

Registering as a nurse or midwife in the UK

**Information for applicants trained
in the European Union or the
European Economic Area**

Contents

Introduction.....	4
Your responsibilities as a registered nurse or midwife in the UK	6
Routes to recognition.....	8
Applying for recognition and registration with the NMC	10
Step 1: Assessment and recognition of qualifications.....	12
Step 2: English language requirement.....	17
Step 3: Application for entry to the register	19
European Professional Card.....	20
Temporary and occasional registration	20
Annexe 1: Reference dates and automatic recognition qualifications for EU member states for nurses responsible for general care and midwives.....	21
Annexe 2: Member state specific acquired rights	28
Annexe 3: EU requirements for the training of general care nurses	31
Annexe 4: EU requirements for training of midwives	32
Annexe 5: Minimum education requirements for children’s, mental health or learning disability nurses.....	34
Annexe 6: Compensation measures	36
Annexe 7: English language requirements	37

About the NMC

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) regulates nurses and midwives in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Our statutory role is to protect the public. We set standards for education, to ensure nurses and midwives have the appropriate skills and competencies when they begin work. We keep a register of all nurses and midwives who have met these standards and have been admitted to our register.

Who this guide is for

This guide is for applicants who are applying for registration through the EU registration process. To be eligible you must be a European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) national and trained as a nurse or midwife in the EU or EEA. For more information on eligibility under the EU registration process please refer to 'Eligibility for registration' on page 4.

Introduction

Eligibility for registration

In order to be considered for recognition and registration, you must fulfil one of the following criteria:

- You are an EU national and have been trained and registered in an EU or EEA member state.
- You are an EU national and were trained in a country outside the EU or EEA but have been registered in an EU member state and have been lawfully practising in that member state for at least three consecutive years.
- You are the spouse, civil partner, child or dependent under the age of 21 of an EU national and you are using 'enforceable EU rights' to locate to the UK with your spouse, parent or civil partner, and you are entitled to be treated no less favourably than a national of an EU member state.

If you do not meet the above criteria, you should apply through our overseas registration route.

How the register is organised

The NMC register is divided into the following three parts and sub parts:

- nurses
- midwives
- specialist community public health nurses (SCPHNs)

Sub part 1 for first level nurses is divided into four fields of practice. These are:

- adult nursing¹
- mental health nursing
- learning disabilities nursing
- children's nursing

¹ Adult nurses are known in the EU as 'nurses responsible for general care'.

You may only apply for registration on a part of a register that you hold a qualification in. However, you can apply to be on one or more of the above parts of the NMC register as long as you meet our standards.

If you are a nurse, it is likely that you have trained as a nurse responsible for general care. This is the same as an adult nurse in the UK. As a result you should apply for the first level registration in the field of adult nursing.

Your responsibilities as a registered nurse or midwife in the UK

Responsibility and sphere of practice

Registered nurses and midwives may work in a variety of health-related settings including the National Health Service (NHS), private hospitals, nursing homes or in the community. A nurse or midwife is always accountable for their own practice. This responsibility cannot be delegated elsewhere as the nurse or midwife is recognised as practising autonomously. However, everyone on the NMC register must ensure that they are competent in their sphere of practice and use evidence-based learning and experience to maintain their expertise, whatever their employment circumstances.

Registration on the midwives' part of the NMC register demonstrates that you hold a midwifery qualification.

The NMC Code

The Code: Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives (NMC, 2015) contains the professional standards that registered nurses and midwives must uphold. UK nurses and midwives must act in line with the Code, whether they are providing direct care to individuals, groups or communities or bringing their professional knowledge to bear on nursing and midwifery practice in other roles, such as leadership, education or research.

To read the NMC Code, please go to our website www.nmc.org.uk/code.

Revalidation

Once on the register, all nurses and midwives will be required to revalidate every three years to maintain their registration with us. [Revalidation](#) is a straightforward process and will help you demonstrate that you practise safely and effectively.

Revalidation encourages you to reflect on the role of the Code in your practice, allowing you to demonstrate that you are living the standards set out within it.

The requirements for revalidation are:

- 450 practice hours or 900 hours if revalidating as both a nurse and midwife
- 35 hours of continuing professional development
- five pieces of practice-related feedback
- five written reflective accounts
- reflective discussion
- health and character declaration
- professional indemnity arrangements
- confirmation.

If you become registered with the NMC, you will be required to meet the requirements. For more information on revalidation, please see www.nmc.org.uk/revalidation.

Professional indemnity arrangements

It is a legal requirement for nurses and midwives to hold an indemnity arrangement in order to be registered with us. When applying to join our register, you are required to self-declare that you have in place, or will hold when you begin practising, an appropriate indemnity arrangement.

It is your responsibility to make sure that you have appropriate cover for your roles and scope of practice. It should be relevant to the risks involved in your practice, so that it is sufficient if a claim is successfully made against you. If it is discovered that you are practising without an appropriate professional indemnity arrangement in place, you will be removed from the register and you will no longer be able to practise as a nurse or midwife.

Once registered with the NMC, if your indemnity arrangement is no longer appropriate for your scope of practice, and you no longer meet our registration requirements, you must tell us immediately by contacting our registration department on 020 7333 9333.

For more information on the professional indemnity requirements, see www.nmc.org.uk/indemnity.

Routes to recognition

Based on the type of qualification that you hold, you will be able to apply for recognition of your qualification through one of the routes below.

Automatic recognition

The EU sets the minimum training standards that nurses responsible for general care (adult nursing in the UK) and midwives must meet to be eligible to register and practise in their home member state and across the EU. These standards are set out in Directive 2005/36/EC on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (the Directive).

When countries join the EU, they have to make sure that their general nursing and midwifery training programmes meet the minimum standards set out in the Directive. If you started your qualification after the date that this was established for general nursing (29 June 1979) or midwifery (23 January 1983) or after the reference date for when your country implemented the EU standards, then you will meet the requirements for the automatic recognition of your qualification.

The qualifications which meet the standard for automatic recognition and the reference date for each country can be found in Annexe 1 (see page 21).

Acquired rights

If your qualification as a nurse responsible for general care or a midwife does not meet the requirements for automatic recognition because you started training before your country's reference date, we will be able to consider your application only if you provide some additional documents.

Your qualification will be recognised with the NMC if:

- Your qualification is not listed in the table in Annexe 1 (see page 21) but was granted in an EEA member state following training in that member state.
- You can provide evidence of your qualification, certified by your home competent authority.
- You can provide a certificate of acquired rights from the competent authority of your home member state. This certificate must confirm that you have been engaged in practice for at least three consecutive years during the five years preceding the award of the certificate.

Specific acquired rights rules apply if you are applying from Croatia, Poland and Romania or if you have trained in a European state that no longer exists which is now part of a EEA member state. If you are applying from one of these member states, please see Annexe 2 (see page 28).

Individual assessment (general systems)

If you have trained as a general nurse or midwife in an EEA member state but your qualification does not meet the requirements for automatic recognition, and you have not completed the period of practice to meet acquired rights, we will still be able to assess your training and experience against the UK standards to practise.

If you are a general nurse² your training and experience will be assessed directly against the requirements in Article 31 and Annexe V, 5.2.1 of the Directive (to view these requirements please see Annexe 3, page 31). If you are a midwife, your training and experience will be assessed directly against the requirements in Article 41 and Annexe V, 5.5.1 of the Directive (to view these requirements please see Annexe 4, page 32).

