

**THE UNIVERSITY'S ACADEMIC REGULATIONS: 2019-20**

**SECTION E: REGULATIONS FOR NURSING AND MIDWIFERY PRE-REGISTRATION PROGRAMMES OF STUDY**

**E1 Introduction**

- E1.1 These regulations sets out programme-specific regulations for NMC pre-registration programmes of study in nursing and midwifery which are identified in Regulation A4.1a) as awards of the University.
- E1.2 Individual regulations within this section have been designed to reconcile differences between the University's regulatory requirements and the requirements of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). Application of these regulations enable students to meet NMC registration requirements.
- E1.3 In applying the programme-specific regulations, account will be taken of the regulations contained in Section A: General Regulations which apply to all programmes of study offered by the University and to the following regulations contained in Section B: Undergraduate Regulations:
- a) Regulation B1: Introduction
  - b) Regulation B2: Definitions
  - c) Regulation B4: Admission regulations.

**E2 Definitions**

- E2.1 As a means of helping to ensure that the University's academic regulations are consistently interpreted and applied, the following definitions are applicable to nursing and midwifery pre-registration programmes of study. In so doing appropriate account will also be taken of the definitions included in Regulation A3 and Regulation B2 as appropriate.
- a) A pre- registration student is not professionally registered with NMC for the programme of study that they are undertaking.
  - b) Stages of study within the programmes of study are often referred to by generic titles including:
    - i) A **shortened route** through the programme of study leading to the award of a Bachelor of Nursing is available to students who started prior to 2015/16 who are either professionally registered with NMC or who are in possession of a recognised degree-level qualification in an appropriate subject area. The structure of a shortened route will be designed to take account of Regulation E3.2. In considering individuals for admission to a shortened route account will be taken of Regulation E4.2.

- ii) A **managed route** of study through any NMC pre-registration programme can be approved for students on an individual basis, usually following transfer from another higher education institution or return from a break in training. This will be designed to enable a student with recognised prior learning to meet the academic and professional body requirements of the programme of study leading to their intended award.
- c) All NMC pre-registration programmes of study include approved practice and theory modules; the balance of which complies with NMC requirements.
  - i) **Nursing Practice modules** are designed to enable a student to achieve a level of performance as prescribed by NMC. Practice modules are delivered in an approved placement learning location under the supervision of a suitably prepared mentor in accordance with NMC requirements. Practice modules are assessed using competence-based assessment and/or portfolio and a student will be awarded either a pass or fail grade.
  - ii) **Midwifery Practice modules** are designed to enable a student to achieve a level of performance as prescribed by NMC. Practice modules are delivered in an approved placement learning location under the supervision of an approved due regard NMC registrant. Practice modules are assessed using competence-based assessment and/or portfolio and a student will be awarded a mark.
- d) An **ongoing achievement record** is used to record a nursing or midwifery student's achievement of practical learning throughout a programme of study.
  - i) The ongoing achievement record is used by a student nurse's mentor at designated points throughout a programme of study to confirm a student's competence to continue on their programme of study. Students are required to sign a consent form to enable their ongoing achievement record to be passed between different approved placement learning locations and mentors. The final practice assessment which forms part of the ongoing achievement record must be verified by an approved sign-off mentor.
  - ii) The ongoing achievement record is used by a student midwife's sign-off mentor at designated points throughout a programme of study, to confirm a student's competence to continue on their programme of study. Students are required to sign a consent form to enable their ongoing achievement record to be passed between different approved placement learning locations and mentors.
- e) A period of **Suspended** study, (sometimes referred to as a break in training, interruption or stand-still) may be requested by a student and agreed through discussion with their Programme Leader. A period of suspended study may also be instigated as a result of an academic decision made by a Programme Board

of Examiners or as a result of a decision made by the University's Fitness to Practice Committee.

