

Policy Statement: References

This policy applies to applicants to courses which begin in January 2027.

For courses beginning January 2026, please refer to the Reference Policy for Nursing Entry January 2026.

Applicable to applicants applying to full-time undergraduate courses leading to eligibility for professional registration with the NMC.

Courses that lead to eligibility for professional registration are academically challenging and involve working with the public. It is our responsibility to ensure that applicants are suitable for professional registration on graduation.

As such the recruitment to these courses requires two good, recent references as part of the entry requirements. One of these references will be your UCAS reference provided on application. The second reference will be requested after acceptance of a place and will attest to your suitability to commence nurse training, character, behaviour, and general ethics. We accept academic and employer references, but we understand that an employer reference may be difficult to supply if you are not in employment, suggested alternatives may include:

- personal tutor,
- mentor,
- volunteer co-ordinator,
- someone you have supported or cared for in a voluntary capacity,
- a faith or religious leader,
- club or group leader i.e., sports or recreational group you participate in,

If you have any questions, please contact the Admissions Team to discuss what will be accepted as an alternative. **A friend or relative must not provide references.**

Applicants will be sent a Referee Details Form as part of the admissions process. This form must be completed in full and returned to the Admissions Team.

References play a vital role in the decision-making process, therefore, applicants who are successful will receive a conditional offer which will include receipt of a good second reference.



Where a reference or referee calls into question the health or character of an applicant, all information provided will be considered by the academic team and may also be referred to the Fitness to Practice panel, any issues relating to safeguarding may result in the withdrawal of an offer.