The general system provisions in the Directive also set out the approach for recognising qualifications other than for a general care nurse or midwife, depending on the level of qualification. We will use the general system approach set out in the Directive to assess applications from:

- nurses who have undertaken training leading to a qualification as a 'specialist nurse', for example a children's, mental health, learning disability or public health nurse

For general system applications, we will assess your qualification by comparing the training completed in your country with our minimum training requirements for the equivalent part of the register. If you hold a qualification that has no equivalent on the NMC register, then you will not be able to apply for recognition of your qualification.

It is important to be aware that if you are being assessed under the general system and your qualification does not match our education standards criteria for entry to the NMC register, we will not be able to recognise your qualification. Where there are significant differences between your training and that which is required in the UK, we will invite you to make up the differences through either a period of adaptation or an aptitude test.

The Directive defines these as follows:

- **Adaptation period:** The pursuit of a regulated profession in the host member state under the responsibility of a qualified member of that profession, such period of supervised practise possibly with further training. This period of supervised practice shall be the subject of an assessment. The detailed rules governing the adaptation period and its assessment as well as the status of a migrant under supervision shall be laid down by the competent authority in the host member state.
- **Aptitude test:** A test of the applicant's professional knowledge, skills and competences, carried out or recognised by the competent authorities of the host member state with the aim of assessing the applicant's ability to pursue a regulated profession in that member state.

² If you have undertaken training as a Feldsher (Фельдшер) in Bulgaria, we will not be able to consider your application. This is in accordance with the provisions of article 23a of the Directive.

Applying for recognition and registration with the NMC

You will need to apply for recognition of your qualification and meet additional requirements before we can register you. This section provides information to help guide you through the process.

How to apply

You can begin an application for the recognition of your qualification and registration at <https://online.nmc-uk.org/EuApplication/Eligibility>

If you have been issued with a European Professional Card (EPC) (for more information about the EPC, please see page 20) you'll need to complete a post-recognition application pack before you can legally work in the UK. You can request an application pack by emailing eu.enquiries@nmc-uk.org.

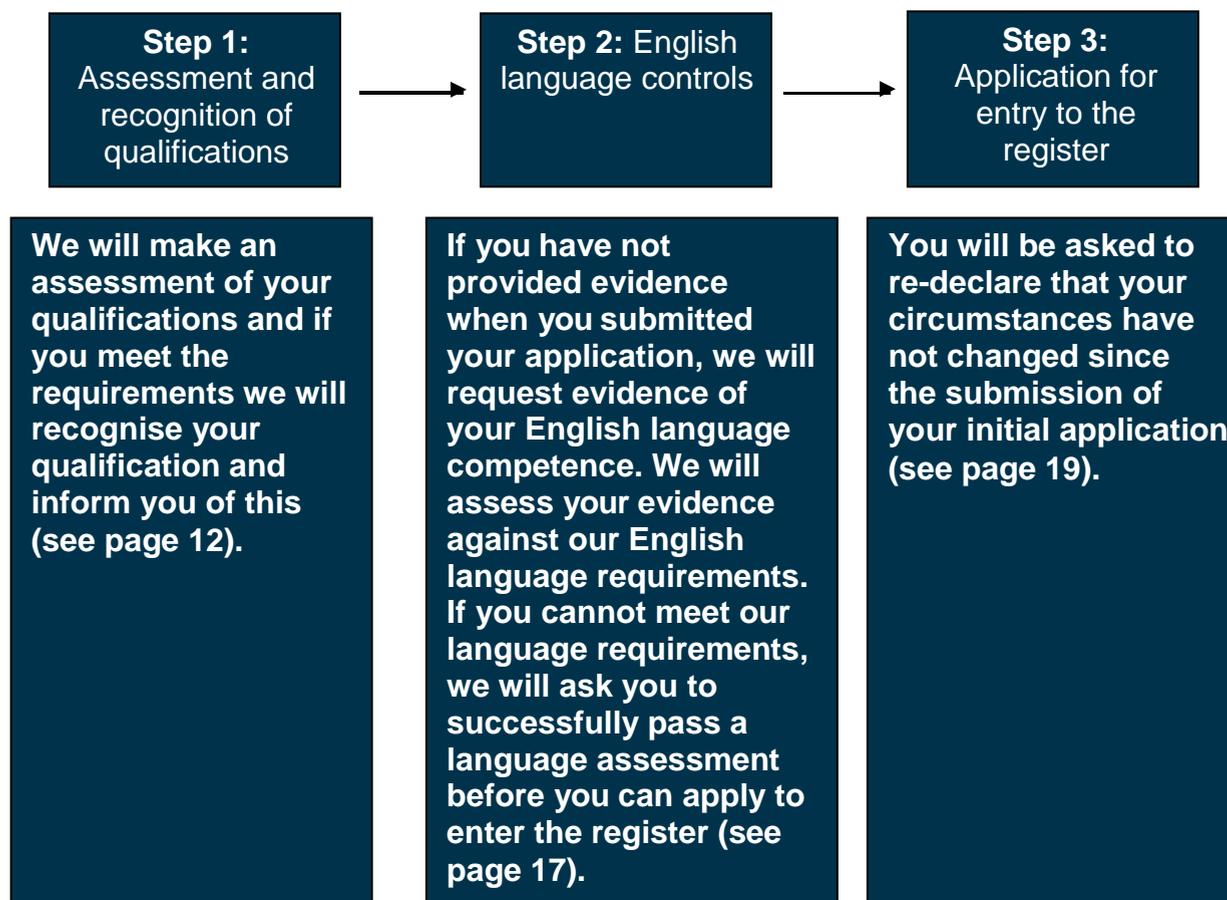
You should complete and return your application form and supporting documents as soon as possible. You should complete the form yourself in English. If we haven't received this information within six months of the date the form was sent out, your application will be closed and you will need to submit a new application for registration.

Please ensure your character and health references and police clearance certificates are submitted within 3 months of their issue.

You must submit the original application form and not a photocopy. Supporting documents sent with your application should be photocopies that have been correctly certified by an authorised party. You should not submit original documents as they will not be returned to you. If the documents are not in English you will need to supply documents both in the original language and an English translation, unless the documents are accompanied by a multilingual standard form which has been signed and stamped or sealed by the authority which issued the original document. If you do not do this, it will delay your application.

Once you have applied for an application form, we will give you a Personal Reference Number (PRN). You will need this every time you contact us, so we can access your application details.

Once you have completed the application form and provided the required documentation, your application will be processed in the following three steps:



You must successfully complete all three stages in order to gain entry to the NMC register and be allowed to practise in the UK. Once we have made an initial assessment of your application, we may ask you to provide further information and you may have to contact the authorities in your home country. An application cannot be considered complete until we have received all the information required to make a full assessment. It is important that you read all of the information carefully before you apply.

Before applying

Before applying, you will need to contact the competent authority in the country where you are registered. They will be able to tell you if you are entitled, under European law, to register in the UK because:

- your training meets the requirements for automatic recognition as a nurse responsible for general care or a midwife, or
- you have a qualification as a nurse responsible for general care or a midwife and meet the requirements for registration via 'acquired rights'

If you are not sure whether we will recognise your qualification, you should ask us for advice before you pay to have documents translated into English. Some qualifications are not recognised in the UK, even if they allow you to practise as a nurse or a midwife in your home country.

