The Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery traces its history back to the world’s first professional nurse training school, which was established by Miss Nightingale at St Thomas’ Hospital in 1860. We are one of nine schools at King’s College London, based in the heart of the capital on the south bank of the Thames.

The School is part of King’s Health Partners, one of only five Academic Health Science Centres in the UK, which brings together world-class research, teaching and clinical practice. It also enjoys an extensive network of links with both NHS and private trusts within the UK and across the globe – allowing King’s students to benefit from a unique educational experience.

The Nightingale Review reflects back on some of the exciting developments and successes in the School over the last year, highlighting some of our influential research, international developments and exemplary students. We also take this opportunity to look forward to the challenges and opportunities in the year ahead.

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The purpose of the School’s research is to improve the quality of care, services and outcomes for patients and their carers. There are three dynamic programmes of work, which encompass a range of activity:

**Patient and carer experience.** Activities focus on timely information provision and understanding patient and carer support needs in hospital and community settings, including care of older people, cancer, mental health, diabetes mellitus, neurological and inherited genetic conditions.

**Healthcare workforce, organisation and service delivery.** The National Nursing Research Unit (NNU) and colleagues carry out work that examines how the organisation of the nursing and healthcare workforce impacts upon service delivery within the NHS and in global healthcare systems.

**Health and wellbeing.** Maternal and family health and wellbeing is the main focus, ranging from the safety of women and babies in maternal care to supporting families’ wellbeing through health visiting, health promotion and disease prevention.

All our work is underpinned by cross-cutting principles: engagement with patient and user perspectives, commitment to conceptual and methodological innovation, attention to the policy relevance and practical application through design of appropriate interventions.
Evaluating a major innovation in hospital design

A real-time study to analyse benefits for patients and staff

The first NHS hospital in England to have 100 per cent single inpatient rooms opened in January 2011. The Government and the NHS are now keen to increase the amount of single room accommodation available in hospitals because of the perceived benefits for both patients and healthcare staff. But what advantages and disadvantages does this type of care environment really bring?

With funding of over £370,000 from the National Institute for Health Research’s ‘Health Services and Delivery Research Programme’, the National Nursing Research Unit (NNRU), led by Professor Jill Maben, has begun the second stage of an innovative study into the impact that hospital accommodation can have on both patients and staff. The study focuses in particular on the state-of-the-art Tunbridge Wells Hospital, a new 512-bed hospital in Pembury, Kent, built by Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust. It is the first of its kind in the UK to offer only single-room accommodation. Researchers are comparing it with more traditional facilities, such as the primarily open plan ‘Nightingale Ward’ model, and four-six bedded bay areas.

During phase one of the study, funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, the team of researchers from King’s College London, Imperial College London and the University of Southampton, examined staff and patient experience in the old Pembury & Kent and East Sussex Hospital buildings before the move to all single room accommodation.

This research phase will now complete the ‘after’ stage of the ‘before and after study’ with in-depth research on care processes, costs and staff and patient experiences. This focuses on four specific case studies: postnatal, acute assessment unit, acute general surgery, and elderly care. Key metrics, such as infection rates and falls, will be compared with those in other hospitals, which have and have not moved to new accommodation. Costs, including nurse staffing and safety, will also be analysed.

This innovative research programme is the first longitudinal study to be undertaken using a new build hospital ‘in real time’ as an opportunity for a natural experiment. It is expected to answer significant questions for healthcare generally, and the NHS in particular, and will generate robust evidence on which to base future hospital re-design decisions.

The state-of-the-art Tunbridge Wells Hospital offers only single-room accommodation.

Measuring & improving patient experience

A study to establish what matters most to NHS patients

Improving patient experience is a key aim for the NHS. By asking for, monitoring, and acting upon patient feedback, healthcare organisations can make improvements in the areas that patients say matter most to them.

The NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement commissioned the NNRU, along with the health charity The King’s Fund, to undertake a research project into what matters most to patients. The aim was to inform national policy decisions and to help NHS organisations enhance their systems and processes for improving patient experience.

Professor Glenn Robert, Chair in Healthcare Quality & Innovation at the NNRU, led the project that included a review of existing literature and patient experience frameworks, and interviews with 50 patients and carers. The results clearly indicated that patients place significant value on the ‘relational’ aspects of their care alongside more ‘functional’ components of quality, such as clinical effectiveness and the safety of services.

