OVERSEAS NURSING PROGRAMME (ONP)

SUPERVISED PRACTICE/ADAPTATION PROGRAMMES

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.

Membership of Royal College of Nursing

Membership of the RCN is available at a concessionary rate 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 at a concessionary rate for the first year. Payments can be made on a monthly basis. Current RCN membership rates are available at [http://www.rcn.org.uk/membership/categories](http://www.rcn.org.uk/membership/categories).

Nurses who are on or have been accepted onto an adaptation course, supervised placement or on the Overseas Nursing Programme (ONP) can join at a special rate of £10.00 for the duration of their programme (until they obtain their NMC PIN number, registration with the NMC), at which point the concessionary rate will apply for the first year.

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](http://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 772 6100 or online at http://www.rcn.org.uk/support/rcn_direct_online_advice

**NMC Application Process**

Once you have been assessed by the NMC you can apply for the Overseas Nursing Programme (ONP), however, you need to consider that places are limited and you are not guaranteed a place by the NMC, details below.

Nursing & Midwifery Council
23 Portland Place
London W1B 1PZ
Tel: + 44 20 7333 9333
Fax: + 44 20 7636 6935
www.nmc-uk.org

**Overseas Nursing Programme (ONP)**

Nurses trained outside the European Union (EU), European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland who wish to register in the UK will have to successfully complete the ONP.

The ONP is a compulsory 20 day period of protected learning and where appropriate a period of supervised practice.

The content will include UK law, health and safety issues, record-keeping, drugs administration and the NMC Code of Conduct.

Only approved educational institutions are permitted to provide the new programme. A list of institutions are listed on the NMC website www.nmc-uk.org
International English Language Test (IELTS)

All overseas nurses who trained outside the European Economic Area (EEA) will have to sit the International English Language Test (IELTS) before they start the NMC application process.

From the 1st February 2007 the following scores have to be achieved by all nurses and midwives.

- At least 7.0 in the listening and reading sections
- At least 7.0 in the writing and speaking sections
- An overall average score of 7 (out of a possible 9)

Full details can be found on the NMC website www.nmc-uk.org

If you are resident in the UK information about sitting the IELTS examination can be found on the IELTS website www.ielts.org/

If you are living abroad, full details can be found on the British Council’s website. www.britishcouncil.org

Immigration

For information log onto the RCN immigration advice service

Or telephone the RCN Immigration Advice Service on 0345 456 6766 or email: immigration.advice@rcn.org.uk

Publication

International and European nurse recruitment

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

**Useful contacts**

The RCN offers career advice and confidential support to RCN members Tel: +44 (0) 345 408 4391 or email wrg@rcn.org.uk

An NHS website to support refugee and overseas qualified health professional who are settled in the UK find employment in the UK. [www.rose.nhs.uk](http://www.rose.nhs.uk)

The NHS Learning and Development Service can give you advice on further training in the UK Tel: - 08000 150 850 (if you are ringing from outside the UK +44 (0) 8000 150 850). Email: learning@nhscareers.nhs.uk
Useful Sources of Information

RCN Immigration Advice Service
Telephone - 0345 456 6766
Email – immigration.advice@rcn.org.uk