FIONA DOBSON: Hello. I'm Fiona Dobson, a registered nurse and a member of the teaching team here at the Open University that have produced this Facilitating Learning in practice course. The course focuses on the development of mentors, and in particular, mentors who support nursing students in the practice setting. And it can be used as part of a formal Nursing and Midwifery Council-recognised mentor preparation programme. Whether you're studying this course for personal interest, continuing professional development, or because you are keen to become an NMC-recognised mentor, the free badged course can recognise your achievements through completion of formal online quizzes in weeks four and eight of the course.

During the eight weeks, you'll gain a thorough grounding in mentorship. Beginning with an overview of the mentoring role, you'll move on to look at educational theories and principles that can be applied in practice, along with models that can be used to support students to gain clinical skills. You'll look at the importance of effective relationships in mentoring, and move on to create effective learning environments for your students. You'll think about the importance of assessment in practice, and you'll consider how you can support students who are struggling to succeed. Finally, you'll look at the ongoing importance of being an effective mentor and the role that you will have in the future of the nursing profession.

The course team hopes that you find this course stimulating and interesting. We wish you luck with your studies. And I look forward to seeing you in week one.