

INFORMATION FOR REGISTERED NURSES AND MIDWIVES TRAINED IN THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU), EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA (EEA) AND SWITZERLAND SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN THE UK

Introduction

This information sheet sets out key facts and sources of information for registered nurses and midwives trained in the EU, EEA and Switzerland seeking employment in the UK.

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the voice of nursing across the UK and the largest professional union of nursing staff in the world with over 400,000 members.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is the regulatory body and competent authority for the register of nurses, midwives and specialist community public health nurses. In order to practise as a nurse in the UK, you must be registered with the NMC

Membership of the Royal College of Nursing

Membership of the RCN cost £144.75 (£115.80 after tax relief) if you join within the first 12 months of NMC registration. Nurses qualified outside of the UK working as healthcare assistants, who are not and have never been registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), can also join the RCN for £96.50 (£77.20 after tax relief) for the first year. Payments can be made on a monthly basis.

To join the RCN, telephone RCN Direct, our membership service is open Monday to Friday between 08.30 & 20.30, on 0345 772 6100. If you are calling from outside the UK telephone + 44 (0) 20 7647 3456 or apply on-line at www.rcn.org.uk

Once registered our telephone advice centre is open 7 days a week from 08.30 to 20.30 and is contactable on 0345 7726100 or online at http://www.rcn.org.uk/support/rcn_direct_online_advice

International English Language Test (IELTS)

EU nationals do not have to take the IELTS exam. Full details can be obtained from the NMC website <http://www.nmc-uk.org>

NMC Application Process

The NMC have produced a booklet which should be read before applying to register to work in the UK. A copy can be downloaded from the NMC website www.nmc-uk.org

To obtain an application pack contact the NMC:

Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC)

European Union Department

23 Portland Place

London W1B 1PZ Tel: + 44 20 7333 9333 Fax: +44 20 7636 6935

E-mail address for overseas registration: eu.enquiries@nmc-uk.org

Website: www.nmc-uk.org

If you are a national of one of the following EU countries and trained as a registered nurse (general nursing) and/or midwife in an EU country you may apply to register as a nurse or midwife under the terms of the European Directives.

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

Nurses and midwives who are nationals of, and obtained their qualifications in Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, benefit from the European Economic Area (EEA) agreement to register and seek employment in the UK. Switzerland has mutual recognition of nursing qualifications.

It is your responsibility to request the relevant documents from the competent authority in the country where you trained and to obtain certified English translations of your documents at your own expense. Some nurses from the newly accessioned countries of Central and Southern Europe may still have to have their qualifications and training transcripts checked individually, as their training programmes do not automatically fulfil the EU nursing directives. If you are in any doubt about whether your training fulfils EU directives please contact the NMC directly or log onto the NMC website:

<http://www.nmc-uk.org>

Meeting additional requirements for EU nurses and midwives

The NMC document explaining the background to meeting additional requirements for EU nurses and midwives applying to register with the NMC under the provisions of EC Directive 2005/36/EC, on the recognition of professional qualifications, Article 10 – General systems for the recognition of evidence of training may be found at the following web-link: <http://www.nmc-uk.org>

Workers Registration Scheme

Nationals of the following countries – Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia are required to apply to the Home Office under the Workers' Registration Scheme when they have a firm job offer.

Further information can be obtained from the Home Office website

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk> or contact the RCN Immigration Advice Service on 0345 456 6766 if you are ringing from the UK or email:

immigration.advice@rcn.org.uk

Bulgarian and Romanian nationals

You will require an Accession worker card, further information can be obtained from the Home Office website <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk> and specifically at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/eucitizens/bulgarianandromaniannationals/>

NMC Registration

When your application to register has been successfully processed, you will be sent a 'Statement of Entry' on the NMC Register. To practise in the UK, you will be required to pay a registration fee to the NMC. You will then receive a card showing your Personal Identification Number (PIN).

Once you are registered with the NMC you may apply for employment as a registered nurse. Prospective employers will require that you have a good command of English to undertake the duties of a registered nurse. Although passing a language examination is not an EU requirement, it is important to have good communication skills.

EU wide citizens' rights and opportunities for living, working, studying or travelling in other EU countries are available on a website called 'Dialogue with Citizens'.

<http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/nav/en/citizens/index.html>

Publication

International and European nurse recruitment

RCN guidance for nurses, health care assistants, health care employers and RCN officers.

It can be download from the RCN website www.rcn.org.uk/publications

Publication code: 003 816

ISBN: 978-1-906633-41-7

This guidance sets out the key considerations and RCN principles for ensuring the ethical recruitment and employment of nurses internationally, and from across the EEA (European Economic Area) and Switzerland. It is aimed at nurses and HCAs who may want to work in the UK, as well as potential employers. This publication includes advice on good recruitment and employment practice, information on the regulation of nurses in the UK, support available for nurses, and details of useful contacts and resources.

Job Adverts

Advertisements for nursing vacancies are found in the two weekly nursing journals, Nursing Standard and Nursing Times.

To subscribe contact:

Nursing Standard (Subscriptions)

Copse Walk

Cardiff Gate Business Park

Cardiff CF23 8XG

Tel: 0845 7726100 or +44 20 7647 3456 (if you are calling from outside the UK)

Email: rcndirectjournalsteam@rcn.org.uk

www.nursing-standard.co.uk

Nursing Times

Tower House

Sovereign Park

Market Harborough

Leicestershire LE16 9EF

Tel: +44 (0) 1858 438847

Fax: +44 (0) 1858 461873

Email: enquiries@subscription.co.uk

www.nursingtimes.net

NMC website also has a list of job vacancies. www.nmc4jobs.com

For information on living, working, studying or travelling in other EU countries log onto <http://ec.europa.eu/eures/> telephone free phone 00800 4080 4080

For a list of embassies where you can obtain further information on working in the UK log onto the Foreign & Commonwealth Office www.fco.gov.uk website. The embassies cannot find you employment or advise you on working in the UK as a

nurse, but may be able to provide general advice on employment before you leave your country.

RCN Immigration Advice Service

Telephone - 0345 456 6766

Email – immigration.advice@rcn.org.uk