Step 1: Assessment and recognition of qualifications



Recognition of qualification in the UK as a nurse responsible for general care

In the UK a nurse responsible for general care is known as an ‘adult nurse’.

If your qualification meets the requirements for automatic recognition, or if you meet the requirements for acquired rights, you should read the information below. You will need to send us the completed application form with certified copies of the documents listed below depending on your route of recognition.

- **If you meet the requirements for automatic recognition:** You will need to supply certified evidence of your qualification as a nurse responsible for general care if it meets the requirements for automatic recognition and is listed in Annexe 1 of this booklet (see page 21).
- **Application made under acquired rights:** You will need to supply evidence of your qualification certified by your registering body or competent authority if your qualification was awarded before 29 June 1979, or before your country became a member of the EU or EEA. We also need a certificate from them confirming that you have been practising as a nurse for three years out of the five years before the certificate was issued, quoting Article 23 of the Directive.

If you are applying from Croatia, Poland, Romania or your qualification was issued in a country that no longer exists, you will be subject to different acquired rights requirements (please see Annexe 2 (see page 28) of this booklet).

In addition to either of the above, we require:

- a police clearance certificate from every country you have lived in for more than three months. If you have lived in the UK for more than three months we also require a standard level Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Please note that these documents must be submitted within three months from the date of issue).
- a marriage or civil partnership certificate (if applicable)
- a certified copy of your passport or identity card
- a certificate of current professional status, also known as a certificate of compliance or verification
- a declaration of good health from your GP, occupational health department or competent authority.

All of the documents must be certified photocopies. We must also receive an English translation of these documents, unless they are accompanied by a multilingual standard form which has been signed and stamped or sealed by the authority which issued the original document.

The translations must have been verified as authentic by an official translation agency or your embassy. You must then send the certified photocopies of the originals and the translation to the NMC. The NMC will not be able to return any of these documents to you so it is important that you do not send the originals.

If you do not meet the requirements for automatic recognition of your qualification or you have not undertaken the required recent practice requirement for acquired rights, please go to page 14.

Recognition of qualification in the UK as a midwife

If your qualification meets the requirements for automatic recognition, or if you believe you meet the requirements for acquired rights, you should read the information below.

You will need to send the completed application form with certified copies of the documents listed below depending on your route of recognition.

- **If you meet the requirements for automatic recognition:** You will need to supply certified evidence of your qualification as a midwife. Please check **Annexe 1** (see page 21) in this booklet to see if your qualification meets automatic recognition.
 - If you completed a direct entry midwifery programme of three years or longer, your qualification will be automatically recognised.
 - If you completed an 18-month midwifery training following registration as a nurse responsible for general care, we will need a certificate from your registering body or competent authority confirming that you have practised for 12 months as a midwife.
 - If you completed a two-year midwifery programme following on from a three-year nursing programme, after your country became a member of the EU or EEA, your application will be assessed under the automatic recognition route.
- **Applications made under acquired rights:** You will need to supply a certificate of current professional status from your registering body or competent authority. This certificate will need to indicate the type of qualification you received and if it was awarded before 23 January 1983, or before your country became a member of the EU or EEA. Your regulatory body or competent authority will need to also confirm that you have been practising as a midwife for three consecutive years out of the previous five years before the certificate was issued.

If you are applying from Croatia, Poland, Romania or your qualification was issued in a country that no longer exists, you will be subject to different acquired rights requirements set out in Annexe 2 (see page 28) of this booklet.

In addition to the above, we require:

- a police clearance certificate from every overseas country you have lived in for more than three months; if you have lived in the UK for more than three months, we also require a standard level Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Please note that these documents must be submitted within three months from the date of issue.
- a marriage or civil partnership certificate (if applicable)
- a certified copy of your passport or identity card
- a certificate of current professional status, otherwise known as a certificate of compliance or verification
- a declaration of good health from your GP, occupational health department or competent authority.

All documents must be correctly certified by an authorised party listed on the application form. If the document is in a language other than English it will need to be translated unless it is accompanied by a multilingual standard form which has been signed and stamped or sealed by the authority which issued the original document. We will not be able to return the documents you have submitted so please do not send the original version.

If you do not meet the requirements for automatic recognition of your qualification or you have not undertaken the required recent practice requirement for acquired rights, please see below.

Individual assessment (general system): Nurses responsible for general care and midwives who do not meet automatic recognition or the practice requirements for acquired rights.

If you have successfully completed a qualification as a nurse responsible for general care or a midwife but you do not qualify for automatic recognition or you cannot meet the practice requirements for acquired rights, we will be able to consider your application through the 'general system'.

You will need to send us the application form with certified photocopies of the following documents.

- Evidence of your qualification.
- A transcript of your training. This must be an official document from your training institution. The transcript of your training must contain details of the subjects that you studied and the number of hours, as well as details of your clinical experience and the number of hours for each subject.

In addition to the above, we require:

- a police clearance certificate from every overseas country you have lived in for more than three months. If you have lived in the UK for more than three months, we also require a standard level Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Please note that these documents must be submitted within three months from the date of issue.
- a marriage or civil partnership certificate (if applicable)
- a certified copy of your passport or identity card
- a certificate of current professional status, also known as a certificate of compliance or verification
- a declaration of good health from your GP, occupational health department or competent authority.

All documents must be correctly certified by an authorised party listed in the application form. If the document is in a language other than English it will also need to be translated unless it is accompanied by a multilingual standard form which has been signed and stamped or sealed by the authority which issued the original document. Please do not send originals as we will not be able to return the documents.

Once we receive your application form and the documents set out above, we will compare your transcript of training with the training that is required by Article 31 and Annex C, 5.2.1 of the Directive for general nurses, or Article 40 and Annex V, 5.5.1 for midwives (or the appropriate part of the NMC register for specialised nurses). If there are significant differences between your training and that required in the UK, we will explain this in a letter to you. Significant differences are shortfalls in either the length or content of your training programme compared to the training required in the UK.

For the purposes of recognition, professional qualifications shall be grouped under the different levels outlined in article 11 of the EU directive 2005/36/EC. UK trained nurses and midwives are educated to degree level which is equivalent to Article 11d of the directive.

If we highlight shortfalls in your training and experience, you will be offered the opportunity to make up these differences through a compensation measure such as a period of adaptation or an aptitude test, which must be undertaken in the UK. For more information on compensation measures please refer to Annexe 6.

For the requirements of Article 31 and Annex V, 5.2.1 on the training of general care nurses, go to Annexe 3 (see page 31).

For the requirements of Article 40 and Annex V, 5.5.1 on the training of midwives, go to Annexe 4 (see page 32).

Individual assessment: Recognition of qualifications as a children's, mental health or learning disability nurse

The EU does not have set standards for the training of children's, mental health or learning disabilities nurses. Your training will therefore be compared directly to that which is required in the UK.

You will need to send us the completed application form with certified copies of the documents listed below.