- f) Some theoretical modules may include clinical examinations as their summative assessments. **Objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) / Objective structured clinical assessment (OSCA)** are examinations in which a student is required to achieve essential criteria to ensure safe practice. Objective structured clinical examination is assessed through a structured observation by an individual trained to NMC standards. Essential criteria are set by a panel and made available to students prior to the examination.
- g) **Progression points** are set points within an NMC pre-registration programme of study. Professional progression points provide an opportunity for a Programme Board of Examiners to ensure that a student has achieved outcomes, including competencies and essential skills cluster (ESCs), set out by NMC in order to progress with their programme of study.
- h) Prerequisite for entry into the final nursing practice consolidation module. The NMC requires satisfactory completion of all other practice modules prior to commencement of the final consolidation practice module.

### **E3 Award regulations for NMC approved pre-registration programmes**

- E3.1 In addition to meeting the requirements of Regulation E.3 a student must satisfy the requirements of Regulation A4.3.
- E3.2 In accordance with Regulation A5.7 the exit awards defined in Regulation E3.4 to E3.7 and E3.14 to E3.19 have been approved for students who are unable to complete an NMC approved pre-registration programme of study.
- E3.3 A **certificate of credit** will be awarded to a student who has achieved a recognised volume of credit through successfully completing an approved SCQF level 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11 module or modules but who has not satisfied the requirements for any of the awards of the University listed in Regulation A4.1a) or e). A certificate of credit is not an award of the University.
- E3.4 A **certificate of higher education in Health Care** will be awarded to a student who has achieved 120 credits in SCQF level 7 or above programme-specific compulsory theory and practice modules.
- E3.5 A **certificate of higher education in Health Care with Distinction** will be awarded to a student who has achieved an overall average of at least 65 per cent in the best 40 credits from SCQF level 7 or above programme-specific compulsory theory modules, and 20 credits from an SCQF level 7 or above practice module which has been passed at the first attempt
- E3.6 A **diploma of higher education in Health Care** will be awarded to a student who has achieved 240 credits of which a minimum of 100 credits are from modules at SCQF level 8 or above programme-specific compulsory theory and practice modules.
- E3.7 A **diploma of higher education in Health Care with Distinction** will be awarded to a student who has achieved an overall average of at least 65 per cent in the best 40 credits from an SCQF level 8 or above programme-specific compulsory theory modules and 20 credits from SCQF level 8 or above practice module which has been passed at the first attempt.
- E3.8 In accordance with Singapore Nursing Board requirements, a **Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Singapore)** can only be awarded to a student whose duration of study is between 20 and 24 months, from programme commencement.
- E3.9 A **Bachelor of Midwifery** will be awarded to a student who has satisfied all NMC and programme-specific requirements and gained a minimum of 360 credits of which:
- a) a minimum of 120 credits are from programme-specific compulsory and option modules at SCQF level 9 or above and

- b) a minimum of 120 credits are from programme-specific compulsory modules at SCQF level 8 or above and
- c) a minimum of 120 credits are from programme-specific compulsory modules at SCQF level 7 or above.

E3.10 A **Bachelor of Nursing** will be awarded to a student who has satisfied all aspects of the final progression point making the student eligible for professional registration for NMC and programme-specific requirements and gained a minimum of 360 credits of which:

- a) a minimum of 120 credits are from programme-specific compulsory modules at SCQF level 9 or above, and;
- b) a minimum of 120 credits are from programme-specific compulsory modules at SCQF level 8 or above, and;
- c) a minimum of 120 credits are from programme-specific compulsory modules at SCQF level 7 or above.

E3.11 A **Bachelor of Nursing with Distinction** (students who commenced prior to 2015/16) will be awarded to a student who has achieved an overall average of at least 65 per cent in the best 40 credits from SCQF level 9 or above programme specific theory modules and the SCQF level 9 final or consolidation practice module has been passed at the first attempt.

E3.12 A **Bachelor of Nursing with Distinction** (students who commence 2016/17) will be awarded to a student who has achieved an overall average of at least 65 per cent in the best 60 credits from SCQF level 9 or above programme-specific compulsory and theory modules and the SCQF level 9 final or consolidation practice module has been passed at the first attempt.

E3.13 A **Bachelor of Midwifery with Distinction** will be awarded to a student who has achieved an overall average of at least 65 per cent in the best 60 credits from SCQF level 9, or above programme specific theory modules and the best 20 credits from practice modules at SCQF level 9 or above

E3.14 A **Postgraduate certificate in Health Care** will be awarded to a student who has gained a minimum of 60 credits at SCQF level 11.

