

Regional selection criteria for entry onto Specialist Practice Qualifications (SPQ) programmes within HSC Trusts

NB: These criteria will apply to community and non-community SPQ programmes (NMC will no longer approve non-community nursing SPQ programmes).

	NMC Standards for post-registration programmes	Regional HSC selection criteria for entry onto SPQ programmes
	Approved education institutions, together with practice learning partners, must ensure that the applicant is an:	Applicants wishing to apply for a SPQ programme must provide evidence of the following criteria;
1.1.	NMC registered nurse (level 1) with relevant professional registration, capable of safe and effective practice at the level of proficiency appropriate to the NMC approved Community Nursing Specialist Practice Qualification (SPQ) programme before being considered as eligible to apply for entry	<p>Applicants wishing to apply for a SPQ programme must provide evidence of the following criteria;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered nurse (level 1) on the live NMC Register • BSc Hons/ BSc degree or successful completion of academic study at level 6 • Registered with the NMC for a minimum of one year prior to application for entry on to the programme <p>In the application form the applicant must confirm that they are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • of Good Health and Character¹ • not undergoing any live formal professional, criminal or internal investigation, disciplinary hearings or serving a live disciplinary warning or formal underperformance procedure (as at date of application)²
1.2.	Confirm on entry that each applicant selected to undertake a community nursing Specialist Practice Qualification (SPQ) programme has the academic capability to study at the level required for that programme.	
1.6.	<p>NMC Standards for Prescribing Programmes</p> <p>Confirm that the applicant is capable of safe and effective practice at a level of proficiency appropriate to the programme to be undertaken and their intended area of prescribing practice in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.6.1 Clinical/health assessment • 1.6.2 Diagnostics/care management • 1.6.3 Planning and evaluation of care 	
1.7.	Ensure that applicants for V300 independent/supplementary prescribing programmes have been registered with the NMC for a minimum of one year prior to application for entry onto the programme	

¹ For definition of 'Good Health and Character' please refer to: NMC *Guidance on Health and Character* document (2019): nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/nmc-publications/guidance-on-health-and-character/

² If subject to any of the above this should be declared in confidence to the hiring manager. An affirmative response will not always result in an automatic exclusion however HSC Trusts will make an assessment on a case-by-case basis.