

Registering as a nurse or midwife in the United Kingdom

For applicants trained within the
European Union and European Economic Area



Important note: In order to apply for registration through the EU registrations process 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.

If you were trained in a country outside the EU or EEA, and you have never registered and subsequently practised for 3 years in an EEA country, then you should apply for registration through the overseas route. This applies even if you are an EU national.

If you were trained as a nurse or midwife in an EU or EEA member state but are not an EU or EEA national, then you should also 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 in any way 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.

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.

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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 trained and registered in another European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) Member State and in Switzerland, who wish to practise in the UK. Nationals of a relevant EU or EEA Member 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 through a test.

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.

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. 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 to find out about the routes to registration*

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. 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.

In order to practice each midwife must have a named supervisor of midwives and must notify the local supervising authority annually, 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 strategic health authorities or health boards, 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 supervise further education and practice developments for a midwife, or suspend a midwife from practice when the safety of woman and/or babies is at risk. 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 to find out about the routes to registration*

Routes to registration

1 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 eligible to register 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 general 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 general nursing (29 June 1979) or midwifery (23 January 1983) or before the reference date for when your country implemented the EU standards then you will not meet the requirements for automatic recognition of your qualification.

The qualifications which meet the standard for automatic recognition and the reference dates for each country can be found on pages 11 to 15.

2 Acquired Rights

If your qualification as a general nurse or midwife does not meet the requirements for automatic recognition because you started training for your qualification before your country's reference date we will still be able to consider your application provided it is accompanied by some additional documents. This is known as 'Acquired Rights'.

Your qualification will be recognised in the UK if you can meet the following criteria:

- Your qualification is not listed in the table on pages 11 to 15 but was granted in an EEA Member State following training in that Member state *and*
- You can provide evidence of your qualification certified by your home competent authority, *and*
- You can provide a certificate from the competent authority of your home member state confirming that you have lawfully and effectively practised as a general nurse or midwife for at least three consecutive years out of the last five years from the date when the certificate was issued¹

3 Individual assessment (General System for the recognition of professional qualifications, Articles 10 to 14)

If you have trained as a general nurse or a midwife in an EEA member state but your qualification is not listed as meeting the requirements for automatic recognition, and you have not undertaken the pre-requisite period of practice to meet 'Acquired Rights' the NMC will still be able to assess your training and experience using Article 10(b) of the

¹ Please note that if you undertook training as a nurse or midwife in Poland or Romania under some circumstances the practice requirement is five consecutive years out of the previous seven. Information regarding these circumstances can be found on page 18 for general care nurses, and page 19 for midwives.

Directive. If you are a general nurse² we will assess your training and experience directly against the requirements of Article 31 and Annex V, 5.2.1, and if you are a midwife we will assess your training and experience directly against the requirements of Article 41 and Annex V, 5.5.1 of the Directive.

This section of the Directive also 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.

When assessing your training and experience under the individual assessment route where there are significant differences between the training you have undertaken and that which is required in the UK, 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.

In most cases in the UK the requirement would be for you to undertake an adaptation period.

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

Recognised qualifications from EU states and EEA countries

Because EU and EEA countries implemented the standards for the training of general care nurses and midwives at different times we thought it would be helpful for you to know the date from when your country became compliant with the EU training standards. We hope that this and the other information in this booklet will help you to understand the application process as it applies to you.

If you hold one of the following qualifications and the training for your qualification started on or after your countries reference date it is likely that the NMC will be able to automatically register you, provided that you supply some additional paperwork.

EU member states

Country	Reference date	Title of nursing qualification meeting Directives	Title of midwifery qualification meeting Directives <i>(and reference date if different from nursing)</i>
Austria	1 Jan 1994	1. Diplom als 'Diplomierte Gesundheits- und Krankenschwester/Diplomierter Gesundheits – und Krankenpfleger' 2. Diplom als 'Diplomierte Krankenschwester/Diplomierter Krankenpfleger'	Hebammen-Diplom
Belgium	29 June 1979	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 (23 Jan 1983)
Bulgaria	1 Jan 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"
Cyprus	1 May 2004	Δίπλωμα Γενικής Νοσηλευτικής	Δίπλωμα στο μεταβασικό πρόγραμμα Μαιευτικής

