

**NURSING &  
MIDWIFERY  
COUNCIL**

# **Registering as a nurse or midwife in the United Kingdom**

**For applicants from countries within the  
European Union and European Economic Area**

**Note:** If you are a European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) national, or are a spouse or civil partner of an EU national, then this booklet is for you. If you are a national of a country outside the European Economic Area, then you should apply for registration through the overseas route.

**Warning:** It is a criminal offence in the United Kingdom (UK) to pose as a nurse or midwife or to provide false or misleading information. If at any point in the application process we discover that your application is fraudulent, we will not continue with your application and you may be liable for prosecution. If, after registration, we discover that any part of your application was fraudulent, we will remove you from the Register. In addition, you will then be liable for prosecution.

The information in this booklet is correct as of October 2007. Please check our website for updates.

## **Finding your way through this booklet**

Applying to register as a nurse or midwife in the UK can be complex, but we hope this booklet has been set out in a way you can easily understand. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our registrations call centre on 020 7333 9333 or by e-mail to [eu.enquiries@nmc-uk.org](mailto:eu.enquiries@nmc-uk.org).

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## Introduction

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is the regulatory body and competent authority for nurses and midwives in the United Kingdom (UK). Our job is to safeguard the health and wellbeing of the public by maintaining and improving standards of professional education, practice and conduct. An important part of this work is to consider applications from nurses and midwives registered in another European State including the European Economic Area and Switzerland, who wish to practise in the UK. Nationals of a relevant European State who are nurses or midwives and who wish to work in the UK are required to register with the NMC.

The NMC register has three parts

- nurses
- midwives
- specialist community public health nurses

The nurses' part of the register is divided into two subparts. Subpart 1 for first level nurses and Subpart 2 for second level nurses (formerly known as enrolled nurses)

Subpart 1 for first level nurses is divided into four fields of practice

- Adult nursing
- Mental health nursing
- Learning disabilities nursing
- Children's nursing

Subpart 2 for second level nurses is divided into

- Adult
- Mental health
- Learning disabilities
- General

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. As a result you should apply for first level registration in the field of adult nursing.

Once registered with the NMC, you can work in the National Health Service or private healthcare sector. You should be aware that the employment climate in the UK is very changeable. Furthermore we cannot help you find a job or give you references from any of the information you give us.

All nurses and midwives registered with the NMC are required to practise in accordance with our rules and standards, including our Code of Conduct, and to re-register every 3 years.

## **Language requirements**

Under EU law the NMC cannot require evidence of your ability to communicate in English for the purposes of registration. However, you need to make sure that you have sufficient knowledge of English in order to practise professionally (Article 53 of the Directive). Employers will expect this and have the right to require evidence of English language competence to ensure that they employ nurses and midwives who are able to communicate effectively. Therefore it is possible that any offer of employment in the UK may depend upon you being able to demonstrate competence in the English language.

We strongly advise you to make use of the Europass Language Passport. This is a self-assessment tool that enables you to assess your proficiency in understanding, speaking and writing any European language. Employers in the UK will expect that you will be proficient at level C1. You can find all the information about the Europass Language Passport at [www.europass.cedefop.europa.eu](http://www.europass.cedefop.europa.eu).

Before you apply, we think it is important for you to understand the context of nursing and midwifery practice in the UK, and the type of training and education that students undertake.

**→ For information about nursing, go to page 6**

**→ For information about midwifery, go to page 7**

## **The context of nursing practice in the UK**

### **Becoming a nurse**

All registered nurses trained in the UK will have completed a pre-registration nursing programme. The NMC sets standards for the length and content of these programmes, which take place in approved universities and colleges. Only nurses who have successfully completed an approved programme and who have met the NMC requirements of good health and good character can apply to join the Register as a nurse.

### **Requirements for renewal of registration as a nurse with the NMC**

Registration is renewed every three years and on each occasion, two standards set by the NMC must be met, the continuing professional development standard and the practice standard. In order to meet these standards nurses must demonstrate that they have undertaken 35 hours of learning activity relevant to their practice and completed 450 hours of practice during the three years prior to the renewal of registration.