E3.15 A **Postgraduate certificate in Health Care with distinction** will be awarded to a student who has gained a minimum of 60 credits at SCQF level 11 of which a minimum of 40 credits must be at a grade of D1 or above on the Master's Grading Scale.

E3.16 A **Postgraduate diploma in Health Care** will be awarded to a student who has gained a minimum of 120 credits at SCQF level 11.

E3.17 A **Postgraduate diploma in Health Care with distinction** will be awarded to a student who has gained a minimum of 120 credits at SCQF level 11 of which at least either:

- a) a minimum of 80 credits at SCQF level 11 are at a grade of D1 or above on the Master's Grading Scale or
- b) a minimum of 40 credits at SCQF level 11 are at a grade of D2 or above on the Master's Grading Scale plus a minimum of 20 credits at a grade of D1 or above on the Master's Grading Scale.

E3.18 A **Master's degree in Health Care** will be awarded to a student who has gained a minimum of 180 credits at SCQF level 11, of which a minimum of 40 credits at SCQF level 11 must be derived from a dissertation module or equivalent. Students who gain this award will not be eligible for professional registration.

E3.19 A **Master's degree in Health Care with Distinction** will be awarded to a student who has gained a minimum of 180 credits at SCQF level 11, of which a minimum of 40 credits at SCQF level 11 of which at least either:

- a) a minimum total of 120 credits at SCQF level 11 are at a grade of D1 or above on the Master's Grading Scale; or
- b) a minimum total of 80 credits at SCQF level 11 are at a grade of D2 or above on the Master's Grading Scale plus a minimum of 20 credits at a grade of D1 or above on the Master's Grading Scale.

Students who gain this award will not be eligible for professional registration.

E3.20 A **Master's degree in Nursing** or **Master's degree in Midwifery** will be awarded to a student who has satisfied all programme specific requirements and gained a minimum of 180 credits at SCQF level 11, of which a minimum of 40 credits at SCQF level 11 must be derived from a dissertation module or equivalent. Students must achieve an additional 180 programme specific undergraduate credits from practice modules and satisfy all other NMC professional registration requirements.

E3.21 A **Master's degree in Nursing with distinction** will be awarded to a student who has satisfied all programme specific requirements and gained a minimum of 180 credits at SCQF level 11, of which a minimum of 40 credits at SCQF level 11 must be derived from a dissertation module or equivalent.

- a) a minimum total of 120 credits at SCQF level 11 are at a grade of D1 or above on the Master's Grading Scale; or
- b) a minimum total of 80 credits at SCQF level 11 are at a grade of D2 or above on the Master's Grading Scale plus a minimum of 20 credits at a grade of D1 or above on the Master's Grading Scale.

Students must achieve an additional 180 programme specific undergraduate credits from practice modules, including passing the SCQF level 9 practice consolidation module at the first attempt. In addition, students must satisfy all other NMC professional registration requirements.



E3.22 A **Master's degree in Midwifery with distinction** will be awarded to a student who has satisfied all programme specific requirements and gained a minimum of 180 credits at SCQF level 11, of which a minimum of 40 credits at SCQF level 11 must be derived from a dissertation module or equivalent.

- a) a minimum total of 120 credits at SCQF level 11 are at a grade of D1 or above on the Master's Grading Scale; or
- b) a minimum total of 80 credits at SCQF level 11 are at a grade of D2 or above on the Master's Grading Scale plus a minimum of 20 credits at a grade of D1 or above on the Master's Grading Scale.
- c) achievement of one further 20 credit SCQF Level 9 practice module graded 65% or above

Students must achieve an additional 180 programme specific undergraduate credits from practice modules. In addition, students must satisfy all other NMC professional registration requirements.

#### E4 Admission Regulations

E4.1 In addition to meeting the requirements of Regulation B4, students applying for admission to an NMC approved pre-registration programme of study will also be required to undertake Disclosure Scotland (or equivalent) and Occupational Health screening by the University's Fitness to Practice Committee. The School's Fitness to Practice Committee makes the final decision regarding entry onto either the pre-registration midwifery or nursing programme.