Czech Republic	1 May 2004	1. Diplom o ukončeni studia ve studijním programu ošetřovatelství ve studijním oboru všeobecná sestra (bakalář, Bc.) 2. Diplom o ukončeni studia ve studijním oboru diplomovaná všeobecná sestra (diplomovaný specialista, DiS.)	1. Diplom o ukončeni studia ve studijním programu ošetřovatelství ve studijním oboru porodní assistentka (bakalář, Bc.) 2. Diplom o ukončeni studia ve studijním oboru diplomovaná porodní assistentka (diplomovaný specialista, DiS.)
Denmark	29 June 1979	Eksamensbevis efter gennemført sygeplejerskeuddannelse	Bevis for bestået jordmodereksamen (23 Jan 1983)
Estonia	1 May 2004	Diplom õe erialal	Diplom ämmaemanda erialal
Finland	1 Jan 1994	1. Sairaanhoidajan tutkinto/sjukskötarexamen 2. Sosiaali- ja terveystieteiden ammattikorkeakoulututkinto, sairaanhoitaja (AMK)/yrkeshögskoleexamen inom hälsovård och det sociala området, sjukskötare (YH)	Kätilön tutkinto/barnmorskeexamen 2. Sosiaali- ja terveystieteiden ammattikorkeakoulututkinto, kätilö (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 Αξιοματικών 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	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 Μαιίας 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)
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 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	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
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 beroepsopderwijs 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
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	Diploma de licenta de moasa
Slovakia	1 May 2004	1. Vysokoškolský diplom o udelení akademického titulu 'magister z ošetrovateľstva' ('Mgr.')	1. Vysokoškolský diplom o udelení akademického titulu 'bakalár z pôrodnej asistencie' ('Bc.')
		2. Vysokoškolský diplom o udelení akademického titulu 'bakalár z ošetrovateľstva' ('Bc.')	2. Absolventský diplom v študijnom odbore diplomovaná pôrodná asistentka
		3. Absolventský diplom v študijnom odbore diplomovaná všeobecná sestra	
Slovenia	1 May 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	1 Jan 1986	Título de Diplomado universitario en Enfermería	Título de matrona/asistente obstétrico (matrona)/enfermería obstétrica-ginecológica
Sweden	1 Jan 1994	Sjuksköterskeexamen	Barnmorskeexamen

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 or an application request form can be accessed on the NMC's website at www.nmc-uk.org.

Once you have applied for registration we will give you a personal reference number (PRN). 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 meet the requirements for registration via 'Acquired Rights'

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 NMC 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, and then supply photocopies of both the original document and the translations to the NMC. 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, dated and stamped where required. Failure to ensure this will delay your application.

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

It may be possible that once we have made an initial assessment of your application that we will ask you to provide further information, which may result in you having to contact the authorities in your home country. An application cannot be considered 'complete' until all of the information required to make a full assessment has been received. It is therefore imperative that you read the information in this booklet carefully.

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 18 for information about registering as a nurse responsible for general care*
- ➔ *Go to page 19 for information about registering as a midwife*
- ➔ *Go to page 20 if you are a general nurse or midwife and you do not meet the requirements for automatic recognition or 'acquired rights'*
- ➔ *Go to page 25 for information about registering as a children's, mental health, or learning disabilities nurse*
- ➔ *Go to page 28 for information about registering as a second level nurse*
- ➔ *Go to page 29 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 should read the information below if your qualification is listed as meeting the requirements for automatic recognition, or if you believe you meet the requirements for 'Acquired Rights'. You will need to send us the completed application form with certified copies of the documents listed below:

- **Automatic recognition:**
Certified evidence of your qualification if it meets the requirements for automatic recognition under the Directive and listed on pages 11 to 15 of this booklet, or
- **Acquired Rights:**
Evidence of your qualification certified by your registering body/competent authority if your qualification was awarded before the implementation of the standards established for nurses responsible for general care (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 3 years out of the 5 years before to the certificate was issued (Article 23(1) of the Directive). If you hold the qualification of *dypłom pielęgniarcki albo pielęgniarcki dyplomowanej* from Poland we will require a certificate that you have been practicing as a nurse for 5 consecutive years out of the last 7 in accordance with Article 33(2)(b) of the Directive. If you hold the qualification of *certificate de competente profesionala de asistent medical generalist* from Romania we will require a certificate that you have been practicing as a nurse for 5 consecutive years out of the last 7 in accordance with Article 33(a) of the Directive.

