



SEaTS – Initial thoughts - School of Nursing and Midwifery

Introduction

The School of Nursing and Midwifery (SNAM) are required to complete attendance monitoring for approximately 3'500 students. SNAM record attendance for all their pre-registration programmes, which include Undergraduate (UG) Nursing and UG Midwifery programmes and MSc Professional Nursing and MSc Midwifery programmes to ensure compliance with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), all post registration programmes to ensure compliance with Department of Health (DoH), as well as UKVI engagement monitoring for Undergraduate Nursing and Midwifery, Postgraduate Taught (PGT) and Postgraduate Research (PGR) students.

SNAM's academic year and timetabling differ significantly from the University's standard semester dates for pre-registration students which account for the majority of students enrolled in the school. The School has two intakes (September and February), both taught over 52 calendar weeks with multiple cohorts taught simultaneously to facilitate theory and practice placements. **Please see example calendars including [pre-reg Nursing here](#) and [UG Midwifery here](#).**

Timetabling for Nursing and Midwifery undergraduate pre-reg programmes is not held on QSiS due to the complexity of multiple intakes delivered over 52 weeks, the School would welcome an opportunity to revisit this with QUB's Room Bookings and Timetabling teams. Post-registration and post graduate programmes do tend to follow standard university semester dates and timetabling is captured within QSiS.

SNAM will lose key administrative staff in April, who currently manage attendance monitoring. A digital solution is timely due to the loss of resource within the School.

NMC Regulations

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) requires all pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery programmes to monitor attendance and absence.

All undergraduate pre-registration Nursing programmes must include 50% practice and 50% theory, for example a minimum of 2300 practice hours and 2300 theory hours being recorded for each UG Nursing student over three years. Attendance and absence must be recorded in hours. For all theory-based elements this will include all timetabled sessions, lectures, tutorials, Clinical Education Centre, and Intersim practical classes etc.

NMC-approved hour breakdown (current Nursing curriculum, NMC approved in 2019):

Year	Practice (hrs)	Theory (hrs)
1	675	712.5
2	750	862.5
3	900	750
Total	2325	2325

Hours on practice placement for pre-registration programmes are recorded on an ePortfolio solution: eNIPAD and Emora. This is the regionally agreed solution for all higher education institutions operating pre-registration programmes for the NMC in Northern Ireland and **we would not require** placement hours to be duplicated in another system. Therefore, the pilot would cover teaching theory hours only and not practice placement hours.

SNAM must continue to meet NMC and UKVI compliance requirements and would welcome a more detailed understanding of SEaTS system and resourcing implications.

SNAM's Current procedure

SNAM currently complete attendance monitoring for all NMC accredited pre-registration programmes, and post-registration programmes in addition to UKVI engagement monitoring for all UG, PGT and PGR international students. More information on SNAM's processes can be [found here](#).

NMC attendance monitoring of all pre-registration students, currently the process is as follows:

- Class registers are printed
- Class registers are given to academic staff
- Academic staff use class registers to take attendance at each class
- Academic staff return class registers to drop off point
- Class registers are collated
- Year leads are given appropriate class registers to check for absence
- Students whose absence is approaching 25% will be given a warning at this point by their year lead. Students in breach of the 25% absence limit are in breach of the NMC requirement and will be required to take a temporary withdrawal.
- Students can log absences, please see example of pre-registration Nursing absence [form here](#). Students are required to make up any hours of absence.

Pilot and roll out planning

Due to the number of students SNAM are required to complete attendance monitoring for, approximately 3'500 students, we will not be able to complete the pilot across all cohorts. Instead, the pilot will include one cohort which will be the February 2026 intake and will have 170 students across two fields, Adult and Children and Young Person (CYP) Nursing.

Student calendars are split into various phases including teaching, practice placement, induction, reading/assessment and free weeks which are similar to short semester breaks. Please see example calendars including [pre-reg Nursing here](#) and [UG Midwifery here](#).

In the investment proposal, it states the operational phase will include the Go-Live & Review phase will be in March with a launch of the pilot to include SNAM. The March go-live dates will capture **three weeks of pilot data (2–22 March)**, for our February 2026 cohort, they will be in their first phase teaching block during this time. If setup is delayed and there are changes or an extension to the planned pilot dates (2–22 March) then SNAM will not get three weeks of data as the pilot cohort (February 2026 cohort) will move to a placement block on 23 March where data will not be collected.

Given this timing, a concern of the School is that the pilot will focus on one block of teaching which falls within standard University semester dates but will not fully test SNAM calendar complexities Please see example calendars including [pre-reg Nursing here](#) and [UG Midwifery here](#).

Please note, as SNAM are only piloting with the February 2026 cohort, there will be few or no international students in this group. For SNAM UKVI engagement monitoring, the contact points are spread over teaching and practice placement blocks and as SEaTS will only store data on the teaching contact points, how is envisaged that SEaTS will capture the contact point data relating to practice placement blocks which is held in the eNIPad/eMora.

Planning for a full roll out should include larger numbers of international students, such as the KSA cohort (20 students) which the School will be welcoming in January 2027.