Whatever the terms of nursing employment, every nurse must provide evidence of meeting these standards in order to maintain their registration as a nurse with the NMC.

### **Responsibility and sphere of practice**

Registered nurses may work in a variety of health related settings including the National Health Service, private hospitals, nursing homes or in the community. In any circumstance the nurse is accountable for his or her own practice. This responsibility cannot be delegated elsewhere as the nurse is recognised as an autonomous practitioner. However, nurses must ensure that they are competent in their sphere of practice and use evidence based learning and experience to maintain their expertise, whatever the circumstances of their employment.

**→ Go to page 9 for more information about the principle of automatic recognition and to find if your qualification meets the requirements**

## **The context of midwifery practice in the UK**

### **Becoming a midwife**

All registered midwives will have completed a midwifery programme of education. The NMC sets standards for the length and content of such programmes. These programmes take place in approved universities and colleges. Only students who have successfully completed an approved midwifery programme of education and who have met the NMC requirements of good health and good character can apply to join the Register as a midwife.

### **Requirements for renewal of registration as a midwife with the NMC**

Registration is renewed every three years and on each occasion, two standards set by the NMC must be met, the continuing professional development standard and the practice standard. In order to meet these standards nurses must demonstrate that they have undertaken 35 hours of learning activity relevant to their practice and completed 450 hours of practice during the three years prior to the renewal of registration.

Whatever the terms of midwifery employment, every midwife must provide evidence of meeting these standards in order to maintain registration as a midwife with the NMC.

### **Practising as a midwife in the UK**

Registration on the midwives part of the NMC Register provides evidence of qualification. However registration alone does not permit registered midwives to practise their profession.

Annually, midwives must notify the local supervising authority of their Intention to Practise. The NMC sends each midwife a personalised Intention to Practise form every year. This form enables the local supervising authority to check and monitor that each midwife is eligible to practise.

Completion and submission of the annual Intention to Practise notification to the local supervising authority is a legal requirement of every midwife who works in the UK.

### **Responsibility and sphere of practice**

Midwives can work in the National Health Service (NHS), private hospitals, with nursing and midwifery employment agencies or as independent practitioners working as part of a private business. In any circumstance midwives are accountable for their own practice. This responsibility cannot be delegated elsewhere as midwives are recognised as autonomous practitioners. The conditions in which midwives work vary widely and practice takes place in a variety of environments. However, midwives must ensure that they are competent in their sphere of practice, and use evidence-based learning and experience to maintain their expertise, whatever the circumstances of their employment.

## **Supervision of midwives**

The UK is the only place in the world where supervision of midwives occurs. Supervision of midwives has been in place since the start of the profession in 1902 and is a statutory requirement protected by law. The function of supervision of midwives is to protect the public by providing professional advice and guidance to practising midwives and to service providers.

Each midwife has a named supervisor of midwives who is appointed by the local supervising authority's midwifery officer. Supervision of midwives is based within regional health authorities, and overseen by the NMC. Women and families, employer organisations and midwives can talk directly to supervisors of midwives about any concerns they have about the safety of care as practised by a midwife.

The local supervising authority's midwifery officer can put in place mechanisms to support further education and practice developments for a midwife, or suspend a midwife from practice. The midwife could then be referred to the NMC for investigation and that might result in removal from the Register. This important process supports the self-regulation of the profession.

**→ Go to page 9 for more information about the principle of automatic recognition and to find if your qualification meets the requirements**



## Principle of automatic recognition

The European Union (EU) has agreed the minimum standards that nurses responsible for general care (adult nursing in the UK) and midwives must meet in order to be registered as a nurse responsible for general care or as a midwife. These are set out in the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC (the Directive).

