

## Pre-registration Nursing & Midwifery Student FAQs

Dear Nursing Student

We appreciate that you have a lot of unanswered questions and answers to some of the queries have changed due to the unpredictable situation. We have listened to you over the last few days and have compiled between us preliminary answers to your most frequently asked questions. These are based on the information we have at present but may sometimes change as the situation conditions need to evolve. We will endeavor to keep these FAQ's as up to date as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us if your question is not answered below

- **I am worried that because of personal exposure or travel or illness, I am putting patients at risk. What should I do?**

If you need specific personal health advice specifically in relation to Covid-19 you should call the NHS 111 service or your GP. Please do not attend the GP or ED without phoning in advance. You should complete the absence form sent recently to you and submit to the School also contact the ward manager/team lead if you are in clinical practice. If advised that you do not need to be tested or to self-isolate, you should return to the course as soon as you are well and complete the normal self-certification process.

- **Will my bursary be affected if I have to self-isolate?**

Bursary payments will continue.

- **How will this latest announcement from NMC affect us?**

We are aware the NMC have issued information regarding second year students which is different to that information for students in the final 6 months. HOS is in communication with NMC and DoH and when the situation is clarified students will be informed of any decisions.

- **What about individuals who don't want to go to placement?**

At the moment normal supervision in practice arrangements continue, students should therefore continue on the programme as planned. For students, who for whatever reason cannot go to placement then the programme is paused for them. This missed placement time will be made up at a future date when this situation is resolved. We have negotiated meantime that bursary payments will continue.

- **Will we be entitled to payment for placements?**

### **For Feb 18 (pl 8) Sept 18 (pl 6) and Feb 19 (pl 4) placements**

The DoH has now given the go ahead that these students will be paid a band 3 for your next placement, this means redeeming supernumerary status. The Trusts are aware that however you

are there as a nursing student and have agreed that you will be supported in this role. At the moment we don't know if they will be paid for any further placements.

- **We also work as a Band 3 HCA. Can we continue to do this?**

In N. Ireland the DHSS pay nursing students' fees and bursary. Students can continue to work as Band 3 outside of the programme if they wish.

- **Have QUB fed back our worries to DoH and NMC?**

Yes the HOS is continually in consultation with DoH to reflect upon the issues impacting on our students and to advocate on your behalf. She has also made representation to NMC through Council of Deans regarding student concerns.

- **What happens to students with childcare issues now the schools are closed?**

If a student is absent as a result of childcare or other responsibilities the absence should be recorded as usual using the form sent recently to all students. Hours missed will be reviewed at a later date.

- **What are the implications for course if we don't go on placement?**

If a student is absent from placement the hours missed are documented in the portfolio and arrangement are made to complete these at an appropriate time. Bursary payments are maintained

- **Can we undertake placement part time due to childcare?**

At the moment we do not have the answer, but understand why you might need to and will certainly raise this.

- **Will we be trained in COVID-19?**

All students have access to COVID-19 online training in the Practice module resources and are advised to follow up to date advice from the PHA.

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Nursing students may be working in designated COVID-19 environments. Nursing students should use PPE as in Universal precautions. The use of specialised equipment including FIT testing will be as risk dictates.

If there is identified risk, we would expect Trusts would ensure specific PPE training and access to FIT testing.

- **What about our assessments and exams?**

In order that you are not unnecessarily disadvantaged by this crisis, appropriate amendments have been put in place and these will continue where possible. Please see link to University guidance.

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/home/coronavirus-faqs/information-for-students/>

- **The libraries are closed - how can we access the resources we need for assignments? Accessing at home doesn't let us see everything we need.**

The QUB library is available online and additional resources have been provided. The Librarians can be emailed for help as always.

- **Can lecturers put extra resources online for assignments?**

Extra resources will be provided as deemed appropriate by the module coordinators

- **We think we'll end up working as a band 3 while on placement rather than as a student because there's so much pressure on service. What can we do about it?**

The Trusts are aware that you are there as a nursing student and have agreed that you will be supported in this role. The NMC have advised that AEI's adopt the new curriculum Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment immediately, which means that you can be supervised by any Registered nurse and not necessarily only your mentor. This will give much more scope for your supervision.

- **What if we get sick with COVID19?**

Any signs or symptoms you need to self-isolate as per PHA guidance. Absences should be recorded in the portfolio and self-certification with normal reporting procedures

- **What happens if we are moved ward while on placement?**

This may happen in order to ensure your safety and to ensure there is adequate learning.

- **What happens if the country is locked down?**

Healthcare workers will still need to be facilitated to provide all care required.

- **Our international electives have been cancelled - will we have the opportunity to reschedule?**

Considering the world-wide situation at present this does not seem likely at present

- **Will we be supported in placement?**

You will be supervised by a Registered nurse and the Link lecturer is available to support you and assist if you have any concerns regarding your learning. The Practice Education teams are generally still in place in most Trusts.

- **What about completion and submission of my portfolio?**

Due to these changes students are using an amended portfolio which is a combination of the current portfolio and NIPAD. In practice the new Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment are being used. The portfolio will be submitted online.

- **If we feel our safety cannot be guaranteed as a result of placement changes**

We have every confidence that the Trusts are able to support students on placement and they have been communicating with us if it is felt there is any risk and students have been re-allocated accordingly

- **Placement changes may have impact on learning**

You will be supervised by a Registered nurse and the Link lecturer is available to support you. We would be confident that in this evolving caring situation there is many learning opportunities.

- **Can I obtain additional uniforms**

The School is working with Tailored Image to provide 1 extra set of uniform (tunic and trousers) to each student free of charge. Once you have made the decision to accept the voluntary offer to opt in (and have notified the School as such), please contact Tailored Image directly via their dedicated email address [nam@tailoredimage.com](mailto:nam@tailoredimage.com) or by telephone on 0288772 6876. Please ensure you quote '**QUB - then your cohort e.g. year and programme e.g. Nursing September 2018**' giving your name, student number, programme of study, tunic/trouser size and delivery address. If you have already contacted Tailored Image to order additional tunics or trousers and paid for these with your own money, please contact them again via email or phone, quoting the details above and a refund will be processed to you.

Please note that Tailored Image have not been able to provide all students with the School's regular tunic and trousers. This is because they do not hold high enough levels of stock to meet the current additional demand from us and due to the Covid-19 pandemic there is a regional shortage of fabric meaning they are unable to manufacture these items. As such, the School authorised the company to use a substitute tunic and trousers. While we understand these uniform items are not the same as our standard uniform, they are currently the only available option that can be sourced to allow us to provide additional uniforms to you in a timely way.

Where you have received a faulty item or where the item does not fit correctly, please do contact Tailored Image directly via their dedicated nursing and midwifery email address [nam@tailoredimage.com](mailto:nam@tailoredimage.com) and please also copy in [patricia.kelly@gub.ac.uk](mailto:patricia.kelly@gub.ac.uk) from the School . The company will endeavour to get back to you as soon as they can but as this is not a business as usual time it may take slightly longer than usual. Thank you for your patience.

If you have any further queries, please feel free to contact us.

**Contact details**

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