In addition to the above we require the following documents:

- 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.
- 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. You must then send the certified photocopies of the originals and the translations 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 supply original documentation such as passports and certificates as part of your application.

If you have undertaken training as a Feldsher (фелдшер) in Bulgaria the NMC will not be able to consider your application. This is in accordance with the provisions of Article 23(a) of the Directive.

➔ ***Go to page 20 if you do not meet the requirements for automatic recognition of your qualification or 'acquired rights'.***

Registering in the UK as a midwife

You should read the information below if your qualification is listed as meeting the requirements for automatic recognition, or if you believe you meet the requirements for 'Acquired Rights'

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

- **Automatic recognition:**
Certified evidence of your qualification if it meets the requirements for automatic recognition under the Directive and listed on pages 11 to 15 of this booklet, or
- **Acquired Rights:**
Evidence of your qualification certified by your registering body/competent authority if it was awarded before the implementation of the standards established for midwifery (23 Jan 1983) 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 midwife for 3 years out of the 5 years prior to the certificate being issued (Article 23(1) of the Directive). If you hold the qualification of *dyplom położnej* from Poland we will require a certificate that you have been practicing as a midwife for 5 consecutive years out of the last 7 in accordance with Article 43(3)(b) of the Directive. If you hold the qualification of *asistent medical obstetrica-ginecologie* from Romania we will require a certificate that you have been practicing as a midwife for 5 consecutive years out of the last 7 in accordance with Article 43(a) of the Directive.
- 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 41(2) of the Directive), since you registered as a midwife.

In addition to the above we require the following documents:

- 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.
- 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. You must then send the certified photocopies of the originals and the translations 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 supply original documentation such as passports and certificates as part of your application.

➔ ***Go to the next page if you do not meet the requirements for automatic recognition of your qualification or 'acquired rights'.***

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

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 in an EU member state but you do not qualify for automatic recognition or you cannot meet the practice requirements for acquired rights the NMC will still be able to consider your application under Article 10(b) of the Directive.

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

- Evidence of your qualification, certified by your registering body/competent authority. This certificate must state that the training you have undertaken is **at least** equivalent to the level of qualification outlined in Article 11(c)(i) of Directive 2005/36/EC
- 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)
- 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. You must then send the certified photocopies of the originals and the translations 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 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 by Article 31 and Annex V, 5.2.1 of the Directive for general nurses, or to Article 40 and Annex V, 5.5.1 for midwives. 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, which must be undertaken through a UK higher education institution.

Additionally if you cannot provide 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 therefore feasible that you may be asked to undertake an adaptation programme and a return to practice programme. 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.

- ➔ *Please turn to the next page for the requirements of Article 31 and Annex V, 5.2.1 on the training of general care nurses*

- ➔ *Please turn to page 23 for the requirements of Article 40 and Annex V, 5.5.1 on the training of midwives*

EU requirements for the training of general care nurses (Article 31 and Annex V, 5.2.1 of Directive 2005/36/EC)

The educational programme must comprise a three year course or 4600 hours of theoretical and practical instruction, 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 the 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

EU requirements for the 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% of the programme, and the clinical component 50%.

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 new born infants
- Hygiene, health education, preventive medicine, early diagnosis of diseases
- Nutrition and dietetics, with particular reference to women, new born 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 new born infant
- Care and supervision of the new born 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 new born infants
- Supervision and care of mothers and new born infants, including pre term, post term, underweight and ill new born infants
- Care of pathological cases in the fields of gynaecology and obstetrics, and diseases of new born and young babies
- Initiation into the care of general pathological cases in medicine and surgery.

Individual assessment: 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 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. You must then send the certified photocopies of the originals and the translations 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 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 older people 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 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 3 year direct entry training or a period of adaptation or an aptitude test if you completed a 1 year post registration training.

Additionally if you cannot provide, as part of your application, information to demonstrate that you have practised as a nurse 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 therefore feasible that you may be asked to undertake an adaptation programme and a return to practice programme. 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.

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 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. You must then send the certified photocopies of the originals and the translations 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 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.

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.

The information in this booklet is correct as of September 2008. Please check our website for updates.

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