Over the course of nine months, researchers also gathered evidence to establish what 12 leading NHS organisations were already doing to measure and improve patient experience, as well as conducting the first ever national survey exploring how NHS staff are currently trained in measuring and improving patient experience.

The results of the overall research project have been used to underpin a new ‘Transforming Patient Experience’ guide, which was launched by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement in February 2012. Professor Robert and Dr Jocelyn Cornwell from The King’s Fund will present the findings from the national training survey and the lessons from the 12 organisational case studies at the forthcoming ‘International Society for Quality in Health Care’ 29th annual conference in Geneva.

As a result of the research, and as recommended by the research team, the Department of Health’s National Quality Board has adopted a modified version of the Picker Institute’s principles of patient-centred care framework. This framework is significant for healthcare organisations because it provides a common evidence-based list of what matters to patients, and can be used to direct efforts to improve services. For example, it can be used to help define what questions to ask patients in surveys and in real time feedback.

Measuring, understanding and improving patient experience is a core theme of research carried out by the NNRU, as well as other researchers within the School. A wide range of action research projects, in collaboration with healthcare staff, are underway that seek to improve services so that they are better designed to meet the needs and expectations of patients and carers.
Perineal Assessment and Repair Longitudinal Study (PEARLS)

A national Clinical Quality Improvement project

Funded by The Health Foundation’s ‘Engaging with Quality Initiative’, the project involved several phases, including a large matched pair cluster trial of an intervention to enhance the clinical assessment and management of trauma, using evidence-based practice. Prior to the trial stage, researchers recruited women who had recently experienced perineal trauma to participate in a Delphi study to identify outcomes they considered to be a priority. This phase was followed by a national survey of midwifery practice which showed that only six per cent of midwives were using evidenced-based perineal repair methods.

The trial phase included 22 maternity units from across the UK. Midwives and obstetricians at the study sites were trained by the research team to implement evidence-based assessment and management of perineal trauma, with the support of local clinical facilitators. Trial outcomes showed that following the intervention, 73 per cent of practitioners were using the evidence-based suturing technique. There was a significant reduction in the amount of pain relief used by women after suturing, and a reduction in rates of perineal wound infections.

The PEARLS study generated the largest data set to date in this important area of healthcare. Findings have national and international relevance for maternal health, and how clinical skills and competencies are taught and maintained.

In 2010, the PEARLS team developed a training package, which included an interactive CD-ROM, to assist midwives and obstetricians to develop basic surgical skills, refresh core information, and maintain competency in the assessment and management of perineal trauma. The content of the training is now being developed into an innovative web-based e-learning training package, to enable practitioners to access cost efficient training materials at their convenience.

Breast cancer in black African, black Caribbean & white women

A study of the barriers to early presentation and diagnosis

Breast cancer is the most common malignancy affecting women in the UK with 45,500 women diagnosed annually. The majority seek medical advice at an early stage of the disease when surgery can take place. But in some women, the disease is diagnosed late and around 20-30 per cent of women with symptoms of breast cancer wait three months before consulting their general practitioner (GP). Research has shown that the incidence of breast cancer is lower in women of black African and black Caribbean ancestry. However, when they are diagnosed, it is often at a more advanced stage and they have worse survival rates than white British women.

It is not evident why black women in the UK present late with breast cancer. Research in the US suggests that fatalism, fear, embarrassment, lack of trust in health services and limited knowledge about breast cancer are barriers to seeking early medical advice in African American women. However, studies conducted in the US may not generalise well to the UK, given the dissimilar healthcare systems and different cultural and social experiences of minority populations.

Emma Ream, Professor of Supportive Cancer Care, is leading a research project examining similarities and differences in the barriers to early presentation and diagnosis of breast cancer in black African, black Caribbean and white women living in the UK. The project is funded by the ‘National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative’ (NAEDI). It began in October 2011, and also involves colleagues from the Institute of Psychiatry and the School of Medicine at King’s. The project will examine related issues, such as awareness of breast cancer symptoms in the three ethnic groups; perceptions of, and attitudes to, breast cancer screening; why women delay consulting their GP; and whether GPs delay in referring women to breast services once they present with cancer symptoms.

The first part of the three year study entails in-depth face-to-face interviews with 60 black African, black Caribbean and white women who have been newly diagnosed with breast cancer. Professor Ream is working closely with seven trusts in London, including King’s Health Partners colleagues at Guy’s & St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust and King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

The second part of the research project will incorporate focus groups with black African and black Caribbean women with breast cancer in Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol. This will enable researchers to compare findings from London with other locations outside the capital.