- Evidence of your qualification:
 - If you have only trained as a children's, mental health or learning disability nurse, your training must have been three years in length (or part-time equivalent).
 - If you trained as a children's, mental health or learning disability nurse after you qualified as a nurse responsible for general care, you will need to send us evidence of your qualifications both as a nurse responsible for general care and as a children's, mental health or learning disability nurse. This subsequent training must have been not less than 12 months in length.
- A transcript of your training: This must be an official document from your training institution. The transcript of training must contain details of the subjects studied along with the number of hours and details of the clinical experience and the number of hours.

In addition to the above, we require:

- a police clearance certificate from every overseas country you have lived in for more than three months. If you have lived in the UK for more than three months, we also require a standard level Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Please note that these documents must be submitted within three months from the date of issue.
- a marriage or civil partnership certificate (if applicable)
- a certified copy of your passport or identity card
- a certificate of current professional status, otherwise known as a certificate of compliance or verification
- a declaration of good health from your GP, occupational health department or competent authority.

All documents must be correctly certified by an authorised party listed in the application form. If the document is in a language other than English it will also need to be translated unless it is accompanied by a multilingual standard form which has been signed and stamped or sealed by the authority which issued the original document. We will not be able to return the documents you have submitted so please do not send in the original version.

For the minimum education requirements for an application to register with the NMC as a children's, mental health or learning disabilities nurse refer to Annexe 5 (see page 34).

For the purposes of recognition, professional qualifications shall be grouped under the different levels outlined in article 11 of the EU directive 2005/36/EC. UK trained nurses and midwives are educated to degree level which is equivalent to Article 11d of the directive.

We will recognise your qualification if you meet the requirements. If you do not meet the requirements, we will write to you explaining the shortfalls in your training. If we highlight shortfalls in your training and experience, you will be offered the opportunity to make up these differences through a compensation measure such as a period of adaptation or an aptitude test, which must be undertaken in the UK. For more information on compensation measures please refer to Annexe 6.

Step 2: English language requirements



When you apply to register with us we need to be satisfied you have the necessary knowledge of English to communicate effectively. Communication is defined as speaking, reading, listening and writing and your evidence must demonstrate competence in these four mandatory skills.

Following the recognition of qualification, and before entry to the register, all applicants will be required to supply evidence that they have the necessary knowledge of English.

There are a number of pieces of evidence that we will accept.

- There are a number of pieces of evidence that we will accept:
- You have recently achieved the required score in one of the [English language tests accepted by the NMC](#). You must achieve the required score in each of the four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking.
- A pre-registration nurse midwife or nursing associate qualification which was [taught and examined in English](#).
- Recent practice of at least one year in a [majority English speaking country](#).

Your evidence of English language will be assessed against the following criteria.

It should:

- be recent, objective and independent
- clearly demonstrate that you can read, write, communicate and interact with patients, service users, relatives and healthcare professionals in English.
- be capable of being verified that your evidence is authentic.

Important

If you cannot send the evidence we request, or we are not satisfied with what you send us, you will need to provide an alternative type of evidence such as a language test.

We highly recommend you make sure you can meet our language evidence requirements before you apply to us. If you feel you are unlikely to do so you may wish to complete a language test before applying to us.

To avoid delays, you may wish to include evidence that you meet the English language requirements with your application. In this case, if your evidence meets our requirements you will automatically move to step 3 to complete your registration. If you have not submitted evidence of your language competence, we will ask you to do so.

For more information on our language requirements please refer to Annexe 7 of this guidance.

Step 3: Application for entry to the register



Once we are satisfied that you have the necessary knowledge of English to practise safely and effectively, you can complete your registration as a nurse or a midwife.

To complete your registration, you will be required to make a declaration stating that:

- you will abide by the NMC Code
- you hold, or will hold when you begin practising, an appropriate professional indemnity arrangement
- you are capable of safe and effective practise
- nothing has changed in your application since first applying.

At this stage you will also need to pay the registration fee of £120.

Once you have successfully met the requirements outlined above and paid the registration fee, then we will complete your registration.

European Professional Card

The European Professional Card (EPC) aims to further facilitate the free movement of professionals in the EU. The card will simplify the recognition of professional qualifications, enhance transparency for EU citizens and increase trust among authorities across the EU.

From January 2016, nurses responsible for general care can apply for the recognition of their qualification in EU countries through the Internal Market Information System (IMI).

The EPC is not a physical card, but rather electronic proof that you have passed administrative checks and your professional qualifications are recognised by the host country (or that you have met the conditions for the temporary provision of services).

If you are a nurse responsible for general care and wish to apply for an EPC, you must do so via the EU's online portal. The EPC relates only to the recognition of professional qualifications and does not give you the right to practice as a nurse responsible for general care in the UK.

If you have been issued an EPC, you will still be required to apply for registration with the NMC. For details of how to request an application form, please see page 10.

At this stage, you will be required to provide the following:

- your EPC certificate showing that your qualification has been recognised
- evidence of your English language competence (please see page 17)

In addition to the above, we require:

- a police clearance certificate from every overseas country you have lived in for more than three months. If you have lived in the UK for more than three months, we also require a standard level Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Please note that these documents must be submitted within three months from the date of issue.
- a marriage or civil partnership certificate (if applicable)
- a certified copy of your passport or identity card
- a certificate of current professional status, also known as a certificate of compliance or verification
- a declaration of good health from your GP, occupational health department or competent authority.

All documents must be correctly certified by an authorised party listed in the application form. If the document is in a language other than English it will also need to be translated unless it is accompanied by a multilingual standard form which has been signed and stamped or sealed by the authority which issued the original document. We will not be able to return the documents you have submitted so please do not send in the original version.

Temporary and occasional registration

If you wish to work in the UK as a nurse or midwife on a temporary basis, please contact a member of the EU registrations team directly for advice at EU.Enquiries@nmc-org.uk

Annexe 1: Reference dates and automatic recognition qualifications for EU member states for nurses responsible for general care and midwives

Country	Reference date	Title of nursing qualification meeting automatic recognition	Title of midwifery qualification meeting automatic recognition (and reference date if different from nursing)
Austria	1 Jan 1994	<p>1. Diplom als 'Diplomierte Gesundheits - und Krankenschwester/Diplomierter Gesundheits – und Krankenpfleger'</p> <p>2. Diplom als 'Diplomierte Krankenschwester/Diplomierter Krankenpfleger'</p> <p>3. Diplom über die Ausbildung in der all-gemeinen Gesundheits- und Krankenpflege.⁴</p>	<p>1. Hebammen-Diplom</p> <p>2. Diplom über den Abschluss des Fachhochschul-Bachelorstudiengangs "Hebamme"⁵</p>
Belgium	29 June 1979	<p>1. Diploma geadueerde verpleger/verpleegster</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diplôme d'infirmier(ère) gradué(e) - Diplom eines (einer) graduierten Krankenpflegers (-pflegerin) <p>2. Diploma in de ziekenhuisverpleegkunde</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brevet d'infirmier(ère) hospitalier(ère) - Brevet eines (einer) Krankenpflegers (-pflegerin) <p>3. Brevet Van verpleegassistent(e)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brevet d'hospitalier(ère) - Brevet einer Pflegeassistentin 	<p>Diploma van vroedvrouw</p> <p>Diplôme d'accoucheuse (23 Jan 1983)</p>
Bulgaria	1 Jan 2007	<p>Диплома за висше образование на образователно-квалификационна степен "Бакалавър" с професионална квалификация "Медицинска сестра"</p>	<p>Диплома за висше образование на образователно-квалификационна степен "Бакалавър" с професионална квалификация "Акушерка"</p>

