

Making a Difference

Becoming a Student Information Officer – how you and your fellow student colleagues can benefit



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As a student member of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) there are real advantages to getting more involved in the RCN's work. Now there's a new way to get more involved without having to take vast amounts of time away from your studies.

Why not consider becoming a Student Information Officer (SIO) and join our network of students who share information from the RCN with their fellow students?

Benefits for your student colleagues

- Your class will be the first to know about local and national student events
- Colleagues will know how to access the RCN e-library for that essential reference for assignments. This invaluable resource contains 400 e-books and over 700 full text electronic journals
- Information and news on the RCN's campaigning work to bring about real improvements in the lives of nursing students
- Access to information on all the membership benefits that their annual £10 membership fee gets them.

Benefits for you

- Monthly email updates created specifically for SIOs with relevant and up-to-date information
- Be the first to know about upcoming events and training days
- Become involved in consultations that affect nursing students
- Experience to add to your CV or portfolio when you're applying for that all important first nursing job.

How to apply

Complete the nomination form overleaf, ask a student colleague who is also an RCN member to nominate you by signing the form and then return it to us. Your local office will contact you to talk through your role, the RCN and the resources available to you to help with your learning and development.

Please complete and sign **Section 1** of the nomination form ensuring you include a valid email address. Your application must be supported by one RCN Student Member who needs to complete and sign **Section 2**.

Completed forms should be returned to:

Student Co-ordinator

Nursing Department, Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, London, W1G 0RN

We look forward to welcoming you as an RCN Student Information Officer.



Laura Falconer case study

Finding your first job when you're newly qualified can be challenging, but Laura Falconer found that her time as an SIO gave her the edge in her job search. Like many SIOs, Laura really enjoyed her SIO experience and the help it gave her when she started her nursing career. 'I feel that the SIO role prepared me for my first job interviews and that it had a positive outcome on the interviews I had and the job offers I received.'

The most rewarding aspect of being an SIO was the access it gave Laura to senior managers and directors of nursing – people you don't always meet on your placements. Talking to senior nurses and managers gave her a better idea of what employers were looking for. Laura explains 'Being an SIO was a great networking opportunity for me as I met people from outside my branch.'

Laura qualified in January 2011 from the University of West Scotland and has been working as a Staff Nurse at the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre in greater London since February. She's now considering becoming an RCN representative.

See the Student Information Officer case studies at www.rcn.org.uk/students for more information.

Student Information Officer Nomination Form

Section 1

RCN Membership Number

Name

Address

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Home Phone Mobile Phone

Email Address

University / College of study

Campus

Branch Training completion date

Signature Date

Section 2

Name of nominating student

RCN Membership Number

Signature Date

You will receive an email confirming receipt of this form which will include contact details for your RCN staff lead and RCN Students Committee member.

Please tick here if you **do not want us to share your email details with other local Student Information Officers**