

Student attendance at education focused external events as a component of practice learning.

Purpose and Scope

Nursing and midwifery programmes comprise of both 50% theoretical and practice components. The theoretical and practice components combined provide a robust framework for learning and assessments to support students to successfully complete the programme outcomes and proficiencies for registration. The NMC Standards Framework for Nursing and Midwifery Education (NMC 2018) clearly sets out that the learning culture should “support opportunities for research collaboration and evidence-based improvement in education and service provision” (NMC 2018:6).

Attendance participation and / or presentation at education and external events and conferences¹ is a recognised component of learning whilst on a student's programme of study. Throughout this period of study, there may be events that are beneficial and relevant to the learning outcomes of their education programme. On occasion, such events fall within the practice learning time of the programme.

Definition

Practice Learning is an opportunity for student's to “learn and provide care in a range of different learning environments that will enable them to meet their learning outcomes and experience the variety of care situations for a diverse population. These environments should include a mix of hospital and community, and other independent health and social care environments as relevant to the programme” (NMC .2019).

Policy

This policy document draws together information to enable consistent and fair decisions to be made regarding whether student attendance, participation and / or presentation at external events and conferences can be considered as part of practice learning hours.

Policy

Attendance at external events may contribute to practice learning hours however the attendance/participation must be clearly related to overall expected competencies, and as such must be evidenced.

Programme Leads (or nominated individual on behalf of the Programme Lead), should make the decision as to whether a student is permitted to attend an external event that counts towards their hours in practice.

1. Students authorised to attend an external event are expected to be performing at or above the

¹ Referred to hereafter as ‘attendance at an external event

expected standard at that point in their programme.

2. Students will need to arrange any costs associated with attending the external event themselves, (this will not be arranged through the Faculty and the student should secure funding - if appropriate).
3. Following the event, a reflective account of the learning, (a maximum of 200 words) must be included in the Practice Assessment Document.
4. Students may undertake a maximum of five days at external events during a three-year programme and three days during the two-year programme.

NMC (2018a) Standards Framework for Nursing and Midwifery Education, London, NMC.

NMC (2019) [Different types of learning environments](#) accessed 07.10.2020

Document approved: Faculty Education Committee October 2020
Next review due: July 2022