⁴ Inserted by Communication from the European Commission, OJ C 129 of 19.05.2012, page 3

⁵ Inserted by Communication from the European Commission, OJ C 322 of 17.12.2008, page 3

Country	Reference date	Title of nursing qualification meeting automatic recognition	Title of midwifery qualification meeting automatic recognition (and reference date if different from nursing)
Croatia ⁶	1 July 2013	1. Svjedodžba "medicinska sestra opće njege / medicinski tehničar opće njege" 2. Svjedodžba "prvostupnik (baccalaureus) sestrinstva / prvostupnica (baccalaurea) sestrinstva"	Svjedodžba "prvostupnik (<i>baccalaureus</i>) primaljstva / sveučilišna prvostupnica (<i>baccalaurea</i>) primaljstva"
Cyprus	1 May 2004	1. Πτυχίο Νοσηλευτικής Τεχνολογικού Πανεπιστημίου Κύπρου ⁷ 2. Πτυχίο Νοσηλευτικής Ευρωπαϊκού Πανεπιστημίου Κύπρου ⁸ 3. Πτυχίο Νοσηλευτικής Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας— BSc in Nursing ⁹ 4. Πτυχίο Γενικής Νοσηλευτικής ¹⁰	Δίπλωμα στο μεταβασικό πρόγραμμα Μαιευτικής
Czech Republic	1 May 2004	1. Diplom o ukončení studia ve studijním programu ošetrovatelství ve studijním oboru všeobecná sestra (bakalář, Bc.) 2. Diplom o ukončení studia ve studijním oboru diplomovaná všeobecná sestra (diplomovaný specialista, DiS.) Accompanied by the following certificate: - Vysvědčení o absolutoriu (<i>Certificate of Completion</i>).	1. Diplom o ukončení studia ve studijním programu ošetrovatelství ve studijním oboru porodní asistentka (bakalář, Bc.) 2. Diplom o ukončení studia ve studijním oboru diplomovaná porodní asistentka (diplomovaný specialista, DiS.) - Vysvědčení o absolutoriu (<i>Certificate of Completion</i>).
Denmark	29 June 1979	Eksamensbevis efter gennemført sygeplejerskeuddannelse	Bevis for bestået jordemodereksamen (23 Jan 1983)
Estonia	1 May 2004	Diplom õe erialal	Diplom ämmaemanda erialal

⁶ Added to the list by reason of the accession of Croatia to the European Union on 1 July 2013, COM(2013) 60 final

⁷ Inserted by Communication from the European Commission, OJ C 367 of 16.12.2011, page 5

⁸ Inserted by Communication from the European Commission, OJ C 367 of 16.12.2011, page 5

⁹ Inserted by Communication from the European Commission, OJ C 367 of 16.12.2011, page 5

¹⁰ Inserted by Communication from the European Commission, OJ C 244 of 14.08.2012, page 1

Country	Reference date	Title of nursing qualification meeting automatic recognition	Title of midwifery qualification meeting automatic recognition (and reference date if different from nursing)
Finland	1 Jan 1994	1. Sairaanhoidajan tutkinto/sjukskötarexamen 2. Sosiaali- ja terveystieteiden ammattikorkeakoulututkinto, sairaanhoitaja (AMK)/yrkeshögskoleexamen inom hälsovård och det sociala området, sjukskötare (YH)	Kättilön tutkinto/ barnmorskeexamen 2. Sosiaali- ja terveystieteiden ammattikorkeakoulututkinto, kättilö (AMK)/yrkeshögskoleexamen inom hälsovård och det sociala området, barnmorska (YH)
France	29 June 1979	1. Diplôme d'Etat d'infirmier(ère) 2. Diplôme d'Etat d'infirmier(ère) délivré en vertu du décret n° 99-1147 du 29 décembre 1999	Diplôme de sage-femme (23 Jan 1983)
Germany	29 June 1979	Zeugnis über die staatliche Prüfung in der Krankenpflege	Zeugnis über die staatliche Prüfung für Hebammen und Entbindungspfleger (23 Jan 1983)
Greece	1 Jan 1981	1. Πτυχίο Νοσηλευτικής Παν/μίου Αθηνών 2. Πτυχίο Νοσηλευτικής Τεχνολογικών Εκπαιδευτικών Ιδρυμάτων (Τ.Ε.Ι.) 3. Πτυχίο Αξιωματικών Νοσηλευτικής 4. Πτυχίο Αδελφών Νοσοκόμων πρώην Ανωτέρων Σχολών Υπουργείου Υγείας και Πρόνοιας 5. Πτυχίο Αδελφών Νοσοκόμων και Επισκεπτριών πρώην Ανωτέρων Σχολών Υπουργείου Υγείας και Πρόνοιας 6. Πτυχίο Τμήματος Νοσηλευτικής 7. Πτυχίο Τμήματος Νοσηλευτικής Πανεπιστημίου Πελοποννήσου ¹¹	1. Πτυχίο Τμήματος Μαιευτικής Τεχνολογικών Εκπαιδευτικών Ιδρυμάτων (Τ.Ε.Ι.) 2. Πτυχίο του Τμήματος Μαιών της Ανωτέρας Σχολής Στελεχών Υγείας και Κοινων. Πρόνοιας (ΚΑΤΕΕ) 3. Πτυχίο Μαίας Ανωτέρας Σχολής Μαιών (23 Jan 1983)
Hungary	1 May 2004	1. Ápoló bizonyítvány 2. Diplomás ápoló oklevél 3. Egyetemi okleveles ápoló oklevél	Szülésznő bizonyítvány
Ireland	29 June 1979	Certificate of Registered General Nurse	Certificate in Midwifery (23 Jan 1983)

¹¹ Inserted by Communication from the European Commission, OJ C 244 of 14.08.2012, page 1

Country	Reference date	Title of nursing qualification meeting automatic recognition	Title of midwifery qualification meeting automatic recognition (and reference date if different from nursing)
Italy	29 June 1979	Diploma di infermiere professionale	Diploma d'ostetrica
Latvia	1 May 2004	1. Diploms par māsas kvalifikācijas iegūšanu 2. Māsas diploms	Diploms par vecmātes kvalifikācijas iegūšanu
Lithuania	1 May 2004	1. Aukštojo mokslo diplomas, nurodantis suteiktą bendrosios praktikos slaugytojo profesinę kvalifikaciją 2. Aukštojo mokslo diplomas (neuniversitetinės studijos), nurodantis suteiktą bendrosios praktikos slaugytojo profesinę kvalifikaciją	1. Aukštojo mokslo diplomas, nurodantis suteiktą bendrosios praktikos slaugytojo profesinę kvalifikaciją ir profesinės kvalifikacijos pažymėjimas, nurodantis suteiktą akušerio profesinę kvalifikaciją - pažymėjimas, liudijantis profesinę praktiką akušerijoje (<i>certificate stating the practice of the profession of midwifery</i>) 2. Aukštojo mokslo diplomas (neuniversitetinės studijos), nurodantis suteiktą bendrosios praktikos slaugytojo profesinę kvalifikaciją ir profesinės kvalifikacijos pažymėjimas, nurodantis suteiktą akušerio profesinę kvalifikaciją - pažymėjimas, liudijantis profesinę praktiką akušerijoje (<i>certificate stating the practice of the profession of midwifery</i>) 3. Aukštojo mokslo diplomas (neuniversitetinės studijos), nurodantis suteiktą akušerio profesinę kvalifikaciją
Luxembourg	29 June 1979	1. Diplôme d'Etat d'infirmier 2. Diplôme d'Etat d'infirmier hospitalier gradué	Diplôme de sage-femme (23 Jan 1983)
Malta	1 May 2004	Lawrja jew diploma flistudji tal-infermerija	Lawrja jew diploma flistudji tal-Qwiebel

