what things mean, please ask or check with your examiner as they are here to support you.
- Remember to tell the examiner what you are doing

Common reasons for fails

- Not listening to pre-scenario briefing from examiner
- Ineffective time management
- Incomplete ID or allergy checks
- Incomplete medication checks
- Not gaining informed consent
- Failing to read the scenario and to respond appropriately when providing care
- Lack of communication with manikin or human-actor - verbal, non-verbal and listening
- Ineffective hand washing and donning of PPE
- Not completing documentation accurately (date/time/signature) and illegible documentation
- Unsafe handling of sharps
- Failing to demonstrate the necessary skill
- If I make a mistake say, 'In clinical practise I would.....' to correct the mistake.



Frequently failed stations

Assessment

- Not following best practice when taking observations
- Not completing the NEWS2 chart, Neurological, MUST, PHQ9 or 6CIT chart correctly

Planning

- Relevant care plans, read the scenario. Don't do post-op care plan, for pre-op patient.

Implementation

- Not performing medication checks thoroughly
- Not performing patient safety checks prior to administration
- Not completing documentation fully, look at examples of Community and Hospital charts, they are different.
- Listen to cues from the Actors, this may help them administer appropriate medication.

Intramuscular Injection / Subcutaneous Injection

- Safe disposal of sharps, re-sheathing is not allowed

ANTT

- Contamination of the sterile field
- The image is there for reference only



Pregnancy and Special Requirements

We offer reasonable adjustments if you are pregnant, have disabilities or other special needs e.g. dyslexia/speech impediment etc

- Pregnancy – complete a new and expectant mothers form before you sit your exam; please update how many weeks pregnant you are and return the form at least 7 days before your exam
- Special requirements – complete a special requirements form and return it with supporting evidence dated within the last 3 months, at least 7 days before your exam



Mitigating Circumstances

- We understand unforeseen circumstances can occur.
- You can submit a mitigating circumstance form if you are needing to **reschedule/cancel** your exam **within 3 weeks of your exam date**.
- Evidence must be submitted as part of your application.
- Any evidence submitted needs to be dated within the last 3 months.
- Our Lead Examiners will review and respond to you directly. If your form is accepted, you will be able to reschedule your exam free of charge or a full refund may be agreed.



You can do this

- Remember you are already qualified as a nurse
- You have the skills
- You have the knowledge
- You have the experience
- You are passionate about nursing and care
- Your commitment and dedication has got you here



My overall experience of test of competence was really very good, it was a big milestone for me but with all the support and information provided I was able to clear my exam in first attempt. The most valuable aspect would be the mental support which my assessor gave me before and during the exam.

As like everybody else I was very nervous before exam but the assessor was very nice, she talked to me before the exam which calmed my nerves. That would be the most valuable thing for me as I was supported emotional it made me do better and I passed in one go.

Before we start the first station. When my assessor is giving me positive words and motivations, it helped me a lot be focused and relaxed all throughout the exam.

CTC administration were very supportive with every query I made.

What our candidates think about their experience at Northumbria

All staff members were warm and friendly. They made me feel relaxed

The centre staff was extremely helpful.

The way I was warmly greeted. I was nervous already and the staff were so welcoming.

I appreciated so much how they treated me so well with respect and dignity, very positive with words of wisdom to be motivated.



THANK YOU!

ANY QUESTIONS?

ID Checks: ID.Checks@nmc-uk.org

- **General enquiries: 020 7637 7181**
- **Registration enquiries: 020 7333 9333**
- **International enquiries: 020 7333 6600**

You can contact them by telephone 08:00–17:45 Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

WANT THE LATEST UPDATES? FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Instagram:
@CTCNorthumbria



Facebook:
@CTCNorthumbria - OSCE Test Centre



Twitter / X:
@CTCNorthumbria



LinkedIn:
@CTCNorthumbria (OSCE Test Centre)