When countries join the EU, they have to make sure that their nursing and midwifery training programmes meet the minimum standards set out in the Directive. If your qualification was awarded before the date that this was established for nursing (27 June 1977) or midwifery (21 January 1980) or before your country joined the EU it is unlikely that you will meet the requirements for automatic recognition of your qualification. However we will be able to consider your application provided it is accompanied by some additional documents.

There is another section in the Directive that sets out a framework approach for recognising qualifications other than general nursing and midwifery, depending on the level of qualification.

The NMC will use this section of the Directive to assess applications from:

- Nurses who have undertaken a 3 year direct entry training or a 1 year post registration training leading to a qualification as a children's, mental health or learning disability nurse.
- Nurses who have undertaken a 2 year training leading to a qualification as a second level (enrolled nurse) in general, mental health or learning disability nursing
- Nurses or midwives who have undertaken a training leading to a qualification as a public health nurse

For these qualifications the NMC will compare the training in your country with that required in the United Kingdom. Where there are significant differences between the two, the NMC will detail these and you will be invited to make up the differences either through a period of adaptation or through an aptitude test.

The Directive defines these in Article 3 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 practice possibly being accompanied by 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 person under supervision shall be laid down by the competent authority in the host member states.
- **Aptitude test:** A test limited to the professional knowledge of the applicant, made by the competent authorities of the host member state with the aim of assessing the ability of the applicant to pursue a regulated profession in that member state.

## Recognised qualifications from EU states and EEA countries

Because countries joined the EU or became an EEA country at different times we thought that it would be helpful to you to know when your country joined. We hope that this and the other information in this booklet will help you to understand the application process as it applies to you.

The following table sets out the date on which each country joined the EU or became an EEA country and the qualifications from that date that meet the requirements of the Directive.

### EU member states

Country	Joining date	Title of nursing qualification meeting Directives	Title of midwifery qualification meeting Directives
<b>Austria</b>	1995	1. Diplom als 'Diplomierte Gesundheits- und Krankenschwester/Diplomierter Gesundheits – und Krankenpfleger' 2. Diplom als 'Diplomierte Krankenschwester/Diplomierter Krankenpfleger'	Hebammen-Diplom
<b>Belgium</b>	1957	1. Diploma gegradueerde verpleger/verpleegster - Diplôme d'infirmier(ère) gradué(e) - Diplom eines (einer) graduierten Krankenpflegers (-pflegerin) 2. Diploma in de ziekenhuisverpleegkunde - Brevet d'infirmier(ère) hospitalier(ère) - Brevet eines (einer) Krankenpflegers (-pflegerin) 3. Brevet Van verpleegassistent(e) - Brevet d'hospitalier(ère) - Brevet einer Pflegeassistentin	Diploma van vroedvrouw Diplôme d'accoucheuse
<b>Bulgaria</b>	2007	Диплома за висше образование на образователно-квалификационна степен "Бакалавър" с професионална квалификация "Медицинска сестра"	Диплома за висше образование на образователно-квалификационна степен "Бакалавър" с професионална квалификация "Акушерка"
<b>Cyprus</b>	2004	Δίπλωμα Γενικής Νοσηλευτικής	Δίπλωμα στο μεταβασικό πρόγραμμα Μαιευτικής

