

## Information Sheet 4

# ENROLLED NURSE CONVERSION



25 January 2007

## Changes to the NMC Register

The categories for nurse registration have changed. From 1 August 2004 and the opening of the new professional register, the former parts of the Nursing and Midwifery Council's register have been closed. All existing registrants are migrating to the new parts of the register: Part 1 - Nursing; Part 2 - Midwifery; and Part 3 - Specialist Community Public Health Nursing.

## What Enrolled Nurses need to do

The University of Glamorgan offers a part-time and flexible route to first level registration and a Higher Education Diploma. With this one exception, level 2 nurses or enrolled nurses wanting to become level 1 nurses, have to enter existing nursing courses for those entering the profession. They join the course part way through, at the beginning of the branch programme when the other students have finished the common foundation programme. This usually means entering at the beginning of year 2 of the course. The new rules and *Standards of proficiency for pre-registration nursing* (NMC 2004), must apply to all programmes approved from August 2004. As a result of the new rules and standards of proficiency, no new programmes leading to the replaced Part 1 (RGN), Part 3 (RMN), Part 5 (RNMH) or Part 8 (RSCN) of the former register can be approved. Entry to existing programmes leading to Parts 1, 3, 5 and 8 is also closed. So students wishing to convert cannot enter the Flexible Route to Conversion as friends and colleagues did previously. They use the courses already approved as pre-registration nursing programmes for new entrants to the profession. In future an enrolled nurse wishing to convert will be required to undertake, either wholly or in part, the pre-registration branch programmes currently approved at the university schools. There are two-year full time branch programmes at all the schools in Wales, with some schools additionally offering a part time branch option, for example, the University of Glamorgan and Swansea University. Nurses entering are likely to be joining a degree cohort. It may be possible for very experienced enrolled nurses to APEL their experience into the course and so reduce their course to less than two years. APEL means Accreditation of Prior Experience and Learning. For experience to be useable in this way, it would have to be a close match to the experience offered within the course. The nurse using APEL would have to follow an APEL process by using evidence to demonstrate formally that her/his experience does match the outcomes of the course. There is more information on this aspect from individual schools of nursing and within *Standards of proficiency for pre-registration nursing* which can be viewed or ordered on line via the NMC website at [www.nmc-uk.org](http://www.nmc-uk.org) or ordered by post from Publications, NMC, 23 Portland Place, London, W1B 1PZ.

## Funding a conversion course

There are two sources other than self-funding: funding from employers (NHS or Independent Sector), if available, or applying for a non-means-tested bursary. It may be possible to combine these options on part-time courses. The usual citizenship and residency rules apply to bursaries. Information on bursaries is on website <http://www.nliah.wales.nhs.uk/> or can be obtained from individual schools or from the NHS Student Awards Unit at NLIAH, telephone: 029 2050 2350.



## Transition arrangements for those already converting

The NMC has granted a transition period. This means that those, already on enrolled nurse conversion programmes leading to Parts 1, 3, 5, or 8 of the former register before 1 August 2004, have until 31 August 2007 to complete their programmes and meet the new requirements for health and good character. On completion of the programme students would be eligible to enter the new Part 1 of the NMC register at level 1.

**Your next step is to contact your nearest university and talk with your employer.**

### Schools of Nursing

**University of Glamorgan, Student Enquiry Centre**, ADMAIL 3541, Pontypridd CF37 1GY

### Diploma Programme

**Web:** [www.glam.ac.uk](http://www.glam.ac.uk) **Tel:** 0800 716925  
Adult Nursing; Mental Health Nursing;  
Learning Disabilities Nursing.

*Modular and flexible course available part time, over 1 – 4 years with some learning in own area plus individually negotiated placements. Entrants need current second level registration plus 120 points at Level 1 (HE). Up to two thirds APEL available.*

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### Schools of Nursing

Admissions Officer  
**School of Health Science, University of Wales Swansea**, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP  
**Courses may also be based in Carmarthen**

### Degree Programmes

**Web:** [www.swan.ac.uk](http://www.swan.ac.uk) **Tel:** 01792 518531  
Adult Nursing; Mental Health Nursing;  
Children's Nursing.

*'Family friendly' part time Adult Nursing (up to five years) in Swansea.*

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Admissions, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Studies, **Faculty of Health, University of Wales, Bangor**, Fron Heulog, Ffriddoedd Road, Bangor LL57 2EF  
**Courses may also be based in Wrexham**

**Web:** [www.bangor.ac.uk](http://www.bangor.ac.uk) **Tel:** 01248 383561  
Adult Nursing; Mental Health Nursing;  
Learning Disabilities Nursing, Children's Nursing.

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Recruitment, Selection and Admissions  
**School of Nursing and Midwifery Studies, Cardiff University**, Neuadd Meirionydd, Heath Park Campus, Cardiff CF14 4YS

**Web:** [www.cardiff.ac.uk](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk) **Tel:** 029 2074 3298  
Adult Nursing; Mental Health Nursing;  
Children's Nursing

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**North East Wales Institute of Higher Education**, Plas Coch, Mold Road, Wrexham LL11 2AW

**Web:** [www.newi.ac.uk](http://www.newi.ac.uk) **Tel:** 01978 293331  
Adult Nursing; Mental Health Nursing

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Information Sheet 4 is produced and regularly updated by National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Healthcare. If you need to know more, call 01443 233 472 or email [nhswalescareers@nliah.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:nhswalescareers@nliah.wales.nhs.uk). See also our website at [www.nliah.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.nliah.wales.nhs.uk).