



European Agreement on the Instruction and Education of Nurses

Strasbourg, 25.X.1967

Recommendations

I – Minimum age required for admission to schools of nursing

No hard and fast minimum age for admission to a school of nursing should be laid down. In countries where general education is included in the programme, the age of entry may be considerably lower than when such general education is regarded as a prerequisite. Maturity also depends on social and climatic conditions.

In general, students should not come in contact with patients and with the hospital atmosphere until an age varying from 17 to 19 according to the country.

II – Educational standard required of candidates for admission to schools of nursing (cf. Agreement, Annex I, Chapter II)

The duration of 10 years of general education is not obligatory if the educational standard reached after a shorter duration has an equivalent cultural and intellectual level.

III – Duration and content of educational programme (cf. Agreement, Annex I, Chapter III, first paragraph)

If the total number of hours of education are more than 4,600 the proportions indicated need only be respected in relation to the minimum number of hours.

IV – Practical experience (cf. Agreement, Annex I, Chapter III, B)

- a Fields of practical experience should be proposed by the director of the school and approved by the competent authority of each country.
- b Practical experience should be organised by the director of the school and placed under the supervision of the tutorial staff of the school.
- c The provision No. 2, which requires the existence of "sufficient additional staff to ensure that the student does not undertake tasks which have no nursing educational value", has the purpose of guaranteeing that the nursing students are not given work which does not enter into their field of education and which should be carried out by other personnel.
- d As far as possible the nurses mentioned under No. 3 should have received education in teaching nursing and administration.
- e The following factors should also be taken into consideration:
 - number of patients in the department or unit,

- variety of clinical conditions presented by the patients,
- efficiency of administration of the department or unit,
- existence of programmes of in-service education for the nursing staff of the department or unit,
- the maximum desirable number of students in the department or unit,
- the teaching methods employed.

V – Requirements for the organisation of the school of nursing (cf. Agreement, Annex I, Chapter IV)

a *Administration of the school of nursing*

Administration of the school of nursing should normally have the support and advice of a body composed of nurses trained to give instruction and representatives of other disciplines such as medicine, general education, administration and the social sciences.

b *Teaching staff*

There should be tutors responsible for the application of the co-ordination of theoretical and practical instruction. Tutors should be nurses prepared to give theoretical and practical instruction and supervise practical experience. They should contribute to the students' education and professional training. The number of tutors should be related to the number of students in order to ensure proper instruction and supervision. A proportion of 15 students to each tutor is proposed.

c *Facilities for the school of nursing*

Adequate space should be available for the number of students in the school. The following teaching facilities should be provided: class and demonstration rooms, small rooms for group work, library and laboratory. Individual office space should be available according to the number of full-time administrative and teaching staff.

d *Teaching equipment*

Adequate equipment to enable modern methods of teaching to be used extensively should be provided. Particular emphasis should be placed on the availability of audio-visual aids.

VI – Documents to be produced by the nurse

A *A certificate* (diploma or other document) authenticated by the government of the country of issue or by the designated authority in that country.

B *An extract of the school record.* This extract should comprise:

- the nurse's civil status,
- courses attended,
- results obtained.

C *Evidence of linguistic ability.*