E4.2 In accordance with NMC requirements, students applying for recognition of prior learning to be taken into account for a programme of study leading to the award of an NMC approved pre-registration programme may apply to have:

- a) Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) accredited as part of learning undertaken within an approved programme that must not exceed a maximum of 50 per cent of the programme, provided all programme, professional and other requirements are met in full.
- b) For first and second level nurses registered with the NMC, entering programmes that lead to qualification in the same or another field of practice, unlimited Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), provided that all programme, professional and other requirements are met in full.
- c) For NMC registered midwives entering pre-registration nursing programmes, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) must not exceed a maximum of 50 per cent of the programme, provided that all programme, professional and other requirements are met in full.

## **E.5 Assessment regulations**

- E5.1 In addition to meeting the requirements of Regulation E.5, account will be taken of Regulations E5.2, E5.8 and E5.9 by Boards of Examiners considering the performance of individual students enrolled on midwifery or nursing theory or practice modules approved as part of the structure of an NMC approved pre-registration programme of study as appropriate.
- E5.2 To pass an NMC approved pre-registration undergraduate theory module at the first attempt, a student must achieve a module mark of 40 per cent or above. The module mark will be derived from the component or components of assessment.
- a) If only one component is used a component mark of 40 percent or above must be achieved.
  - b) If two components are used the module mark will be based on the weighted marks achieved for each component of assessment, and no individual mark for a component of assessment may fall below 40 per cent.
  - c) A mark of 40 per cent or above must be achieved for each individual element of any component of assessment.
- E5.3 A student will be awarded merit in an NMC approved pre-registration undergraduate theory module by achieving a weighted average mark of at least 65 per cent in the module.
- E5.4 To pass an NMC approved pre-registration nursing practice module a student must achieve a Pass grade.
- a) If only one component is used a Pass grade must be achieved in that component.
  - b) If two components are used a Pass grade must be achieved in each component.
- E5.5 The award of merit is not available in NMC approved pre-registration nursing practice modules. To pass an NMC approved pre-registration midwifery practice module at the first attempt, a student must achieve a module mark of 40 per cent or above. The module mark will be derived from the component or components of assessment.
- a) If only one component is used a component mark of 40 per cent or above must be achieved.
  - b) If two components are used the module mark will be based on the weighted marks achieved for each component of assessment, and no individual mark for a component of assessment may fall below 40 per cent.



- c) A mark of 40 per cent or above must be achieved for each individual element of any component of assessment.
- E5.6 A student will be awarded merit in an NMC approved midwifery practice module by achieving a weighted average mark of at least 65 per cent in the module.
- E5.7 A student enrolled on an NMC approved pre-registration theory or practice module will be entitled to one reassessment opportunity in that module. In exceptional circumstances a Programme Board of Examiners has the discretion to permit one further reassessment opportunity.
- a) If only one component of assessment is used, a student who does not meet the requirements of Regulation E5.4a) or Regulation E5.5a) will be reassessed in that component.
  - b) If two components of assessment are used, a student who does not meet the requirements of Regulation E5.4b) or Regulation E5.5b) will be reassessed in any component where a mark of 40 per cent or a pass grade has not been achieved as appropriate.
  - c) In providing students with the opportunity to make good any initial assessment failure account will be taken of Regulations A7.11, A7.12, A7.13 and Regulations E5.2c), and E5.5c) as appropriate.
- E5.8 In accordance with regulation E5.7 a student enrolled on an NMC approved pre-registration programme of study will be entitled to complete one reassessment in each module.
- a) Students are provided with a compulsory reassessment opportunity in August following delivery of the module.
  - b) Until the compulsory reassessment opportunity presents itself to the student, credits not achieved at original assessment are classified as pending reassessment credit and not failed credit.
    - i). When considering a student's academic profile, outstanding theory module credits have the status of credits pending, until the compulsory assessment opportunity, as specified in Regulation E5.8a), presents, or until the student has had an opportunity to complete the module. For students enrolled on an NMC approved pre-registration nursing programme, the student will be subject to regulation E6.3 until the credit is made good. For students enrolled on an NMC approved pre-registration midwifery programme, the student will be subject to regulation E6.2 until the credit is made good.
    - ii). When considering a student's academic profile, outstanding practice module credits have the status of credits pending, until the student has had an opportunity to complete the module. For students enrolled on an NMC approved pre-registration nursing

programme, the student will be subject to regulation E6.3 until the credit is made good. For students enrolled on an NMC approved pre- registration midwifery programme, the student will be subject to regulation E6.2 until the credit is made good.