## EU member states continued

Country	Joining date	Title of nursing qualification meeting Directives	Title of midwifery qualification meeting Directives
<b>Czech Republic</b>	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.)	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.)
<b>Denmark</b>	1973	Eksamensbevis efter gennemført sygeplejerskeuddannelse	Bevis for bestået jordemodereksamen
<b>Estonia</b>	2004	Diplom õe erialal	Diplom ämmaemanda erialal
<b>Finland</b>	1995	1. Sairaanhoidajan tutkinto/sjukskõtarexamen 2. Sosiaali- ja terveystieteiden ammattikorkeakoulututkinto, sairaanhoidaja (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)
<b>France</b>	1957	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
<b>Germany</b>	1957	Zeugnis über die staatliche Prüfung in der Krankenpflege	Zeugnis über die staatliche Prüfung für Hebammen und Entbindungspfleger
<b>Greece</b>	1981	1. Πτυχίο Νοσηλευτικής Παν/μου 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 Επισκεπτών πρώην Ανωτέρων Σχολών Υπουργείου Υγείας και Πρόνοιας 6. Πτυχίο Τμήματος Νοσηλευτικής	1. Πτυχίο Τμήματος Μαιευτικής Τεχνολογικών Εκπαιδευτικών Ιδρυμάτων (Τ.Ε.Ι.) 2. Πτυχίο του Τμήματος Μαιευτικής της Ανωτάτης Σχολής Στελεχών Υγείας και Κοινωνίας (ΚΑΤΕΕ) 3. Πτυχίο Μαιευτικής Ανωτάτης Σχολής Μαιευτικής
<b>Hungary</b>	2004	1. Ápoló bizonyítvány 2. Diplomás ápoló oklevél	Szülésznő bizonyítvány
<b>Ireland</b>	1973	Certificate of Registered General Nurse	Certificate in Midwifery
<b>Italy</b>	1957	Diploma di infermiere professionale	Diploma d'ostetrica
<b>Latvia</b>	2004	1. Diploms par māšas kvalifikācijas iegūšanu 2. Māšas diploms	Diploms par vecmātes kvalifikācijas iegūšanu

## EU member states continued

Country	Joining date	Title of nursing qualification meeting Directives	Title of midwifery qualification meeting Directives
Lithuania	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 2. Aukštojo mokslo diplomas (neuniversitetinės studijos), nurodantis suteiktą bendrosios praktikos slaugytojo profesinę kvalifikaciją ir profesinės kvalifikacijos pažymėjimas, nurodantis suteiktą akušerio profesinę kvalifikaciją 3. Aukštojo mokslo diplomas (neuniversitetinės studijos), nurodantis suteiktą akušerio profesinę kvalifikaciją
Luxembourg	1957	1. Diplôme d'Etat d'infirmier 2. Diplôme d'Etat d'infirmier hospitalier gradué	Diplôme de sage-femme
Malta	2004	Lawrja jew diploma flistudji tal-infermerija	Lawrja jew diploma flistudji tal-Qwiebel
Netherlands	1957	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
Poland	2004	Dyplom ukończenia studiów wyższych na kierunku pielęgniarstwo z tytułem 'magister pielęgniarstwa'	Dyplom ukończenia studiów wyższych na kierunku położnictwo z tytułem 'magister położnictwa'

## EU member states continued

Country	Joining date	Title of nursing qualification meeting Directives	Title of midwifery qualification meeting Directives
Portugal	1986	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Diploma do curso de enfermagem geral</li> <li>2. Diploma/carta de curso de bacharelato em enfermagem</li> <li>3. Carta de curso de licenciatura em enfermagem</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Diploma de enfermeiro especialista em enfermagem de saúde materna e obstétrica</li> <li>2. Diploma/carta de curso de estudos superiores especializados em enfermagem de saúde materna e obstétrica</li> <li>3. Diploma (do curso de pós-licenciatura) de especialização em enfermagem de saúde materna e obstétrica</li> </ol>
Romania	2007	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Diploma de absolvire de asistent medical generalist cu studii superioare de scurta durata.</li> <li>2. Diploma de licenta de asistent medical generalist cu studii superioare de lunga durata</li> </ol>	Diploma de licenta de moasa
Slovakia	2004	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vysokoškolsky diplom o udeliní akademického titulo ] "magister z ošetrovatel'stva" ("Mgr.")</li> <li>2. Vysokoškolsky diplom o udeliní akademického titulo "bakalár z ošetrovatel'stva" ("Bc.")</li> <li>3. Absolventsky diplom v študijnom odbore diplomovaná všeobecná sestra</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vysokoškolsky diplom o udeliní akademického titulo "bakalár z pôrodnej asistencie" ("Bc.")</li> <li>2. Absolventsky diplom v študijnom odbore diplomovaná pôrodná asistentka</li> </ol>
Slovenia	2004	Diploma, s katero se podeljuje strokovni naslov "diplomirana medicinska sestra/diplomirani zdravstvenik"	Diploma, s katero se podeljuje strokovni naslov "diplomirana babica/diplomirani babičar"
Spain	1986	Título de Diplomado universitario en Enfermería	Título de matrona/asistente obstétrico (matrona)/enfermería obstétrica-ginecológica
Sweden	1995	Sjuksköterskeexamen	Barnmorskeexamen
United Kingdom	1973		

