

From the Chief Nursing Officer
Professor Charlotte McArdle



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

BY EMAIL:

First Year Midwifery and Nursing Students
Second Year Midwifery and Nursing Students
Third Year Midwifery and Nursing Students in first 6 months
October 2019 Cohort Midwifery Students

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Date: 2nd July 2020

Dear nursing student and midwifery student,

RE: Returning undergraduate pre-registration nursing and midwifery students to their normal programme: supporting information and frequently asked questions for students

I want to begin by taking this opportunity to personally thank you for the valuable contribution you continue to make in delivering safe and effective care to people in Northern Ireland.

As you know, over the past few months the health and social care system has been under significant pressure due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Working in partnership with our Health and Social Care (HSC) colleagues and Approved Education Institutions (AEI's) we have done all we can to mitigate the full impact of Covid-19 on your studies. As you will be aware from my previous correspondence with you, the four United Kingdom (UK) countries worked with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and others to publish [joint statements](#) on expanding the nursing and midwifery workforce in the Covid-19 outbreak, describing the contribution of nursing and midwifery students.

The NMC [Emergency Standards](#) provided flexibility to change the nature of the programme for undergraduate pre-registration nursing and midwifery students in order to maximise your contribution to the workforce during the Covid-19 outbreak. The [student guidance](#) produced by the Department of Health outlined the various options to consider when deciding if you wanted to undertake a paid placement in support of the nursing and midwifery workforce. We are cognisant that some of you could not undertake the option of a paid placement for various reasons and we will endeavour to support you in partnership with your AEI to complete your studies.

On July 2nd 2020 the NMC Council ratified the Covid-19 – Recovery Standards for nursing and midwifery education. These standards have approved the withdrawal of the Emergency Standards on 30th September 2020 and implementation of the Recovery Standards on that same date. The attached student information sets out timelines for you as a nursing or midwifery student, highlighting when financial remuneration will cease and when supernumerary placements will be restored.

I recognise that for some of you this will mean transiting shortly onto the full NMC register and for others a resumption back to your 'normal' studies all of which can be an anxious time. However, the attached supporting information together with guidance of your AEI is aimed at answering your questions and providing you with a structured timeline so you can continue with your studies or progress to registration with the NMC. Regardless of whatever stage you are at in your nursing or midwifery education please be assured you have my full support and I wish you well in your future career.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Charlotte McArdle

Chief Nursing Officer

Cc: Professor Sonja McIlpatrick
Professor Donna Fitzsimmons
Donna Gallagher