The NDFSRH (Nurse Diploma) and academic credits

The FSRH nurse diploma (NDFSRH), as with the equivalent for doctors, is a professional qualification rather than an academic one. For nurses who require or would like academic credits there are a number of routes that they can follow to achieve this.

In recognition of the fact that sometimes it can be challenging to transfer credits from one Higher Education Institution (HEI) to another, the FSRH chose not to partner with a University/HEI, thus allowing greater flexibility and choice. In some areas of the UK there are HEI courses offering different elements of SRH training which should prepare nurses for entry to the FSRH pathway. A number of these include the FSRH elements of training, as more HEIs work alongside their local services to provide these. For example the clinical assessments and Course of 5 (C5) may be available where links with Faculty Registered Trainers [FRTs] exist. For those that do not have local access to courses, some HEIs offer distance learning opportunities.

In addition, there are currently two methods that will award credits retrospectively in recognition of prior learning. The first of these, Accreditation of Prior Experimental Learning (APEL), has been widely available for some time and most nurses are familiar with this. The second is via a ‘Negotiated Masters’ award or ‘Negotiated Modules’. This relatively new phenomenon allows nurses (and others) to construct a pathway around their individual needs based on learning already achieved and that planned for the future.

The FSRH is working to encourage all HEIs to support the NDFSRH pathway and to work more closely with service providers to ensure that:

- theory components provide adequate preparation for passing the eKA
- workshop elements of the C5 are provided under the supervision of a FRT
- clinical assessments are completed by the FSRH recognised primary and secondary trainers, under the supervision of a FRT and as part of a FSRH General Training Programme
Nurses who do not wish, or need to achieve academic credits can complete the NDFSRH professional qualification which also incurs a lower cost than is generally associated with academic based study. In this case, they can achieve the necessary theoretical knowledge necessary to pass the eKA (online assessment) by completing the e-Learning for Health/FSRH e-SRH.

This topic will be discussed at the FSRH Welcomes Nurses Conference to be held at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists on 24 September 2014. The conference is specifically dedicated to issues relating to nurses, including education and training.

Find out more about the FSRH Welcomes Nurses Conference.