

**Standards and guidance
on the requirements for
those who first apply for
registration more than
five years after being
awarded an approved
qualification**

Introduction

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) exists to protect the public. We do this by making sure that only those who meet our requirements are allowed to practise as a registered nurse or midwife in the UK.

This document confirms the standards that must be met by those who first apply for registration more than five years after being awarded an approved qualification. It also sets out the ways in which five-year applicants can demonstrate they meet those standards.

Background

Our Order and Rules specify that an applicant seeking to register an approved qualification must apply within five years of being awarded that qualification.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to:

- Confirm the standards to be followed by someone who first applies for registration more than five years after being awarded an approved qualification.
- Provide guidance on the ways someone who first applies for registration more than five years after being awarded an approved qualification can meet the standards.

Standards

A five-year applicant must be able to demonstrate, at the point of registering the approved qualification, that NMC standards which currently apply to that qualification are met.¹

A five-year applicant must undertake either an approved test of competence or an approved programme that leads to initial registration on a part of the register in order to demonstrate they meet the current standards which apply to that qualification.

Guidance on the requirements

Tests of competence

Five tests have been developed with an approved education institute that are appropriate for five-year applicants who wish to register as a nurse (adult, children's, learning disability and mental health) or midwife.

A five-year applicant can undertake competence testing in order to demonstrate they meet the following standards:

- *Standards for pre-registration nursing education* (NMC, 2010) – Standards for competence, page 11.
- *Standards for pre-registration midwifery education* (NMC, 2009) – Standard 17, page 23.

A five-year applicant considering competence testing should contact the NMC to determine whether they are eligible to undertake competence testing.

Undertaking an education and training programme

Alternatively, a five-year applicant may undertake an education or training programme in order to demonstrate they meet any of our standards.²

This includes, in addition to the nursing and midwifery standards listed above, the following standards:

- Post-initial registration – *Standards of proficiency for specialist community public health nurses* (NMC, 2004) and related circulars – Standards of proficiency for entry to the register (2001).

End notes

- 1 For example, if you were awarded an approved qualification as a midwife in 2004 you would now need to be able to demonstrate, at the point of registering that qualification, that you meet the current standards which apply to midwives: *Standards for pre-registration midwifery education* (NMC, 2009) – Standard 17.
- 2 Although five-year applicants have always had this option open to them, the NMC has now spelt this out in guidance. In the interests of public protection, we consider this to be the best option for five-year applicants who have not practised in the intervening period.