This study will provide detailed understanding of the course of events leading to breast cancer diagnosis in black African and black Caribbean women. It will generate a model depicting factors that render these groups at high risk of late presentation and diagnosis, which can then be used to design interventions to promote breast cancer awareness targeting these groups.
Elective programmes – expanding student horizons

The four week elective clinical placement option provides pre-registration students with an incredible opportunity to experience nursing and midwifery in different and often unique clinical environments.

We have adopted a philosophy that promotes student responsibility and independence. This means that students make their own decisions, organise their experiences and take responsibility for their learning opportunities supported by academic staff. Working together and inter-dependently is valued and respected by the students.

Since the programme began, the number of students undertaking an elective placement has significantly increased, from 48 in 2010 to 117 this year. During this time, new and existing partnerships have developed with national and international host institutions. This has led to the sharing of nursing and midwifery excellence that we hope will shape a healthier world.

Students have found the elective experience, inspiring, knowledge-enhancing and life changing. They have had an amazing time and have said they would highly recommend the experience to other students. Three students who undertook electives this year share their experiences in this Nightingale Review.
Focus on East & West Africa

Uganda: Nurses Reaching Out: an NGO

Michelle Grainger Tutor in the Department of Specialist Care (pictured below) works with ‘Nurses Reaching Out’, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in Uganda that helps people who have limited access to healthcare. Offering health education sessions that focus on treatable and preventable health issues, such as malaria, the charity has been operating for three years.

Hospital wards are typically very basic in Uganda, and some patients aren’t even lucky enough to be allocated a bed.

There is always a great turnout to the community health education sessions we run and it can often take us all day to complete the teaching and to provide a listening ear and basic help for their individual health problems. We have successfully established health education for school children and to date have built some very strong links with both rural and city schools.

We encounter a huge variety of medical problems, with some patients needing urgent attention, and we have occasionally had to pay for treatment personally due to drug shortages at local hospitals. There are also many patients who are dying at home in very poor living conditions, without healthcare or support. Often young children drop out of school to care for their parents at home. However, one of our next projects is to develop a hospice-type facility to support these families.

There is certainly room for development. In future, we hope to be able to train local people to act as community healthcare workers. Hopefully, with more funding, we can continue to improve on the quality of care we deliver and expand the services provided.

Although Nigeria is a comparatively wealthy country, it has some of the poorest health indicators in the world. They have a de-regulated system where adults must pay for their own healthcare. While the Government states that healthcare is free for children, my experience revealed that is largely propaganda.

Families in both urban and rural communities are living in severe poverty and children regularly die from preventable diseases. The lack of affordable healthcare can lead families to consult ‘native doctors’ who have no training or qualifications in medicine and often cause more harm than good.

The Nigerian branch of the St Andrew’s Clinic, which was established in 1998, now reaches eight communities and has treated more than 11,000 children. The team of doctors, nurses and midwives offer free health checks as well as providing medicines, malaria nets and vital health advice.

Lola Lasore, a second year PG Diploma Children’s Nursing student (pictured below), chose to work at the St Andrew’s Clinic for Children (STACC) in Ille-Ife, Nigeria for her international elective. Funded entirely by charitable donations from Scotland, STACC runs community clinics for children up to five years of age, providing free health checks, dispensing medicines and giving health advice.

Lola Lasore: ‘It was a privilege to work with the team at STACC and understand the importance of community nursing.’
Focus on Sierra Leone

The Shepherd’s Hospice: rising from the Ashes

I first met Gabriel Madiye, the Executive Director of The Shepherd’s Hospice (TSH), in October 2001. This was just a few months before the Lome Peace Agreement that officially ended the country’s eleven year civil war. Since then, TSH has had a significant impact on access to healthcare. They helped to introduce the first use of oral morphine and antiretroviral in Sierra Leone, and in 2010, took part in the first workshop on Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Palliation. At present, UKFTSH are the sole funder for the community palliative care team, financing staff salaries, education and training, drugs, transport and a patient support fund. We also carry out regular monitoring visits to oversee use of funds and development of the hospice’s work.

I have since used my connection with The Shepherd’s Hospice to carry out research on the factors influencing models of hospice care in resource-poor countries. The findings revealed that the scope and direction of TSH has been, and continues to be, influenced by socioeconomic, cultural and political factors, including the legacy of war, health beliefs and education. This is true of many countries that have been affected by atrocities, natural disasters and civil war, and emphasises the importance of the support offered from UK organisations.

