Glossary

Last Updated: 29/10/2026

Approved Education Institutions (AEIs): the status awarded by the NMC to an institution, or part of an institution, or combination of institutions that work in partnership with practice placement and work placed learning providers. AEIs will have provided us with assurance that they are accountable and capable of delivering NMC approved education programmes.

Community nursing: care provided by nurses in the community including but not limited to nursing care provided where people live, at home or close to home, in adult social care settings, educational settings, primary care, community clinics, outreach centres, health and justice and other community settings or establishments.

Educators: in the context of the NMC standards for education and training, educators are those who deliver, support, supervise and assess theory, practice and/or work placed learning.

Other specified field(s) of community nursing in health and social care: this is including but not limited to nurses practicing in the context of offender health, the social care sector, hospice sector, as determined by the AEI and their learning practice partner.

People: individuals or groups who receive services from nurses and midwives, healthy and sick people, parents, children, families, carers, representatives, including educators, students and others within and outside the learning environment.

Practice learning partners: organisations that provide practice learning necessary for supporting pre-registration and post-registration students in meeting proficiencies and programme outcomes.

Protected learning time: time in a health, care or other setting during which students are learning and are supported to learn. Students must be supervised during protected learning time. The level of supervision required is a matter of professional judgment and will depend on the competence and confidence of the student, and the risks associated with the intervention being delivered.

Quality assurance: NMC processes for making sure all AEIs and their approved education programmes comply with our standards.

Reasonable adjustments: where a student requires a reasonable adjustment related to a disability. We also use it to mean adjustment relating to any protected characteristics as set out in the equalities and human rights legislation.

Recognition of prior learning: a process that enables previous certificated or experiential learning to be recognised and accepted as meeting some programme outcomes. This means it includes both theory and practice achievement.

Simulation: an educational method which uses a variety of modalities to support students in developing their knowledge, behaviours and skills, with the opportunity for repetition, feedback, evaluation and reflection to achieve their programme outcomes and be confirmed as capable of safe and effective practice.

Student: any individual enrolled onto an NMC approved education programme whether full-time or less than full-time.