

## Update on the School of Nursing and Midwifery Selection Process

Personal Statements won't be used to shortlist for interview this year - both universities have taken the decision to remove this barrier to first cut selection. Those who can meet or have met the academic entry requirements with the suite of Level 3 qualifications they are studying or have studied will be invited to interview.

A regional approach based on partnership between QUB and UU universities is being developed and introduced for 2021 entry to improve both standardisation of selection processes and the applicant experience to Nursing and Midwifery programmes across Northern Ireland and to ensure the efficient and effective deployment of staff resource required to support selection. The move to a regional partnership approach was in the planning prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the pandemic has only served to accelerate progress to change selection processes to a digital driven, leaner process that is fair to applicants and resource efficient for staff required for selection to Nursing and Midwifery in Northern Ireland's two universities.

A task and finish group has been established with representation from service users and current students working with Admissions staff and Nursing and Midwifery academics from both universities to agree the scope and operation of the regional approach to selection.

The group has already agreed the removal of the personal statement for interview shortlisting. It has also agreed that a digital interview platform that allows for asynchronous review, marking and moderating will be used for selection to 2021/22 entry. More information will be disseminated to applicants and schools when it is agreed by all interested parties. The group is mindful of the UCAS 15th January equal consideration deadline for applications to Nursing and Midwifery and aims to have their operational plan ready for dissemination to align with the deadline and the influx of applications for 2021/22 entry.

The work of the task and finish group has the support from professional bodies in the sector to develop high quality applicant centred, digital led and values based selection practices for Nursing and Midwifery in Northern Ireland.