Focus on the UK

A modern legacy: leg ulcer services for drug users

Having worked closely with intravenous drug users with leg ulcers for many years, both in London and Scotland, they remain what I call ‘lepers’ of our society. This is not just due to their debilitating and disfiguring leg wounds, but the stigma and misunderstanding that is attached to substance misuse and addiction. Their culture is hidden and nomadic and they often only come to the clinical forefront when emergency care for infection of their leg wounds or abscesses is required.

Having completed one of my clinical placements in an adolescent unit at Bethlem Royal Hospital, I wanted to gain more experience of inpatient care for children and young people with mental health problems. The Kent and Medway Unit is the only one of its kind in Kent and has fantastic facilities for patients who suffer from a huge variety of conditions – from anxiety disorders and depression to autism, ADHD and eating disorders.

The elective gave me an excellent opportunity to work in a large multidisciplinary team, which included school staff and re-integration officers. The staff focus on meeting each young person’s specific needs, including their educational needs. Their recovery-oriented approach encourages patients to look to the future. I enjoyed working closely with the patients, their families, and the team and learned a huge amount, especially the importance of monitoring physical health as well as mental health. My confidence and competence in dealing with emergency situations, medications and monitoring patient care has really improved and I have recommended the unit for future student placements.
Global health research to inform policy decisions

King’s College London’s international strategy is one that emphasises mutuality and reciprocity. In that spirit, in recent years our School has grown an increasingly diverse and exciting range of global health activities. These cross all dimensions of our work, from classroom teaching on major global health topics, to elective international placements, tailored education for international students and international partnerships; from doctoral projects to funded research studies and specialist policy advisory work. Some staff and students also devote personal time to working with health rights advocacy organisations and NGOs in low-income countries. The School is part of a thriving global health community, one in which nurses and midwives play a vital role.

The United Nation’s ‘Millennium Development Goals’ have focused attention on the vast disparities in maternal mortality between countries around the world, and on the importance of access to maternal healthcare. AusAID, Australia’s development agency, has funded researchers from the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery to carry out a systematic review of the use of ‘demand-side’ financing in maternal health in developing countries. Demand-side financing puts resources, such as cash and vouchers, into the hands of patients who need maternity services. It is becoming increasingly popular as a way to encourage women to make use of services or other merit goods that are important for maternal health, such as insecticide treated bed nets. In many cases these schemes are targeted at poor women who cannot afford services.

This mixed-methods review is being conducted by Dr Susan F Murray, Reader in International Healthcare, Dr Debra Bick, Professor of Evidence Based Midwifery Practice, and Ben Hunter, Research Assistant in the Department of Health Policy and Management, in collaboration with colleagues at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and at the University of Leeds. The study examines evidence on the effectiveness, appropriateness, feasibility and meaningfulness of demand-side financing.

Nursing in the Middle East and North Africa

Dr Susan F Murray, Reader in International Healthcare, and Dr Zainab Zahran, Tutor in Mental Health and Specialist Care, have collaborated on a research project looking at nursing in remote and rural regions of Yemen, Jordan, and Lebanon.

Working with Dr Fadi El-Jardali’s team at the American University of Beirut, as well as researchers in Jordan and Yemen, Dr Murray and Dr Zahran have been interviewing nurses working in these difficult-to-staff regions about their career choices, work experiences and their intentions for the future. The mixed methods study is funded by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Maternal health in developing countries

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A report from the Nightingale Student Council

Being the chair of the Nightingale Student Council this year has been a fantastic experience, but a busy one. With the School increasing in size and additional courses for nurses and midwives, the task of chairing 53 members of the Council was a little daunting! I really enjoyed working with such a dynamic group of people, in particular my amazing committee, without whom I could not have done the job.

This year was a year of change. With the School adapting the nursing curriculum and the midwifery team reviewing their course content, I have not only represented the students who are installed at the School, but also the many students to come. Additionally, I have played a key role in transforming the way the Council will be run in future including the number of representatives. I have worked hard to establish relationships between the Council and School staff.

Although these changes will not be installed until after I graduate, I know that the foundations developed this year will ensure that student representation in the School is strong, and that the Nightingale Student Council will continue to be an important voice for students and a resource for all members of the School.

