



Student update – 14 Jan 2021

An update from the UNISON Student Nurse and Midwife Network

The UNISON Student Network met today to discuss and consider the announcement made by the NMC that they are reintroducing some emergency standards in response to the ongoing Covid-19 emergency.

UNISON student reps, with fellow students from the RCN, met with the Chief Executive of the NMC this morning and the Deputy CNO for England to share concerns and raise questions about the plans.

Student nurses - like all NHS staff - want to do our best to support the NHS and deliver care at this extremely challenging time. But we have many concerns and questions about the current plans.

We know many students have already faced disruption in their studies and lots of our colleagues have worries about how they will be supported to develop the right skills and knowledge whilst in practice.

We are also very worried that many of us have very high theory workloads and demands to meet and may not be able to qualify as registered nurses on time. We have bills to pay and families to care for. We need commitments that financially we will be properly supported. We want to see fairness and flexibility for individual students in meeting their requirements and consistency in how we are treated.

Many students are already supporting the NHS through bank work in their local NHS Trusts and care organisations as best they can. We care deeply for our patients, peers and communities and want to help the current crisis in our capacity as future RNs.

Our network and lead will listen to student concerns and continue to work with UNISON to provide answers to student's questions and press for commitments on the support we all need. We will try our best to update all students as regularly as we can.

Joy O' Gorman – UNISON National Student Nurse Lead and the UNISON Student Nurse and Midwife Network

Visit <https://www.unison.org.uk/> for more information and advice on how to get in touch with a local UNISON representative.