

“IT GAVE ME A GOOD STEP IN TO UNIVERSITY”

Students’ experiences of transition to undergraduate nurse education after a pre-nursing scholarship



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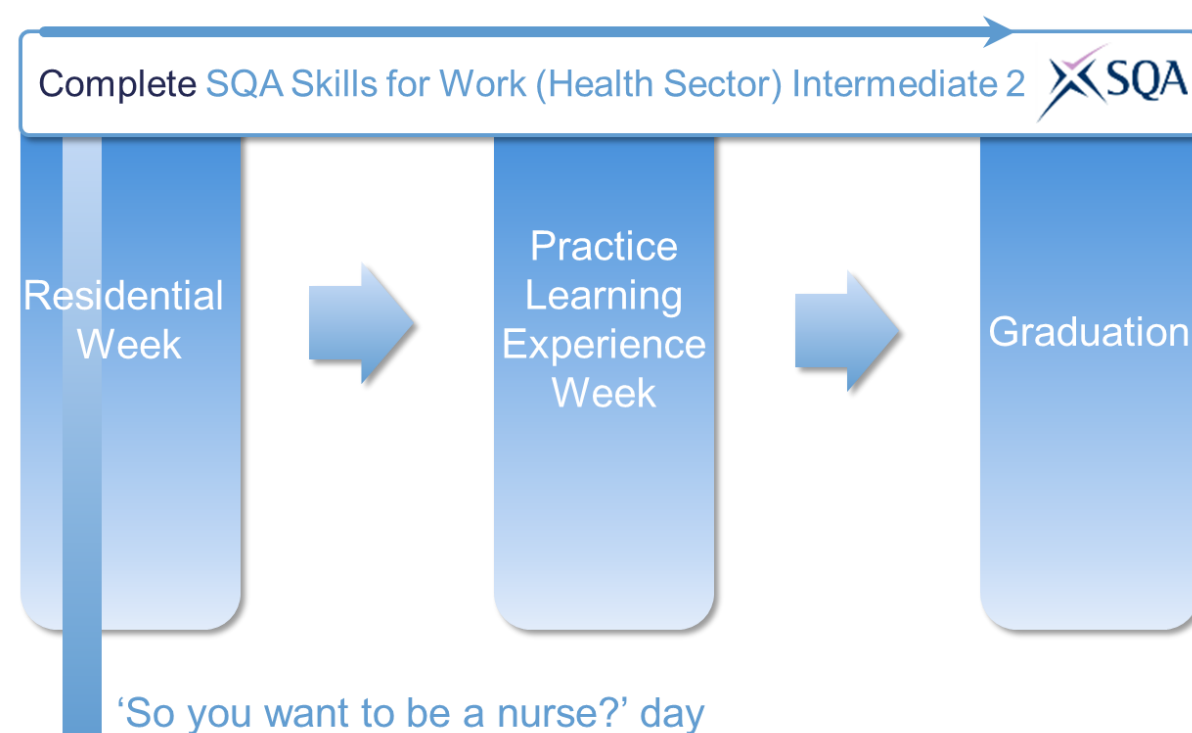
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PRE-NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

In 2012, the School of Health Sciences at the University of Stirling in partnership with local National Health Service (NHS) Boards and education authorities, piloted a nine-month **Pre-nursing Scholarship** for penultimate and final year secondary school pupils (aged 15-18 years) from remote and rural parts of the Scottish Highlands and Western Isles. The scholarship comprised four components:

1. **Residential week** at the start of the scholarship included hands-on clinical skills sessions and lecture-based input to provide pupils with insight into the life and work of nursing students and to prepare pupils for their practice placement;
2. **Practice learning experience week** in a local NHS hospital and/or community setting that focussed on care of older adults;
3. **Completion of a Skills for Work (Health Sector) qualification** accredited by the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA);
4. **Graduation** to celebrate completion of the scholarship with parents, teachers and other NHS and education partners, academics, practice mentors and student nurses.



Initial **evaluation** of the pre-nursing scholarship found that the programme aided pupil’s decision-making to **go into** nurse education (see **Further Reading** below). However, there is little international evidence around the longer-term effect of pre-nursing experience on **transition into** nurse education.

Next STEPS (Students Experiences after a Pre-nursing Scholarship) follow-on study designed to answer this question.