Katherine Poll
BSc Adult Nursing student,
Chair of the Nightingale Student Council, 2011-12
Developing future nursing & midwifery leaders

Keira Jenkinson, a Children’s Nursing student studying on the PG Diploma course, surpassed hundreds of hopefuls from across the UK to win the 2011 Edith Cavell Leadership Award. The judges praised her passion for nursing and her keen interest in increasing her knowledge and understanding of the field.

The Cavell Nurses’ Trust Scholarship Awards are dedicated solely to nursing and midwifery students at the start of their careers. The Awards aim to recognise exemplary students, and future leaders of their fields.

Keira plans to use part of the scholarship fund to visit several neonatal units in Queensland, Australia where some of the world’s leading research has been carried out. She will also attend the Australian Neonatal Nursing Conference.

Keira Jenkinson (right) with Dame Elizabeth Fradd (left)

Chelsey Blake, a second year Midwifery student, has recently been selected by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) to become a young ambassador. The role is focused on the charity’s work to protect babies under the age of one.

Chelsey has held voluntary advisory roles with ChildLine and the NSPCC, including membership of its Young People’s Board of Trustees, and representing the charity at an event at Buckingham Palace.

Chelsey is excited about taking on this challenging role alongside her commitment to her degree studies. As one of the first tasks in her new ambassadorial role, she made a speech at the opening of the NSPCC’s Leeds service centre in June, where the NSPCC is delivering innovative services to support families with new babies.

Michelle Moorst, third year BSc Adult Nursing student, was selected to take part in the 2011 exchange programme with the University of Pennsylvania. Michelle applied for the exchange because she wanted to explore the differences between the UK and the US in their respective healthcare systems, nursing education, and nursing roles. She also wanted to find out how low income families or those without health insurance access health services in the US.

During her time in Pennsylvania, Michelle was able to take advantage of some of the additional skills that are taught as part of the nursing curriculum in the US, such as chest and heart auscultation, ECG (electrocardiogram) interpretation, venupuncture and phlebotomy. She was also given the opportunity to volunteer in the free clinics run by healthcare students at the University, and was impressed by the students’ dedication and efficiency.

The exchange has enriched Michelle’s learning experience and provided her with new skills, knowledge and confidence that she will be able to use in her future career.

Michelle Moorst Adult Nursing Student

Lotta Haggkvist, a third year DipHE Mental Health Nursing student, demonstrated her creativity and artistic flair as part of her Nursing and Humanities module this year. Choosing to write her essay on the subject of ‘A Safe and Stimulating Health Space for People with Mental Health Needs’, she constructed an intricate and detailed scale model to illustrate her vision.

Lotta attended an art group for adolescents with eating disorders and depression during one of her placements. This experience, as well as her career as a special effects costume designer before undertaking her nursing studies, inspired her to develop a proposal for a better mental health environment that could encourage creativity and healing in patients.

The model, which took almost a week to create, includes a range of areas offering different stimuli, for example a garden offering a sense of respite and calm, a lounge offering a sense of comfort and relaxation, and an art-participation area enabling its users to gain new creative skills and feel empowered.

Lotta’s model – ‘Developing a creative space’.

Lotta Haggkvist Mental Health Nursing Student

Innovative interior design project

Exploring the US Healthcare System

NSPCC selects young ambassador

Edith Cavell Leadership Award winner

Keira Jenkinson Children’s Nursing student

Lotta Haggkvist Mental Health Nursing Student
King’s at the forefront of nursing policy changes

As part of new Government measures to improve quality in the health service, a national Nursing and Care Quality Forum was established in April 2012. Sally Brearley, Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the National Nursing Research Unit (NNRU), and King’s alumna, was appointed to Chair the Forum. Sally has been actively involved in patient representation for many years and is currently a lay member on the National Quality Board. Her book, ‘Patient Participation’, is widely known and well respected by practicing nurses.

Professor Jill Maben, Director of the NNRU, was also invited to join the Forum as expert advisor. Jill brings with her extensive national and international research, undertaken by the NNRU, into the healthcare and nursing workforce, improving care quality, measuring patient experience, and links between staff well-being and patient experience.

The first meeting of the Nursing and Care Quality Forum was held in April 2012 at 10 Downing Street, where members discussed some of the key issues facing nursing with Prime Minister David Cameron, Health Secretary Andrew Lansley and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health Anne Milton.

