



Quick reference guide

ARRANGEMENTS FOR NURSING AND MIDWIFERY STUDENTS WORKING IN PRACTICE DURING THE COVID-19 PERIOD

News: Significant numbers of second and third year nursing and midwifery students have opted to work in practice during the COVID-19 period



The COVID-19 pandemic means we are in unprecedented times with significant pressures being placed on our health and care services.

As nursing and midwifery professions we nevertheless need to ensure we are able to sustain a future workforce. This means continuing to provide opportunities for students to meet the requirements for NMC registration over the next few years and beyond.

Organisations across Wales are looking to you as service colleagues to play a crucial role in supervising, assessing and facilitating student learning in what are exceptional emergency circumstances.

This expectation follows announcements from professional regulators and joint statements from the four country Chief Nursing Officers on expanding the nursing and midwifery workforce during the COVID-19 outbreak.

What does opting in mean for students?

Students will still be students

The NMC understands it may not be possible for second and third year students to be supernumerary on clinical placement in this emergency situation but will still expect students to be supported under revised supervision and assessment arrangements ([NMC 2018](#); [NMC 2020](#)):

- This means all NMC registered nurses and midwives (and other registered health and social care professionals) are able to act as practice supervisors for students and continue wherever possible to protect learning time for students to work towards achieving practice learning outcomes.
- A practice assessor (experienced as a mentor or sign-off mentor) who is a registered nurse (or for midwifery students a registered midwife) will ultimately be the person to confirm student achievement of practice learning outcomes.
- All students opting in to the revised programme structure will continue to wear their student uniform when working in clinical practice.

Students will have employee rights and be paid whilst on placement

Second and third-year students who opt into the revised programme structure during the COVID-19 period will in effect undertake a **paid placement**:

- Second year students and those in the first part of their third year will work 80% of the time in practice and 20% undertaking academic work. These students will be paid on Agenda for Change Band 3.
- Students in the last six months of their programme will undertake a full time placement (with negotiated time to complete outstanding academic work) and be paid on Agenda for change Band 4.

All students will continue to receive their student bursary throughout the COVID-19 period.

Further points:

- ⇒ First year nursing and midwifery students will not undertake practice placements but will continue with their academic studies.
 - ⇒ Under emergency powers, the Nursing and Midwifery Council have established a COVID-19 emergency temporary register which went live on the 25.03.20. So far this is only open to previous nursing and midwifery professionals who left the register.
- If deemed necessary, the NMC may consider opening temporary registration for **nursing students** in the final six months of their programme with a number of conditions of practice. If so, universities will be asked by the NMC to identify students who meet these emergency registration requirements.

[Press here for Health Education and Improvement Wales COVID-19 Healthcare education related information and Student Support Guide](#)

Key contacts:

Your Practice Education Facilitator Team/ University links are:

Name	Tel	email