RESEARCH METHODS

Phase 1

Online Questionnaire Survey of all participants completing the pre-nursing scholarship (n=42)

14 responses (33%)

Phase 2

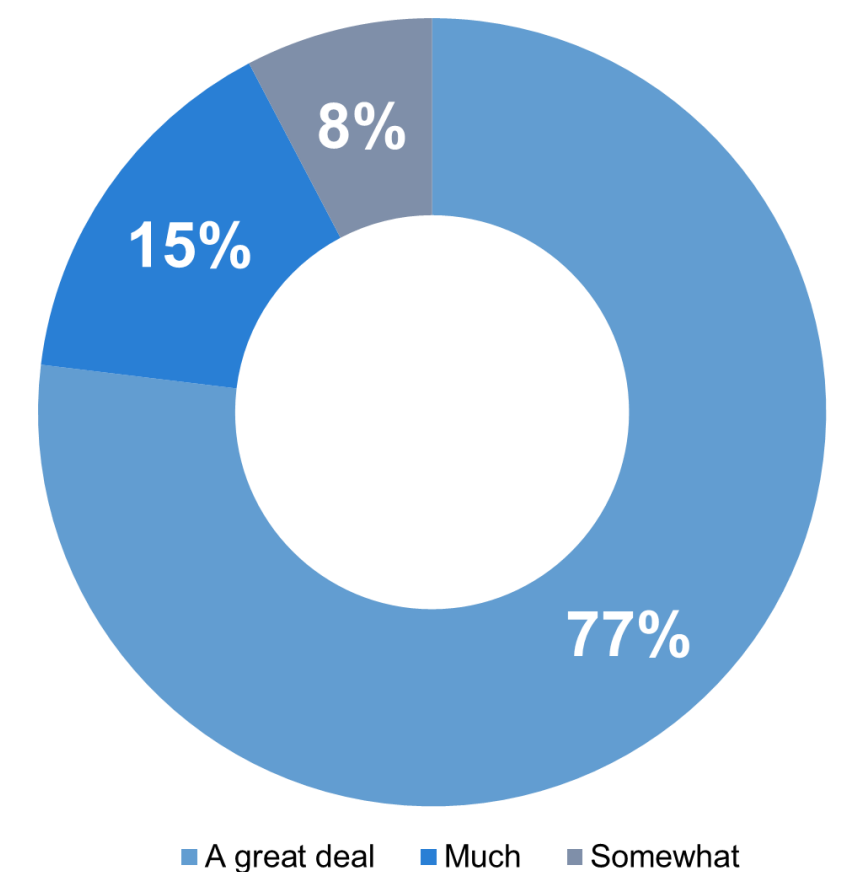
Semi-structured telephone interviews with respondents to online survey (n=14)

7 interviews (50%)