In July, the School co-hosted a debate with some of London’s key nurse leaders, which was chaired by BBC Health Correspondent Jane Dreaper. Discussing the topic ‘Nursing Education - Past, Present & Future: Implications for Care’, participants shared their views on how Higher Education Institutions and Healthcare Professionals can work together to ensure the future nursing workforce maintains high standards of care. The themes and suggestions will be communicated to the Forum as part of phase two of their work and will shape future recommendations to Government about nursing quality.
American Fellowship

Professor Ian Norman, Deputy Head of the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery, has been awarded a prestigious Fellowship of the American Academy of Nursing for services to mental health nursing and nursing scholarship. This is an especially notable achievement, since few nurses based outside the USA are awarded a Fellowship by the American Academy. This follows Professor Norman’s Fellowship of the UK Royal College of Nursing in 2009, as well as his Fellowship of the European Academy of Nursing Science. Professor Norman was also awarded the 2012 Supervisory Excellence Award for the School in recognition of his history of supervisory success, his commitment to the pastoral care of his supervisees (Masters and PhD students), engagement with their personal and professional development, and his innovative supervisory practice.

King’s Health Partners student & mentor awards 2012

In July 2012, the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery, in partnership with King’s Health Partners, held the first ever nursing and midwifery awards for students and mentors. The awards recognised examples of excellence in mentorship and clinical education among the three partner hospitals and the School, and offered an opportunity to celebrate their close partnership working. Students and mentors were asked to nominate individuals who they felt had excelled, giving reasons for their choice. Winners were chosen by Professor Helen McCutcheon, Head of School, Professor Hilary McCallion, Director of Nursing & Education at South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, Professor Eileen Sills, Chief Nurse at Guy’s & St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, and Professor Geraldine Walters, Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery at King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

The awards ceremony was attended by over 50 students, staff, friends and family. Winners and runners-up were presented with certificates and cash prizes. In her closing remarks, Professor McCutcheon said: “Mentors are the unsung heroes of nursing and midwifery education. They have both the privilege and the opportunity to develop students and help set the standards for the rest of their careers. Good mentors need not only to be good at their own jobs but also have a range of skills and attributes from understanding the different ways that students learn and meeting their needs accordingly, to instilling the values of the organisation and the profession. “These awards give us the opportunity to say a huge thank you to all our wonderful mentors and recognise those who have gone above and beyond their roles to help our students strive for excellence. It is also fantastic to be able to reward our outstanding students who are excelling in their clinical education.”

Selection days – recruiting future nurses and midwives

Applicants apply to King’s nursing and midwifery programmes through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Shortlisted applicants are invited to attend a Selection Day where they meet School and NHS staff and current students and gain a better understanding of the programmes and their demands. Student Ambassadors, who are current students working with the Marketing Department to support recruitment events on and off campus, work at the School’s Selection Days. This year, more than 50 Student Ambassadors welcomed almost 1,200 applicants to 14 Selection Days, held between December 2011 and June 2012.

Royal College of Nursing networking reception

Held in April 2012, at the Florence Nightingale Museum, this event provided delegates from the RCN Annual International Nursing Research Conference the opportunity to network with our School staff.

Delegates headed to the Museum, following a day at the Connaught Rooms for the conference. Welcome speeches were delivered by Professor Helen McCutcheon, Head of School, and Dr Peter Carter, General Secretary and Chief Executive of the Royal College of Nursing.

Nightingale breakfast with Professor Hugh McKenna

The Nightingale Series is a programme of seminars that aim to showcase the research of leading nursing and midwifery academics. This year, the Series hosted Professor Hugh McKenna, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) from the University of Ulster, at a Breakfast event in April.

Professor McKenna’s discussion topic was ‘The Research Assessment Exercise: How Nursing & Midwifery rose through the ranks’, which was particularly relevant as we begin our preparations for the Research Excellence Framework in 2014. Around 40 of our School staff and Trust colleagues attended this event in the River Room at our Strand Campus.
Nursing & midwifery students on studying at King’s:

“We get a lot of support from our lecturers which makes it a really great environment for learning... and I just got an A in my last assignment of the year!”

“King’s is so well thought of and has such a good reputation that when people hear I am a King’s student, they regard me highly and have greater expectations.”

“King’s hasn’t just met my expectations, it has exceeded them and I feel well-prepared to take on my first role in a neo-natal intensive care unit.”

“Being based in London, we are given the opportunity to go on clinical placements at some of the best hospitals in the country. We get to see such diversity in the people we meet and the patients we treat.”

“The School was really good at helping first year students to make friends. I have moved to London from Devon, so I was really nervous but there are so many societies and events that I settled in really quickly.”