

Departmental Statement of Recognition of Prior Learning Processes

1.0 Recognition of professional qualifications

The Department of Health Sciences has been given approval by the PVC for Teaching and Learning to recognise the following professional qualifications as equivalent to 120 credits at level 4/Certificate level:

- Registered General Nurse (RGN)
- Registered Mental Health Nurse (RMN)
- Institute of Health and Care Development (IHCD) accredited paramedic qualification.

2.0 Mapping against professional criteria

The Department of Health Sciences allows transfer into our undergraduate and postgraduate pre-registration nursing and midwifery programmes. In addition to the University RPL guidance the Department of Health Sciences has been given approval by the PVC for Teaching and Learning to appraise applications in relation to the Nursing Midwifery Council Standards for Pre-Registration Midwifery Education (2009) and the Nursing Midwifery Council Standards for Pre-registration Nurse education (2010). The integration of NMC standards from the documents as part of our RPL processes have approved by the PVC for Teaching and Learning and are out lined below.

2.1 Mapping of full time undergraduate midwifery programmes

The NMC requires the Department of Health Sciences to check good health, good character and map intended learning outcomes for students transferring in to full time midwifery programmes. The NMC Standards for Pre-Registration Midwifery Education (2009) standard 7 states that:

'It is the responsibility of educational institutions to decide whether or not to accept an application for transfer. Students may transfer their programme with credit for prior learning only where:

- *they transfer from one NMC approved pre-registration midwifery programme to another*
- *the relevant NMC requirements for good health and good character are met*
- *the student's prior learning can be mapped against the programme they wish to transfer to, enabling them to go on to meet all necessary outcomes and standards on completion of the course'*

These standards are reflected in the RPL Committee's mapping criteria.

2.2 Appropriateness of mapping for full time undergraduate nursing programmes

The NMC provides guidance on when RPL procedures are appropriate. NMC Standards for Pre-registration Nurse Education (2010) G3.5.1a states that HEIs should apply RPL when accrediting previous theory or practice (including hours) for students who are:

- starting a programme
- transferring from one HEI to another
- moving from one nursing field to another
- returning to a programme after a lengthy break

2.3 Mapping learning outcomes of full time undergraduate nursing programmes

2.3.1 The NMC requires that the Department of Health Sciences map the previous learning outcomes to the destination programme to ensure that all the necessary NMC standards for the programme are met. NMC Standards for Pre-registration Nurse Education (2010) *R3.5.4 states*

'AElS receiving students who are transferring from one institution to another must ensure their previous learning is mapped against the new programme, so that they meet all necessary standards and requirements by the end of the programme.'

2.3.2 The Department of Health Sciences should also be able to show how the previous learning of the applicant maps onto the in-house programme. NMC Standards for Pre-registration Nurse Education (2010) *G3.5.1c states:*

'AElS should show for each student how previous learning is mapped to programme outcomes and requirements. AElS should determine the amount of learning accredited in both theory and practice (up to the permitted NMC 50% maximum).'

This is currently demonstrated in the decision making form through the application of the [departmental mapping criteria](#).

2.3.3 When making mapping decisions the RPL Committee should normally consider the student journey through to completion of the programme and highlight any specific considerations that will need to be addressed to ensure the student meets all the NMC requirements at the end of the programme. NMC Standards for Pre-registration Nurse Education (2010) *G3.5.1d states:*

'AElS should be able to show how all programme outcomes and requirements have been met in both theory and practice by the end of the programme through a mix of prior learning and programme attendance. Students cannot be exempted from meeting any programme requirement.'

In addition NMC Standards for Pre-registration Nurse Education (2010) *G3.5.1d states:*

'AElS, when applying APL, should make sure that all progression criteria have been met in both theory and practice for the relevant parts of the programme.'

Students accessing the programme via RPL therefore must have met all the intended outcomes, performance criteria and practice hours for that stage. Where there is a minimal deficit in practice hours students must be able to redeem them within the 12 week progression timescale required by the NMC.

The NMC provides additional guidance for Pre-registration student nurses in the adult field of practice

2.4 Specific requirements for mapping Adult Field of Practice for full time undergraduate nursing programmes

When mapping Adult Field of Practice RPL Committee must also ensure that students have met and will have opportunity to meet the EU requirements set out in Directive 2005/36/EC. Nursing Midwifery Council Standards for Pre-registration Nurse Education (2010)

R3.5.3 states:

'AElS must ensure that where RPL is applied to students studying adult nursing programmes, the general care requirements of Directive 2005/36/EC are met in full.'

The directive advises this can be achieved through a combination of RPL theory and practice relating to

- General and specialist medicine
- General and specialist surgery
- Child care and paediatrics
- Maternity care
- Mental health and psychiatry
- Care of the old and geriatrics
- Home nursing.

Based on evidence provided by the applicant, RPL Committee must provide guidance on the hours and placement requirements to meet the requirements of this directive at the point of RPL approval.

2.5 Specific requirements for mapping part time undergraduate/postgraduate nursing programmes

The Department of Health Sciences must check the professional registration of RPL applicants for part time undergraduate/postgraduate nursing programmes and confirm they are in good health and of good character. NMC Standards for Pre-registration Nurse Education (2010) standard R3.4.2 states:

'AElS must ensure that students already registered as nurses or midwives, who are undertaking a further programme leading to a mark on the nurses' part of the register, comply with NMC requirements for good health and good character.'

3.0 Consideration of good health and good character.

In addition to mapping elements of the programme the NMC requires the Departmental of Health Sciences to check good health, good character and map intended learning outcomes for nursing programmes. NMC Standards for Pre-registration Nurse Education (2010) R3.4.1 states:

'AElS must check evidence of students' good health and good character when they enter the programme. They must also check evidence of good health and good character at progression points and on completion.'

Good health and good character must also be checked when transferring from a nursing programme elsewhere, or when re-joining a programme after a lengthy break.

AElS must require students to immediately declare any cautions and convictions they receive, including charges pending, before entering and throughout the programme.'

The NMC Standards for Pre-Registration Midwifery Education (2009) standard 7 also insist that the relevant NMC requirements for good health and good character are met.

RPL Committee must therefore ensure that students provide evidence of good health and good character prior to accessing the programme.