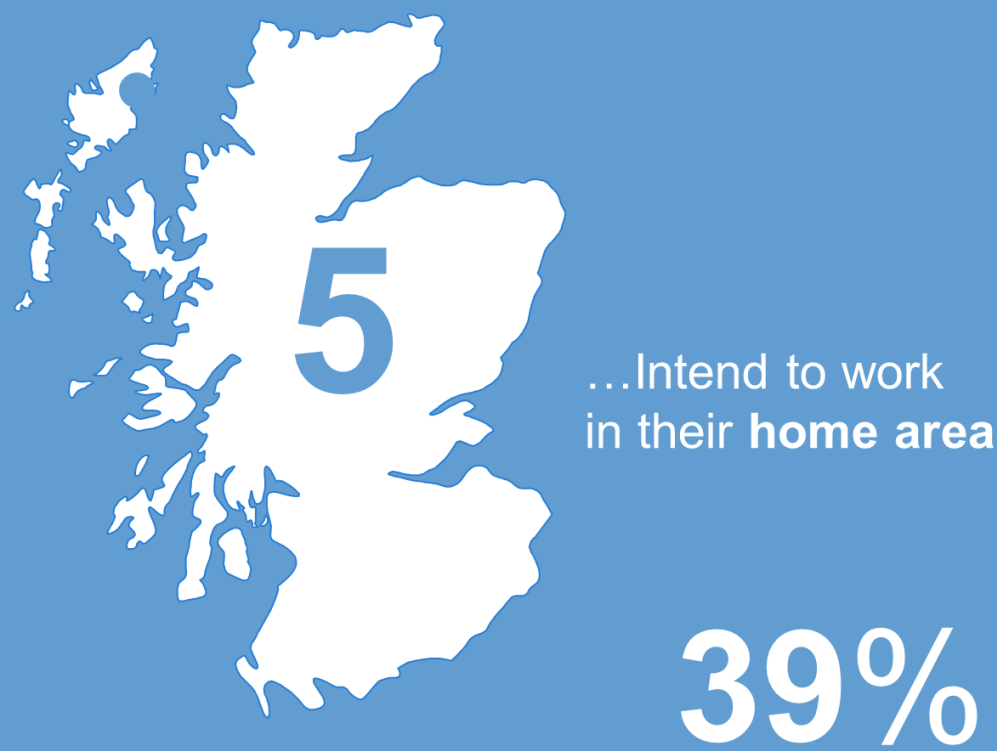
FINDINGS

14 Respondents } 93%
13 Went to University to study Nursing
1 Intends to do so in the future

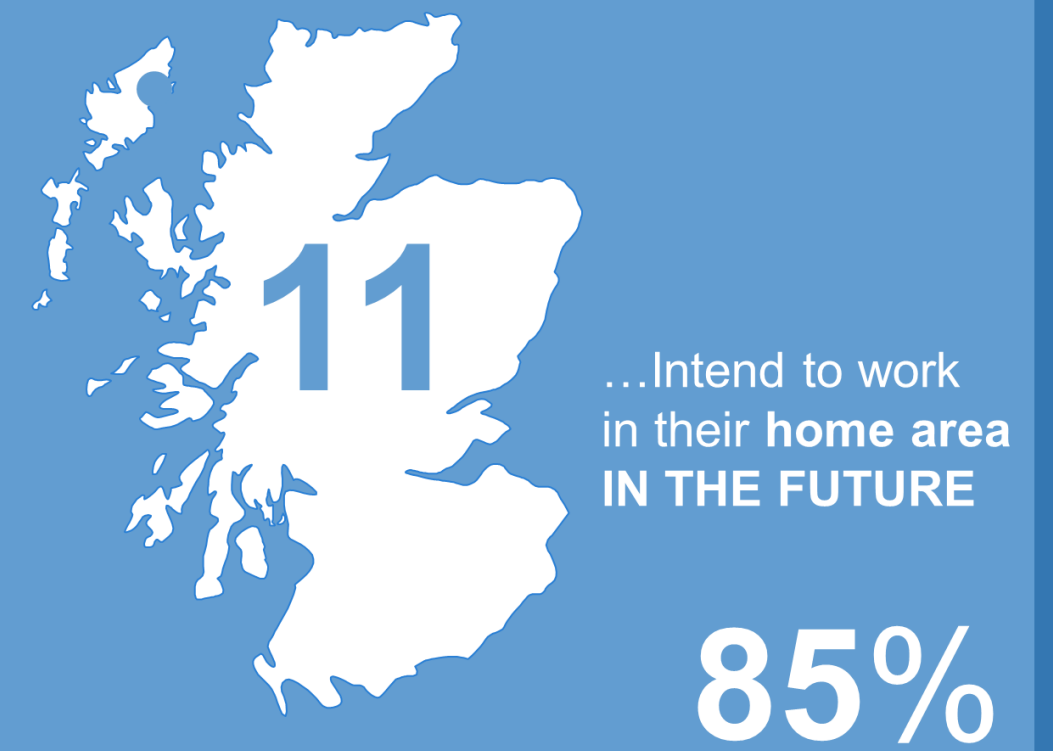
To what extent do you think that taking part in the pre-nursing scholarship **PREPARED** you for starting your nurse training?



Of 13 respondents who started nurse education...



Of 13 respondents who started nurse education...



INTERVIEW THEMES

- ① Making the right choice
- ② Feeling prepared
- ③ Aiding transition

“ The placement was definitely the point I knew that I wanted to do nursing as **I was swithering** between primary education and nursing and that kind of **pushed me in the right direction** to do nursing.”

“ We had classes during the day and that **got us used to what Uni was like**, that was really helpful having that [Residential] week.”

“ I knew what [the programme] would feel like ... **I settled in quickly**, I wasn’t as nervous and I knew some the faces... it helped a lot.”

KEY MESSAGES FOR NURSE EDUCATION

Pre-nursing scholarship helped aspiring students:

- **decide** if nursing was the right choice for them.
- **feel prepared** for university and practise.
- **transition into** nursing programmes.

Promising findings that pre-nursing scholarship supports successful transition into nursing.

On-going research:

- Impact of pre-nursing experience on **retention** of students in **nursing programmes** and remote and **rural areas**.
- Influence of pre-nursing scholarship on **engagement** between **schools** and **universities**.

Further reading related to the Pre-nursing Scholarship:

1. Beattie M, Smith A, Kyle RG (2014) Sadness, socialisation and shifted perceptions: school pupils’ stories of a pre-nursing scholarship. *Nurse Education Today*, 34(6): 894-898.
2. Smith A, Beattie M, Kyle RG (2015) Stepping up, stepping back, stepping forward: student nurses’ experiences as peer mentors in a pre-nursing scholarship. *Nurse Education in Practice*, 15(6): 492-497.
3. Smith A, Beattie M, Kyle RG (2015) “I know exactly what I’m going into”: recommendations for pre-nursing experience from an evaluation of a pre-nursing scholarship in rural Scotland. *Nursing Open*, 2(3): 105-118.

For more information about Next STEPS contact:

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