Country	Reference date	Title of nursing qualification meeting automatic recognition	Title of midwifery qualification meeting automatic recognition (and reference date if different from nursing)
Netherlands	29 June 1979	1. diploma's verpleger A, verpleegster A, verpleegkundige A 2. diploma verpleegkundige MBOV Middelbare Beroepsopleiding Verpleegkundige) 3. diploma verpleegkundige HBOV (Hogere Beroepsopleiding Verpleegkundige) 4. diploma beroepsonderwijs verpleegkundige – Kwalificatieniveau 4 5. diploma hogere beroepsopleiding verpleegkundige – Kwalificatieniveau 5	Diploma van verloskundige (23 Jan 1983)
Poland	1 May 2004	1. Dyplom ukończenia studiów wyższych na kierunku pielęgniarstwo z tytułem 'magister pielęgniarstwa' 2. Dyplom ukończenia studiów wyższych zawodowych na kierunku/specjalności pielęgniarstwo z tytułem "licencjat pielęgniarstwa"	1. Dyplom ukończenia studiów wyższych na kierunku położnictwo z tytułem 'magister położnictwa' 2. Dyplom ukończenia studiów wyższych zawodowych na kierunku/specjalności położnictwo z tytułem "licencjat położnictwa"
Portugal	1 Jan 1986	1. Diploma do curso de enfermagem geral 2. Diploma/carta de curso de bacharelato em enfermagem 3. Carta de curso de licenciatura em enfermagem	1. Diploma de enfermeiro especialista em enfermagem de saúde materna e obstétrica 2. Diploma/carta de curso de estudos superiores especializados em enfermagem de saúde materna e obstétrica 3. Diploma (do curso de pós-licenciatura) de especialização em enfermagem de saúde materna e obstétrica

Country	Reference date	Title of nursing qualification meeting automatic recognition	Title of midwifery qualification meeting automatic recognition (and reference date if different from nursing)
Romania	1 Jan 2007	1. Diploma de absolvire de asistent medical generalist cu studii superioare de scurta durata. 2. Diploma de licenta de asistent medical generalist cu studii superioare de lunga durata 3. Diploma de asistent medical generalist cu studii post-liceale ¹²	Diploma de licenta de moasa
Slovakia	1 May 2004	1. Vysokoškolský diplom o udelení akademického titulu 'magister z ošetrovateľstva' ('Mgr.') 2. Vysokoškolský diplom o udelení akademického titulu 'bakalár z ošetrovateľstva' ('Bc.')	1. Vysokoškolský diplom o udelení akademického titulu 'bakalár z pôrodnej asistencie' ('Bc.')
Slovenia	1 May 2004	3. Absolventský diplom v študijnom odbore diplomovaná všeobecná sestra Diploma, s katero se podeljuje strokovni naslov "diplomirana medicinska sestra/diplomirani zdravstvenik"	2. Absolventský diplom v študijnom odbore diplomovaná pôrodná asistentka Diploma, s katero se podeljuje strokovni naslov "diplomirana babica/diplomirani babičar"
Spain	1 Jan 1986	Título de Diplomado universitario en Enfermería	Título de matrona/asistente obstétrico (matrona)/enfermería obstétrica-ginecológica
Sweden	1 Jan 1994	Sjuksköterskeexamen	Barnmorskeexamen

¹² Inserted by Communication from the European Commission, OJ C 322 of 17.12.2008, page 3

Additional EEA countries

Country	Joining date	Title of nursing qualification meeting directives	Title of midwifery qualification meeting directives
Iceland	1993	1. B.Sc. í hjúkrunarfræði 2. B.Sc. í hjúkrunarfræði 3. Hjúkrunarprf	1. Embættispróf í ljósmóðurfræði 2. Próf í ljósmæðrafræðum
Liechtenstein	1993	The diplomas, certificates and other titles awarded in another EEA state and listed in these tables.	The diplomas, certificates and other titles awarded in another EEA state and listed in these tables.
Norway	1993	Vitnemål for bestått sykepleierutdanning.	Vitnemål for bestått jordmorutdanning.

Switzerland

Country	Joining date	Title of nursing qualification meeting directives	Title of midwifery qualification meeting directives
Switzerland	2002	Infirmière diplômée en soins généraux, infirmier diplômé en soins généraux, diplomierte Krankenschwester in allgemeiner Krankenpflege, diplomierter Krankenpfleger in allgemeiner Krankenpflege, infermiera diplomata in cure generali, infermiere diplomato in cure generali	Sage-femme diplômée, diplomierte Hebamme, levatrice diplomata

Annexe 2: Member state specific acquired rights

Acquired rights in relation to Croatia

If you are a nurse from Croatia, the following acquired rights apply:

- You are a nurse responsible for general care and began training before 30 June 2013 and have effectively and lawfully engaged in professional practice as a nurse for at least three consecutive years during the preceding five years.
- In order for acquired rights to be applied, you must have one of the following nursing qualifications:
 - 'Medicinska sestra opceg smjera'
 - 'Visa medicinska sestra'
 - 'Visa medicinska sestra bolnickog smjera'
 - 'Visa medicinska sestra dispanzersko patronaznog smjera'

If you are a midwife from Croatia, the following acquired rights apply:

- You are a midwife who began training before 8 October 1991 and have effectively and lawfully engaged in professional practice as a midwife for at least three consecutive years during the preceding five years.

If you are a midwife who began training between 8 October 1991 and 30 June 2013, you are not eligible for acquired rights and will be processed via the general system (see page 14).

Acquired rights in relation to Poland

If you are a nurse applying from Poland, acquired rights are applicable in relation to the following qualification only:

- If you hold a qualification as a nurse following completion of a nursing programme gained in a medical vocational school or medical lyceum school, your qualification will be recognised upon certification that you have completed the additional upgrading programme approved by the European Commission and been awarded a 'bachelor' diploma.

If you are a midwife from Poland, acquired rights are applicable in relation to the following qualification only:

- If you hold a qualification as a midwife following completion of a nursing programme gained in a medical vocational school or medical lyceum school, your qualification will be recognised upon certification that you have completed the additional upgrading programme approved by the European Commission and been awarded a 'bachelor' diploma.

Acquired rights in relation to Romania

If you are a nurse applying from Romania, acquired rights will be applicable in relation to the following qualification only:

- 'Certificat de competente profesionale de assistant medical generalist' with post-secondary education obtained from a 'scoala postliceala' attesting that your training started before 1 January 2007.
- 'Diploma de absolvire de assistant medical generalist' with short-time higher education studies, attesting that your training started before 1 October 2003.
- 'Diploman de licenta de asistent medical generalist' with long-time higher education studies, attesting that your training started before 1 October 2003.