## 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 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

## How to apply for registration as a nurse or midwife

You can get an application form for registration from the EU registration team at the NMC. You can apply in writing to the address on the back of this booklet, or by phone on 020 7333 9333 or by e-mail to [eu.enquiries@nmc-uk.org](mailto:eu.enquiries@nmc-uk.org) or an application request form can be accessed on the NMC's website at [www.nmc-uk.org](http://www.nmc-uk.org).

Once you have applied for registration we will give you a personal reference number. You will need this every time you contact the NMC, in order for us to access your application details.

In order to process your application, we need you to provide us with specific information so that we can make sure that your qualification complies with the relevant part of the Directive.

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 met 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 midwife and have practised for 3 years out of the previous 5 years (please note however that for some applicants from Poland and Romania the requirement will be 5 out of 7 years).

If you are not sure whether your qualification will be recognised by the NMC you should contact the EU registration team for advice, before you pay to have documents translated into English. Some qualifications cannot be recognised in the UK, even if they allow you to practise as a nurse or a midwife in your home country.

When you apply for registration with the NMC you will be sent a set of application forms. The instruction sheets accompanying these forms, and this booklet give you detailed information to help you complete the forms and tell you what information we need.

You must not photocopy the application forms. But you should send certified photocopies of all your supporting documents, as we cannot return original documents. If any of these documents are not in English, you will need to have them officially translated. You must fill in the application form in English. No one else must fill in the form for you and you will need to make sure all the forms are signed and dated. Failure to ensure this will delay your application.

You must return the completed application forms and supporting documents within six months. If you cannot do this, your application will expire.

If you cannot provide, as part of your application, information to demonstrate that you have practised as a nurse or midwife in your home country for 450 hours in the last 3 years prior to your application you will be required to undertake a return to practice course in the United Kingdom before we can register you. It is your responsibility to find a return to practice programme through a UK university or college, and it will be down to

the education provider to determine the appropriate length of the programme. You should be aware that places on return to practice programmes in the UK are currently extremely limited. If you have not practised as a nurse or midwife in your home country for 450 hours in the last 3 years, you should wait until the NMC has assessed your application before applying for a return to practice programme. If you undertake a return to practice programme before your application has been assessed then the NMC will not accept this as being valid.

- ***Go to page 17 for information about registering as a nurse responsible for general care***
- ***Go to page 18 for information about registering as a children's, mental health or learning disability nurse***
- ***Go to page 21 for information about registering as a second level nurse***
- ***Go to page 22 for information about registering as a midwife***
- ***Go to page 23 if you may have difficulty meeting the practice requirements***
- ***Go to page 24 if you are interested in temporary registration***



## Registering in the UK as a nurse responsible for general care

In the UK this qualification is known as registered nurse – adult nursing.

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

- Evidence of your qualification  
If it meets the requirements for automatic recognition under the Directive
- Or evidence of your qualification certified by your registering body/competent authority. This applies if your qualification was awarded before the implementation of the standards established for nurses responsible for general care (1977) 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 3 years out of the 5 years before to the certificate was issued (Article 23(1) of the Directive). Please note however that applicants with certain qualifications from Poland and Romania will be required to demonstrate that they have been practising as a nurse for 5 years out of the 7 years before to the certificate was issued
- A certificate of good conduct/police clearance certificate  
You can get this from the police in your home country. This document is only valid for three months from the date of issue
- A photocopy of your passport or identity card.
- If you are not a national of a relevant European state but your husband, wife, civil partner or parent is, then you need to send us a photocopy of their passport or identity card, plus a copy of your marriage certificate if applicable.
- A certificate of current professional status

All of the documents set out above must be certified photocopies. We must also receive a translation of all these documents in the English language. The translations must have been verified, by an official translation agency or by your embassy, as authentic translations. The NMC will not be able to return any of these documents to you so it is important that you do not supply original documentation such as passports and certificates as part of your application.

