

The International Academy: Our Purpose, our Mission and our Scope

The International Academy is a voice of global nursing within the RCN Institute of Nursing Excellence. It reflects the RCN's commitment to internationalism, to health system strengthening and evidence-based practice.

Placing members at the centre, the International Academy works with UK members and global partners to strengthen nursing and improve care for patients, people and populations.

We work through principles of equality, equity, respectful partnership and a decolonised approach, delivered through:

- Equitable Strategic Partnerships
- Meaningful Humanitarian Action
- Effective signposting, support and advocacy.

Our Purpose

The International Academy exists to strengthen nursing through global learning, partnership and exchange. Its purpose is to advance nursing in strengthened health systems through quality improvement, co-created education, leadership, research, evidence and collaboration. We ensure that the RCN contributes credibly and usefully to nursing beyond the UK. In doing so, the Academy supports the Royal College of Nursing in its Royal Charter aims and lives its values through practical action: supporting excellence, widening opportunity, and strengthening nursing's contribution to better health and care across our world.

Our Mission

Our mission is to connect members, partners and institutions through equitable international collaboration that improves health systems, nursing education, leadership, research, practice and influence globally. We do this by supporting the development of knowledge, skills and stronger health systems that enable high-quality patient care; by facilitating two-way learning between the RCN and international partners; and by ensuring that international work is shaped by evidence, reciprocity and mutual benefit. We are committed to decolonisation in the way we work, recognising that credible international nursing practice depends on relationships that are locally led, mutually accountable and grounded in respect for different forms of expertise and experience.

Our Scope

The International Academies' work is guided by the RCN's humanitarian framework and through developing work with partners where the RCN's collaboration is requested.

The Academy will work to support health systems strengthening and universal health coverage through a range of carefully designed, evidence-based interventions. This includes educational

programmes, leadership development, collaborative learning, professional exchange, research partnerships, evidence generation, convening, and the sharing of practice across borders.

It also includes bringing international evidence, ideas and experience into the RCN so that global insight strengthens the Institute's wider work and supports the College as a listening and learning organisation. In this way, the International Academy is integral to the RCN's wider purpose, and a part of how the College supports members, contributes to the profession, and helps shape the future of nursing.

How We Work

We work through partnership, placing members at the centre of our work while building equitable relationships with partners based on trust, shared purpose and mutual accountability.

The RCN's greatest strengths are the unrivalled talent of our membership and staff and our linkages to others through our international networks. Recognising the importance of strong financial support for delivering meaningful, long-term programmes, we actively engage with appropriate donors to support our programme work.

This allows us to develop evidence-based programmes, informed by subject-matter experts, and to fund them sustainably through donors. Alongside this, we recognise the impact of multidisciplinary collaboration in our work and seek to be active and respected participants across specialities.

We are committed to decolonisation as a practical way of working: valuing locally led priorities, supporting reciprocal learning, and resisting one-way, tokenistic or extractive models of international engagement. Diaspora groups and global specialists are key partners, providing context-specific specialist support and strengthening the RCN's role as a supportive partner within our UK membership.

Our work is informed by evidence, shaped by dialogue, and strengthened by the belief that nursing knowledge is created and advanced through exchange rather than ownership.

By working in this way, the International Academy seeks to shape a more connected, more confident and more globally informed future for nursing.

We are all global nurses