

2.2. The RCN is committed to the current academic entry requirements for pre-registration nursing and midwifery programmes, as set by the Approved Education Institutions and would not support any dilution of standards.

2.3. The RCN expects the NMC to provide assurances that appropriate safeguards for students under 18 years are reflected in their standards, particularly in relation to clinical placements. We expect the NMC to consider the full legal ramifications of placing a student under 18 years, who is legally considered a child as per the Children Act 1989, in a clinical setting with pat

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4. Standards on placement settings

4.1. The RCN agrees that the EU directive around standards for placement settings can be safely removed, as the current NMC Standards surpass that required of the EU directive. This provides the opportunity for the NMC standards of proficiency for nurses and midwives to assure high quality and diversity of experience. This can be monitored via the NMC quality assurance framework and can therefore be evaluated.

4.2. The RCN agrees that a new standard should be included for midwifery education to ensure student experience is achieved from differing maternity providers to expand the achievement of diverse knowledge and skills, experience different models of care, leadership, and culture.

4.3. The RCN states there must be an innovative and diverse approach in student nurse placements which offers an appropriate spread of experience relevant to the, or midwifery. The RCN would not wish to see AEs interpret the removal of the EU list of placement settings as permission to restrict placement options to a limited number of providers.

4.4. The RCN expects the NMC to provide clarity for AEs during the implementation of their standards that clinical placements should be offered based on student needs and reflect the diversity of the profession that they will join as registered nurses, nursing associates and midwives.

4.5. The RCN advocate for quality standards for placement settings that reflect support for students and practice supervisors and assessors. There must be an assured way that students are able to raise concerns if they believe these standards are not being met.

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5.3. The RCN agrees to the proposed new standard to "ensure technology

and effective practice". We agree that this definition is future focused, allow sufficient scope for innovation by AEI's and offers a clear definition.

6. Additional comments

- 6.1. The RCN would like to take the opportunity to comment as invited for any other concerns or comments regarding the pre-registration programme standards.
- 6.2. The RCN welcome the changes proposed and feel that they provide an opportunity to promote equality, diversity, and inclusion, enhance safe, kind and effective practice and improve the outcomes for users of nursing and midwifery services.
- 6.3. The RCN assert that NMC guidance around simulation should be quality and equality focused.
- 6.4. Robust recommendations around the professional development of assessors & supervisors, including freeing up time to support students, would also be recommended.
- 6.5. As the UK is no longer bound by the regulation of the European Union the RCN believes that this is an opportunity to strengthen student experience and learning opportunities across all the four fields of nursing practice and midwifery. We would urge the NMC to consider this further in future revision of pre-registration standards.

Additional reading

- NMC Consultation: <https://www.nmc.org.uk/news/news-and-updates/nmc-launches-consultation-on-education-programme-standards/>
- RCN Position on Simulation: [https://www.rcn.org.uk/about-us/our-influencing-work/position-statements/rcn-position-on-use-of-simulation-based-learning-in-pre-and-post-registration-education#:~:text=or%20Google%20Chrome-,RCN%20position%20on%20the%20use%20of%20simulation%2Dbased%20learning,pre%20and%20post%20registration%20education&text=The%20NMC%20has%20introduced%20a,19%20pandemic%20\(NMC%202021\).](https://www.rcn.org.uk/about-us/our-influencing-work/position-statements/rcn-position-on-use-of-simulation-based-learning-in-pre-and-post-registration-education#:~:text=or%20Google%20Chrome-,RCN%20position%20on%20the%20use%20of%20simulation%2Dbased%20learning,pre%20and%20post%20registration%20education&text=The%20NMC%20has%20introduced%20a,19%20pandemic%20(NMC%202021).)