

## Get in touch

For information on working, volunteering or undertaking an elective placement outside the UK:

- visit the RCN website [www.rcn.org.uk/nursing](http://www.rcn.org.uk/nursing)
- contact the RCN International Department:  
**20 Cavendish Square**  
**London W1G 0RN**  
Telephone: **+44 (0) 20 7647 3597** (during office hours)  
Email: [international.office@rcn.org.uk](mailto:international.office@rcn.org.uk)
- call **RCN Direct: 0845 772 6100** (from within UK only)  
or **+44 (0) 20 7647 3456** from outside the UK.

You will need your RCN membership number to access these services, this can be found on your RCN membership card.



*The RCN represents nurses and nursing, promotes excellence in practice and shapes health policies*

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**0845 772 6100**

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Supporting the nursing  
team around the world



The RCN's international work  
for nursing and health

# Working for the nursing team

With over 390,000 members, the Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom (RCN) is one of the largest and most dynamic professional nursing organisations in the world.

As well as our role in the UK, we represent the interests of UK nursing in international forums, raising the profile of the RCN and its members as a source of expertise. In turn, we bring to our own members' attention the international issues which affect nursing everywhere.

Through links with many international organisations, we provide mutual support and co-operation for nurses and health care assistants around the world, promoting the art and the science of nursing and campaigning for better conditions for the nursing team as workers and practitioners.

The RCN influences international policy through important links such as membership of the:

- **International Council of Nurses (ICN)**, the federation of over 130 national nurses' associations worldwide, representing millions of nurses across the world ([www.icn.ch](http://www.icn.ch))
- **Commonwealth Nurses Federation (CNF)**, a voice for nurses from commonwealth countries ([www.commonwealthnurses.org](http://www.commonwealthnurses.org))
- many **international nursing** networks (through RCN forums/online communities) including the International Confederation of Midwives, the Paediatric Nurses Association in Europe and the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care

- **European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN)** which lobbies the European Union on a wide range of issues important for UK nursing and health, from public health to working conditions ([www.efnweb.org](http://www.efnweb.org))
- **European Federation of Public Services Unions (EPSU)**, which lobbies the EU on health and other public service issues as part of the trade union/employer negotiations at European level ([www.epsu.org](http://www.epsu.org))
- **European Forum of Nursing and Midwifery Associations and WHO (Europe)**. RCN members with specific expertise have co-operated and worked with the World Health Organisation (WHO) on various projects ([www.euro.who.int/efnma](http://www.euro.who.int/efnma))
- **European Public Health Alliance** ([www.ephpa.org](http://www.ephpa.org))
- **European Health Management Association** ([www.ehma.org](http://www.ehma.org)).



## Working for you

Gain maximum benefit from your RCN membership by tapping in to the expertise of the RCN's International Department. We are here to add an international perspective to your career and help you with international nursing issues and queries.

Get in touch with us for information and advice on any issues of working outside the UK or tapping into the RCN's international lobbying potential. For example:

- **advice on finding employment abroad** – how to go about it and how the RCN can help you while you are there
- **support for members living outside the UK** – for example, we facilitate a network of members prepared to help and advise each other
- **advice on elective placements** – whether you are a nursing student or a registered nurse who has been awarded a grant
- **how you can get involved** – advice on how to get involved in international nursing and health care issues
- **Nurses' Day** – we provide information and materials to help you join nurses around the world in celebrating nurses and nursing – every year on 12 May.