## **Registering in the UK 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 application will therefore be considered under Article 10 of the Directive, and your training will 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 3 years in length or its equivalent part-time, following secondary education (Article 11(d) of the Directive), or
- Or evidence of your qualification  
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 qualification 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 theoretical subjects that you studied and the number of hours and details of the clinical experience and the numbers of hours;
- A certificate of good conduct/police clearance certificate  
You can get this from the police in your home country. This document is only valid for three months from the date of issue.
- A photocopy of your passport or identity card  
If you are not a national of a relevant European State but your husband, wife, civil partner or parent is, then you need to send us a photocopy of their passport or identity card, plus a copy of your marriage certificate if applicable.
- A certificate of current professional status

All of the documents set out above must be certified photocopies. We must receive a translation of all these documents in the English language. The translations must have been verified, by an official translation agency or by your embassy, as authentic translations. The NMC will not be able to return any of these documents to you so it is important that you do not supply original documentation such as passports and certificates as part of your application.

On the next two pages, you will find the minimum educational requirements for applications to become registered with the NMC as a children's, mental health or learning disabilities nurse.

## **Children's nursing**

You must have completed either

- a three year general nursing course followed by a 12 month post registration children's nursing course, or
- 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/practical study.

Either route must include both theoretical and practical instruction in

- care for children in a range of care settings, including specialist medicine and surgery
- care for children in emergency, neonatal and high-dependency environments
- care for children at home, in school and in the community
- working with families and carers to care for sick children of all ages

## **Mental health nursing**

You must have completed either

- a three year general nursing course followed by a twelve month post registration mental health nursing course, or
- 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/practical study.

Either route must include both theoretical *and* practical instruction in

- mental health nursing in a range of care settings, including acute and enduring/chronic illness
- care for children and young people who have mental health problems
- specialist mental healthcare (eg. substance abuse, challenging behaviour and care in secure and locked environments)
- care for elderly adults who have mental health problems
- continuing care and rehabilitation
- community care

## **Learning disabilities nursing**

You must have completed either

- a three year general nursing course followed by a 12 month post registration learning disabilities nursing course, or
- 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/practical study.

Either route must include both theoretical *and* practical instruction in

- learning disability nursing in a range of care environments, including residential and day-care settings
- learning disability nursing in a range of environments to support people who have complex needs and mental health problems
- care for people of all ages (from childhood to old age) who have learning disabilities
- working with families and carers to support people who have learning disabilities
- continuing care and rehabilitation

If you have completed a 12 month programme post-registration in mental health, learning disabilities or children's nursing, we can only consider you for registration if you have also undertaken training for at least three years in general nursing, and have registered this qualification in your home country.

If your training broadly meets the NMC requirements but is deficient in one or more areas of study you will be requested to make up this shortfall. This will be either: a period of adaptation if you completed a 3 year direct entry training or a period of adaptation or an aptitude test if you completed a 1 year post registration training

## Registering as a second level nurse

In order to apply you must have undertaken a 2-year nurse training. Because the standards to be met for this qualification are not set out in a European Directive, the NMC will compare your training with that required in the UK. Training in the UK requires a programme to include at least 10 weeks of theory, the remainder of the training to include clinical experience in the following areas:

- initial care in planned and emergency admission to hospital
- high and medium dependency care
- preparation for self care, following discharge from hospital
- continuing care for patients with long term disability or recurrent illness leading to re-admission to hospital
- care of the dying and bereaved

The training should include experience of nursing people of different age groups, to include care of children and the elderly, and the promotion of health.