- iii). A student who has been granted extenuating circumstances against a theory module assessment, where that assessment constitutes the first module assessment opportunity for the parent intake/cohort/group, the timing of the assessment will be determined by the Programme Board of Examiners
- c) A student may choose to be reassessed at any available earlier opportunity than the compulsory reassessment opportunity. If a student chooses this option it will count as their sole reassessment opportunity.

E5.9 To pass at reassessment, a student enrolled on an NMC approved pre-registration theory module must achieve a minimum overall module mark of 40 per cent.

- a) If only one component of reassessment is used, a student must achieve a minimum mark of 40 per cent in that component.
- b) If two components of reassessment are used, a student must achieve a minimum module mark of 40 per cent based on the weighted marks achieved for each component of reassessment with no individual mark for a component of reassessment falling below 40 per cent. The weightings between the two components used for the reassessment will be identical to those used for the original assessment.
- c) Where a student achieved an original minimum component mark of 40 per cent in one of the two components of assessment, the overall module mark at reassessment will be calculated in accordance with Regulation E5.2b) using the original component mark and the component mark achieved at reassessment.
- d) A mark of 40 per cent or above must be achieved for each individual element of any component of assessment.
- e) The overall mark for a reassessed module will be capped at 40 per cent.

E5.10 To pass at reassessment, a student enrolled on an NMC approved pre-registration nursing practice module must achieve a pass grade.

- a) If only one component is used a pass grade must be achieved in that component.
- b) If two components are used a pass grade must be achieved in each component.
- c) A pass grade must be achieved in each individual element of any component of assessment.

- E5.11 To pass at reassessment, a student enrolled on an NMC approved pre-registration midwifery practice module must achieve a minimum overall module mark of 40 per cent.
- a) If only one component of reassessment is used, a student must achieve a minimum mark of 40 per cent in that component.
  - b) If two components are used a student must achieve 40 per cent in each component.
  - c) A mark of 40 per cent or above must be achieved for each individual element of any component of assessment.
  - d) The overall mark for a reassessed module will be capped at 40 per cent.

## **E6 Continuation of study regulations**

- E6.1 In addition to meeting the requirements of Regulation E6.1, account will be taken of Regulation B6 by a Programme Board of Examiners considering the performance of individual students enrolled on midwifery or nursing theory or practice modules.
- E6.2 In accordance with NMC accreditation requirements, a Programme Board of Examiners must confirm within 12 weeks of students entering the next stage of study that nursing and midwifery pre-registration students have passed all elements of assessment within a professional progression point and are eligible to continue on their programme of study.
- E6.3 Where exceptional circumstances prevent all outcomes being achieved within the assessed period for that part of the programme, any outstanding outcomes are met and confirmed within 12 weeks of the student entering the next part of the programme. The 12-week period includes holidays and any absences. Reasonable adjustments may be applied for students with a disability
- E6.4 In accordance with NMC accreditation requirements, a Programme Board of Examiners may not award a student a compensatory pass in any module which forms part of a programme structure leading to an award of a nursing or midwifery pre-registration programme.
- E6.5 In accordance with NMC accreditation requirements, students enrolled on a programme of study leading to the award of a nursing or midwifery pre-registration programme must declare to the School Fitness to Practice Committee on entry to their programme of study, at the end of each stage of study and prior to completion of the programme that they are of good health and good character.

- E6.6 In accordance with NMC accreditation requirements, the School Fitness to Practice Committee will consider all student self-declarations of Good Health and Good Character and Disclosure Scotland reports with a view to:
- a) confirming that each individual student meets NMC Fitness to Practice requirements and is eligible to continue to the next stage of their programme of study, or
  - b) confirming that each individual student meets NMC Fitness to Practice registration requirements and is eligible for registration, or
  - c) confirming that an individual student does not meet NMC Fitness to Practice progression or registration requirements and agrees an outcome using SNMSC Fitness to Practice processes.