If you hold one of these qualifications, in order to benefit from acquired rights, you must have been effectively and lawfully engaged in professional practice as a nurse for at least five consecutive years during the preceding seven years.

No other nursing qualification from Romania is eligible for acquired rights.

If you are a midwife from Romania, acquired rights are applicable in relation to the following qualification only:

- If you hold the qualification of 'asistent medical obstetrica-ginecologie' and have been effectively and lawfully engaged in professional practice as a midwife for at least five consecutive years during the preceding seven years.

No other midwifery qualifications from Romania are eligible for acquired rights.

Acquired rights relating to qualifications gained in countries that no longer exist

When some EU member states joined the EU, they negotiated specific provisions ensuring that historic qualifications held by their nationals would be eligible for recognition in other EU member states.

If you have gained your qualification in one of the following countries that no longer exist, then you will be eligible for having your qualification recognised:

- You are a Croatian national who gained their qualification in the former Yugoslavia prior to 8 October 1991 and have undertaken three years consecutive practice out of the previous five and have a certificate attesting to this from the Croatian competent authority.
- You are a national of the Czech Republic and gained your qualification in the former Czechoslovakia prior to 1 January 1993 and have undertaken three years consecutive practice out of the previous five and a certificate attesting to this from the Czech competent authority.

- You are an Estonian national and gained your qualification in the former Soviet Union prior to 20 August 1991 and have undertaken three years consecutive practice out of the previous five and have a certificate attesting to this from the Estonian competent authority.
- You are a German national and gained your qualification in the former German Democratic Republic prior to 3 October 1990 and have undertaken three years consecutive practice out of the previous five and have a certificate attesting to this from the German regional state competent authority.
- You are a Latvian national and gained your qualification in the former Soviet Union prior to 21 August 1991 and have undertaken three years consecutive practice out of the previous five and have a certificate attesting to this from the Latvian competent authority.
- You are a Lithuanian who gained their qualification in the former Soviet Union prior to 11 March 1990 and have undertaken three years consecutive practice out of the previous five and have a certificate attesting to this from the Lithuanian competent authority.
- You are a Slovakian national who gained their qualification in the former Czechoslovakia prior to 1 January 1990 and have undertaken three years consecutive practice out of the previous five and have a certificate attesting to this from the Slovakian competent authority.
- You are a Slovenian national who gained their qualification in the former Yugoslavia prior to 25 June 1991 and have undertaken three years consecutive practice out of the previous five and have a certificate attesting to this from the Slovenian competent authority.

Annexe 3: EU requirements for the training of general care nurses

Article 31 and Annex V, 5.2.1 of Directive 2013/55/EU

The educational programme must comprise a three-year course and 4,600 hours of theoretical and practical instruction, with the duration of the theoretical training representing at least one third and the duration of clinical training at least one half of the minimum duration of training.

A. Theoretical study

(a) Nursing

Nature and ethics of the profession,
general principles of health and nursing,
theoretical nursing principles in relation to:

- general and specialist medicine
- general and specialist surgery
- child care and paediatrics
- maternity care
- mental health and psychiatry
- elderly care/geriatrics
- home/community nursing

(b) Basic sciences

Anatomy and physiology
Pathology
Pharmacology
Bacteriology, virology and parasitology
Biophysics, biochemistry and radiology
Dietetics:

- hygiene
- health education

(c) Social sciences

Sociology
Psychology
Principles of teaching
Health and social legislation
Legal aspects of nursing
Principles of administration

B. Clinical instruction

Nursing in relation to:

- general and specialist medicine
- general and specialist surgery
- child care and paediatrics
- maternity care
- mental health and psychiatry
- elderly care/geriatrics
- home/community nursing

Annexe 4: EU requirements for training of midwives

Article 40 and annex V, 5.5.1 of Directive 2005/36/EC

The educational programme must comprise either (a) three-year full time programme of theoretical and practical instruction or (b) a full-time programme of 18 months in length following the training and registration as a general (adult) nurse. The UK standard is that the theoretical component must be 50 percent of the programme, and the clinical component 50 percent.

A, Theoretical study

(a) General subjects

- Basic anatomy and physiology
- Basic pathology
- Basic bacteriology, virology and parasitology
- Basic biophysics, biochemistry and radiology
- Paediatrics, with particular reference to newborn infants
- Hygiene, health education, preventive medicine, early diagnosis of diseases
- Nutrition and dietetics, with particular reference to women, newborn and young babies
- Basic sociology and socio-medical questions
- Basic pharmacology
- Psychology
- Principles and methods of teaching
- Health and social legislation and health organisation
- Professional ethics and professional legislation
- Sex education and family planning
- Legal protection of mother and infant

(b) Subjects specific to the activities of midwives

- Anatomy and physiology
- Embryology and development of the foetus
- Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium
- Gynaecological and obstetrical pathology
- Preparation for childbirth and parenthood, including psychological aspects
- Preparation for delivery (including knowledge and use of technical equipment in obstetrics)
- Analgesia, anaesthesia and resuscitation
- Physiology and pathology of the newborn infant
- Care and supervision of the newborn infant
- Psychological and social factors

B. Practical and clinical training

This training is to be dispensed under appropriate supervision.

- Advising of pregnant women, involving at least 100 pre-natal examinations
- Supervision and care of at least 40 pregnant women
- Conduct by the student of at least 40 deliveries; where this number cannot be reached owing to the lack of available women in labour, it may be reduced to a minimum of 30, provided that the student assists with 20 further deliveries
- Assistance with one or two breech deliveries
- Experience of episiotomy and initiation into suturing
- Supervision and care of 40 pregnant women at risk
- At least 100 post-natal examinations and examinations of normal newborn infants
- Supervision and care of mothers and newborn infants, including pre-term, post-term, underweight and ill newborn infants
- Care of pathological cases in the fields of gynaecology and obstetrics, and diseases of newborn and young babies
- Initiation into the care of general pathological cases in medicine and surgery

Annexe 5: Minimum education requirements for children's, mental health or learning disability nurses

Minimum education requirements for children's nurses

You must have completed either:

- a three-year general nursing course followed by a separate 12-month post-registration children's nursing course
- a three-year full time children's nursing course

The content of the programme must have been not less than one third theoretical study, and not less than one half clinical or practical study.

Either route must include both theoretical and practical instruction in:

- care for children and young people with health problems requiring routine and specialist medical or surgical interventions
- care for children and young people in all settings including hospital, school and other community settings
- health promotion and education in child education
- care of children and young people in emergency, neonatal and high dependency settings
- working collaboratively with families and carers to care for sick children of all ages

Minimum education requirements for mental health nursing

You must have completed either:

- a three-year general nursing course followed by a separate 12-month post-registration mental health nursing course
- a three-year full-time mental health nursing course

The content of the programme must have been not less than one third theoretical study, and not less than one half clinical or practical study.

