

Annexe 1

Requirements, guidance and advice for learning outside the UK for pre-registration nursing and midwifery students.

Requirement

Approved education institutions (AEIs) must have formal arrangements in place with host partners before students start learning in academic or practice settings outside the UK. In total, this must not be more than six months (or exceed 17.5 percent) of the total programme. There are exceptions for programmes approved to be partly delivered in the Isle of Man, Channel Islands and in British Forces institutions.

This may take the form of:

- a period of theoretical and/or practice learning of not more than four weeks, which may include direct care but which is not summatively assessed, or;
- a period longer than four weeks of theoretical and/or practice learning which may include direct care that is summatively assessed and contributes to the overall achievement of programme outcomes.

AEIs must use relevant aspects of the NMC guidance for learning outside of the UK to develop criteria for single periods of learning of four weeks or less. This is to ensure the safety of service users, students and staff and show how the intended programme outcomes are to be addressed.

AEIs must fully apply the NMC guidance to all periods of learning undertaken outside of the UK that are longer than four weeks.

Guidance

AEIs should have arrangements in place for the safety of service users, students and staff ensuring that:

- risk assessments have been completed and all identified risks addressed
- audits of the learning environment confirm adequate levels of supervision and mentorship and that planned experience supports the intended programme outcomes
- a suitable and experienced named person(s) is available to support the student throughout the period of learning in relation to the outcomes to be achieved

- students have the essential language skills needed to participate in learning activities and, where relevant, the level of language required to safely and effectively engage in direct care
- students are prepared for the environment in which learning is to be undertaken
- students work within the scope of their UK approved programme and fitness to practise requirements, complying with the *Standards of proficiency for pre-registration nursing education* (NMC 2004), or *Standards for pre-registration midwifery education* (NMC 2009)
- measures are in place to act promptly where there are concerns about a student's conduct or progress, or where safety or learning is compromised
- students have in place appropriate and adequate insurance against major risks including: professional liability, personal health and travel and, where appropriate, for vicarious liability.

AEIs should ensure that the principles underpinning periods of learning to be undertaken outside of the UK that are longer than four weeks, form part of the approved programme.

AEIs should, wherever practicable, fully meet the *Standards to support learning and assessment in practice* (NMC 2008). Where adjustments are required to take account of the local context, these should be previously agreed by the programme board, fully documented and the detail made available for NMC monitoring.

AEIs should ensure that the period undertaken outside of the UK does not form any part of a period of continuous practice learning required to determine whether a student can progress from one part of the programme to another, or required to confirm that the student is safe and effective in practice at the end of the programme.

Advice

Opportunities for students to gain experience outside of the UK are well established in many health professional education programmes. Increased flexibility gives students more access to learning opportunities and resources. Funding opportunities may be available from European and global organisations such as the European Commission and British Council.

It is possible for students from outside the UK to return to their country of origin for learning in academic or practice settings as part of their total programme as long as this forms part of the approved programme and all the NMC related requirements and guidance, including those for learning outside of the UK are met.

The safety of service users, students and staff is the first concern and formal arrangements need to be in place with host partners before students start learning outside of the UK and AEIs are advised to also identify a named academic or practice support person to monitor, maintain, foster and develop each partnership. A student learning agreement, a memorandum of understanding, an ERASMUS agreement, or other form of agreement needs to confirm the arrangements and

responsibilities of the partner universities, taking account of the NMC requirements and guidance.

Useful references:

UCEA Health and Safety Guidance for the placement of Higher Education students, (UCEA 2009)

http://www.ucea.ac.uk/objects_store/ucea_health_and_safety_guidance_for_the_placement_of_the_students.pdf

The Code: <http://www.nmc.org.uk/code>

Standards to support learning and assessment in practice (NMC 2008)

<http://www.nmc-uk.org/Documents/Standards/nmcStandardsToSupportLearningAndAssessmentInPractice.pdf>