European Nursing Module Network

summary

1. Introduction
We live in a globalized world where people have similarities and differences. Human rights should form the basis for all societies. We believe that developing intercultural sensitivity is a way to increase understanding of oneself and others. Individuals should be respected regardless of their socio-cultural background.
The European Nursing Module (ENM) outlined has been designed to provide a structured framework for international student exchange in nursing education which will ensure that the maximum professional learning benefit can be gained from a relatively short period (2 weeks) of international study. Exchanges take place between students from the institutions that are members of the European Nursing Module Network. During this exchange the accent/focus is on the clinical placement where the student will observe nursing activities. The main goal during the placement is to notice and experience the role of the nurse in the hosting country. The students are not allowed to practice nursing skills.

We believe that the ENM student exchange enables intercultural awareness. The experience of ‘being a stranger’, coupled with intercultural analysis and reflection, can aid the restructuring of values and recognition of the need to develop intercultural competence. We believe that understanding the role of cultural values in health, illness, nursing and health care enhances patient experience and quality and effectiveness of care.

2. The broad aims of the European nursing module (student exchange)
• To develop the students’ understanding of the concept of culture.
• To develop the students’ understanding of European and professional cultural issues which will promote and enhance health care by individuals practising in a range of settings.
• To enable students to recognise the international dimension of professional nursing knowledge and health care.
• To develop the students’ awareness, understanding and acceptance of cultural differences.
• To develop the students’ awareness of, and respect for, clients’ individual cultures.
• To develop the students’ understanding of the influence of historical, philosophical, ethical, economic, political and professional factors on their own and others’ professional cultures.
• To develop the students’ awareness of professional culture and role, and an increasing awareness of their own cultural identity.

3. General areas of co-operation
Where appropriate, and subject to the availability of funds and approval of both institutions, co-operation may be carried out in the areas of:
• Exchange of students
• Exchange of staff
• Joint research activities
• Joint curriculum development
• Participation in seminars and academic meetings
• Exchange of academic materials and other information
• Special short-term academic programmes
Activities other than those connected with the European Nursing Module (ENM) also take place within the Network with the exchange of pre-registration students, post-registration students and teachers. There are also opportunities for joint research and other scholarly activities between members.

4. ENM members
To date there are 30 (1 sleeping partners) member institutions in the Network from 14 European countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Italy, Macedonia, The Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom. "European" is used here in its widest sense, as not all countries involved are members of the European Union. Membership is limited to four institutions from any one country to allow the widest variation in experiences for student exchange without the Network growing to an unworkable size.

5. Membership responsibilities
Members of the Network are expected to undertake the following
- Pay an Annual fee
- Student exchange
- Attend the Annual Meeting
- Complete an annual Self Audit

6. Annual management meeting
The Network holds an Annual Management Meeting in April each year. All issues pertaining to the management and membership of the Network are discussed and, if appropriate, voted on. Attendance at the Annual Management Meeting is not a condition of Network membership, although it is required in 1 on 3 conferences.