3rd World Congress on

Nursing Education, Practice & Research

May 16-17, 2018 | Montreal, Canada

Student nurse career preferences in Scotland: A quantitative prospective cohort study

Marie Cameron, Gill Hubbard and **Annetta Smith**
University of the Highlands and Islands, UK

Background: For years, there have been global concerns about equitable access to healthcare. In Scotland, a variety of complex and inter-related factors have meant that recruitment into some nursing posts remains challenging. The combination of an ageing population with increasingly complex healthcare needs, and Government policy aimed at moving aspects of healthcare into the community, have compounded the nursing workforce issues in Scotland. Equitable access to quality healthcare requires adequate numbers of trained nurses who are willing to work in areas where the need is greatest. No exploration of nursing student career preferences in Scotland has been published. Exploring these issues will lead to greater understanding of the career decision-making process of student nurses in Scotland, which may in turn help in the development of educational, and recruitment and retention strategies to help ensure access to good quality healthcare for all of Scotland's population.

Aim: The aim of this study was to investigate and describe the career preferences of adult field student nurses at Scottish Higher Education Institutions.

Methods: Prospective cohort study across all Scottish Higher Education Institutions providing adult nurse education, with a questionnaire survey at two-time points (year one and year three of undergraduate nursing programs).

Results: Data collection for the first phase (year one) is completed at 9 of 10 sites, with 1,699 questionnaires returned. Data entry and analysis for this phase is ongoing, and both descriptive and inferential statistics will be used to describe career preferences, and the reasons for these preferences, including any trends across the demographic variables.