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

- 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 theoretical subjects that you studied and the numbers of hours as well as details of your clinical experience and the number of hours.
- A certificate of good conduct/police clearance certificate  
You can get this from the police in your home country. This document is only valid for three months from the date of issue.
- A photocopy of your passport or identity card
- Marriage or civil partnership certificate (if applicable)
- If you are not a national of a relevant European State but your husband, wife, civil partner or parent is, then you need to send us a photocopy of their passport or identity card, and a copy of your marriage certificate if applicable.
- A certificate of current professional status

All of the documents set out above must be certified photocopies. We must receive a translation of all these documents in the English language. The translations must have been verified, by an official translation agency or by your embassy, as authentic translations. The NMC will not be able to return these documents to you so it is important that you do not supply original documentation such as passports and certificates as part of your application.

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 in the UK. If we find that there are significant differences between your training and that which we require in the UK, we will detail those in a letter to you. You will be offered the opportunity to make up these differences either by an aptitude test or a period of adaptation.

## Registering in the UK as a midwife

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

- Either, evidence of your qualification, if it meets the requirements for automatic recognition under the Directive
- Or, if your qualification was awarded before the implementation of the standards established for midwifery (1980) or, before your country became a member of the EU or EEA, we will need evidence of the qualification, certified by your registering body/competent authority. We also need a certificate from them confirming that you have been practising as a midwife for 3 years out of the 5 years prior to the certificate being issued (Article 23(1) of the Directive). Please note however that applicants with certain qualifications from Poland and Romania will be required to demonstrate that they have been practising as a midwife for 5 years out of the 7 years before to the certificate was issued.
- If you registered as a nurse for general care before you completed an 18-month midwifery training, we will need a certificate from your registering body/competent authority that, you have practised for one year as a midwife (Article 40(2) of the Directive), since you registered as a midwife.
- A certificate of good conduct/police clearance certificate. You can get this from the police in your home country. This document is only valid for three months from the date of issue
- A photocopy of your passport or identity card.
- If you are not a national of a relevant European State but your husband, wife, civil partner or parent is, then you need to send us a photocopy of their passport or identity card, and a copy of your marriage certificate if applicable.
- A certificate of current professional status

All of the documents set out above must be certified photocopies. We must receive a translation of all these documents in the English language. The translations must have been verified, by an official translation agency or by your embassy, as authentic translations. The NMC will not be able to return any of these documents to you so it is important that you do not supply original documentation such as passports and certificates as part of your application.

## **Nurses responsible for general care and midwives who do not meet the practice requirements for acquired rights (article 23)**

If you are a national of a relevant European State, have successfully completed a qualification as a nurse responsible for general care or a midwife but who cannot meet the practice requirements for acquired rights and have been employed in your country as a nurse responsible for general care or midwife, we can assess your application under Article 10(b) of the Directive.

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

- Evidence of your qualification, certified by your registering body/competent authority
- 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 theoretical subjects that you studied and the numbers of hours as well as details of your clinical experience and the number of hours for each subject.
- A certificate of good character/police clearance certificate  
You can get this from the police in your home country. This document is only valid for three months from the date of issue.
- A photocopy of your passport or identity card
- Marriage or civil partnership certificate (if applicable)
- If you are not an EU national but your husband, wife, civil partner or parent is, then you need to send us a photocopy of their passport or identity card, and a copy of your marriage certificate if applicable
- A certificate of current professional status

All of the documents set out above must be certified photocopies. We must receive a translation of all these documents in the English language. The translations must have been verified, by an official translation agency or by your embassy, as authentic translations. The NMC will not be able to return these documents to you so it is important that you do not supply original documentation such as passports and certificates as part of your application.

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 in the UK. If we find that there are significant differences between your training and that which we require in the UK, we will detail those in a letter to you. You will be offered the opportunity to make up these differences through a period of adaptation.

## **Temporary registration**

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

**NURSING &  
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