Either route must include both theoretical and practical instruction in:

- care of patients with acute and enduring or chronic conditions
- care for children and young people with mental health problems
- specialist mental healthcare: substance abuse, challenging behaviour, those cared for in secure environments
- care for older people who have mental health problems
- continuing care and rehabilitation
- community care

Minimum education requirements for learning disabilities nursing

You must have completed either:

- a three-year general nursing course followed by a separate 12-month post-registration learning disabilities nursing course
- a three-year full-time learning disabilities nursing course

The content of the programme must have been not less than one third theoretical study, and not less than one half clinical or practical study.

Either route must include both theoretical and practical instruction in:

- caring for those with a learning disability in residential daycare settings
- care of those with complex needs and mental health problems
- care for people of all ages, from childhood to old age
- working with families and carers to support and uphold the rights of those with learning disabilities
- continuing care and rehabilitation

Shortfalls in training

If your training broadly meets the NMC requirements but is deficient in one or more areas of study or has a shortfall in length, you will be requested to make up this shortfall. This will be either a period of adaptation (if you completed a three-year direct entry training) or a period of adaptation or aptitude test (if you completed a one-year post-registration training).

Annexe 6: Compensation measures

A compensation measure is a way of allowing applicants whose training covers substantially different matters than UK trained nurses and midwives an opportunity to complete additional training through an adaptation programme or complete an aptitude test (test of competence).

‘Substantially different matters’ means matters in respect of which knowledge, skills and competences acquired are essential for pursuing the profession and with regard to which the training received shows significant differences in terms of content from the training required by NMC.

If you do not meet the requirements for automatic recognition of your qualification, or you have not met the relevant practice requirement for acquired rights provisions, we may require you to undertake a compensation measure before we can register you.

Adaptation programme

If you have trained in the EU/EEA, you may be able to undertake an adaptation programme to make up a shortfall in your training. If successful this will allow you to meet the NMC’s standards for registration.

To be eligible to apply for an adaptation programme you must have received a letter from the NMC advising you that this option is available.

In order to join an adaptation programme you will need to make an application to the university offering it. The university will consider the shortfall in your training before making a decision about whether you are eligible to undertake the programme.

Currently, approved adaptation programmes are available at the [University of the West of England](#) in the UK.

The university is responsible for setting entry requirements and fees, as well as selecting nurses and midwives to undertake the adaptation programme. Find out more [details about the programme](#) and how to apply.

Aptitude test

If you have trained in the EU/EEA you may be eligible to sit an aptitude test to demonstrate that you have the appropriate level of skills and knowledge to join the NMC’s register. An aptitude test is designed to assess theoretical and practical knowledge against the standards of entry to the NMC register. If you are successful in passing the test you will be able to join the NMC’s register and practise in the UK. The test is made up of four parts:

- Multiple choice question paper – 1
- Multiple choice question paper – 2
- Short answer question paper – 1
- Practical examination in the form of an Observed Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

To be eligible to apply to sit the aptitude test you must have received a letter from the NMC advising you that this option is available.

In order to take the aptitude test you will need to make an application to the university offering it. The university will consider the shortfall in your training before making a decision on whether you are eligible to take the test.

Currently approved aptitude tests are available at the [University of Northampton](#). The university is responsible for setting entry requirements and fees, as well as selecting those nurses and midwives to undertake the test.

Find out more [details about the test](#) and how to apply.

Annexe 7: English language requirements

Accepted English language tests

We accept two language tests as evidence of your ability to communicate effectively in English: the International English Language Test System (IELTS) and the Occupational English Test (OET).

You must achieve the required score in each of the four areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking. Test scores are valid for two years.

International English Language Test System (IELTS)

We'll accept an IELTS Academic examination certificate that confirms you achieved:

- an overall score of at least 7
- at least 6.5 in the writing section and at least 7 in the reading, listening and speaking sections.

Occupational English Test (OET)

We'll accept an OET examination certificate that confirms you achieved:

- at least a B grade in the writing, reading, listening and speaking sections.

You can achieve the required mark across two test sittings if:

- you sit the tests within six months of each other, and
- you are tested in all four skills at the same time, and
- if you take an IELTS test, all scores in both sittings are above 6.5 and you achieve 7.0 or higher in the listening, speaking and reading sections and 6.5 or higher in the writing section in either of the two test sittings, or
- if you take the OET, all grades in both sittings are above Grade C+ and you achieve Grade B or higher in all four fields in either of the two test sittings.

Test scores are valid for two years.

Example scenarios

IELTS Example

Example 1

	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
Test 1	7	6.5	6.5	7
Test 2	6.5	7	7.5	8

This application would be accepted. The applicant has scored at least 7 in the listening, speaking and reading sections and at least 6.5 in the writing section in either of the two test sittings, and no score is lower than 6.5.

Example 2

	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
Test 1	6	7.5	6.5	7
Test 2	6.5	7	7.5	7.5

This application would not be accepted. The applicant has a score lower than 6.5.

OET Example

Example 1

	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
Test 1	B	B	C+	B
Test 2	B	C+	B	B

This application would be accepted. The applicant has scored B in all categories, and no score is lower than C+.

Example 2

	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
Test 1	B	B	C+	B
Test 2	C	C+	B	B

This application would not be accepted. The applicant has scored lower than C+.

Trained in English

If you completed an NMC-approved pre-registration nurse, midwife or nursing associate programme within the last five years, we will accept this as evidence that you have the necessary knowledge of English.

If you did not complete an NMC-approved pre-registration nurse, midwife or nursing associate programme we need to be satisfied that your programme demonstrates that you have the necessary knowledge of English.

- If you completed your programme in a majority English-speaking country within the last five years you will need to demonstrate that your programme meets the requirements set out in our guidance by providing evidence which meets our criteria.
- If you completed your programme in a non-majority English-speaking country within the last five years you will need to demonstrate that your programme meets the requirements set out in our guidance by providing evidence which meets our criteria. We will consider your evidence but please be aware that it is likely that you will need to provide an alternative type of evidence such as a language test.

Your evidence must confirm that the programme was composed of at least 50 percent clinical interaction. Your evidence must also clearly demonstrate at least 75 percent of that was with patients, service users, their families and other healthcare professionals and must have taken place in English. If your evidence does not clearly demonstrate the above requirements you will need to provide an alternative type of evidence such as a language test.

Registered and practised in English

If you who wish to rely on evidence that you have recently registered and practised in English you must be able to satisfy us that:

- you have completed an English language assessment or examination as part of your registration as a nurse or midwife outside of the UK.
- you have completed an English language assessment or examination as part of your registration as a nurse associate outside of England.
- you have one year recent post registered practice in English
- your registration is in a [majority English speaking country](#).

We may require confirmation from each of your employers that the practice you undertook was in English and that you have the necessary knowledge of English to practise safely and effectively in the UK.

By recent we mean that the end of the period of practice you are relying on must be within the last two years at the point when you apply to register with the NMC.

If you are applying to the nursing associate part of the register and have recently been practising in a country/countries that do not regulate the role, to assure us that you have the necessary knowledge of English you must provide evidence that you have one year of recent practice in the UK or in a majority English-speaking country that was

- in a role comparable to that of a nursing associate in which you relied on your skills, knowledge and experience gained from the qualification that we considered eligible as part of your registration application; and
- the qualification that we considered as eligible as part of your registration application must have been taught and examined in English.

Please note if you were not required to sit a language test by the regulator because you were taught and examined in a country where English is the first and native language, we will seek further information regarding the language assessment which your regulator completed.

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