

Title: Resources for early career researchers in nursing and midwifery

In this edition of our resources page, we include information on guidance for early career researchers (ECRs) and this builds on our recent Editorial from Dr Helen Sisson, a registered Children’s Nurse and Health Visitor and Lecturer.

For ERCs, there are some excellent information available to help guide you in your careers.

- There are free and accessible resources available such as [Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers](#) and the [Vitae Research Development Framework](#).
- Research funding bodies also provide a wealth of advice and resources see for example [Early career researchers: career and skills development – UKRI](#), and The Wellcome Trust [Develop your research Career](#) these offer information on funding and schemes for different career stages as well as tips, advice and resources for ERCs.
- National Institutes for Health (NIH) has developed guidance aimed at this group [Early-Career | Research Training \(nih.gov\)](#).
- [NIHR Academy](#) develops and coordinates NIHR academic training, career development and capacity development actions [UK clinical academic training for nurses, midwives, AHPs and other health and care professionals: principles and obligations | NIHR](#).
- The Council of Deans <https://councilofdeans.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Nursing-midwifery-and-allied-health-clinical-academic-research-careers-in-the-UK.pdf>
- Royal College of Nursing [Research training and careers | Royal College of Nursing \(rcn.org.uk\)](#) have also produced guidance.

Evidence Based Nursing has some excellent resources to support ECRs. Our ‘Research Made Simple’ series on our website [Homepage | Evidence Based Nursing \(bmj.com\)](#) provides many free to access resources. This includes straightforward guidance on undertaking specific research methods and methodologies and practical examples from nurse researchers working in the field of evidence-based care.

- [Five tips for developing useful literature summary tables for writing review articles | Evidence-Based Nursing \(bmj.com\)](#)
- [Research made simple: ethics committee approval | Evidence-Based Nursing \(bmj.com\)](#)
- [What are the foundations of a good PhD? | Evidence-Based Nursing \(bmj.com\)](#)
- [Producing a successful PhD thesis | Evidence-Based Nursing \(bmj.com\)](#)

The Policy Context

The Council of the European Union (2023) has recently highlighting the need for investment in building research capacity [Council reaches political agreement on how to keep, attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](#). The International Council of Nurses (2023) have also recognised the importance of investing in nurse researchers, acknowledging and valuing the skills, knowledge, attributes and expertise nurses demonstrate in a diversity of roles seen throughout the profession [ICN IND 2023 Report EN.pdf](#)

Building research capacity among educators, practitioners and researchers was an important theme in the World Health Organisation (WHO) in their Global Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery (2021–2025) [9789240033863-eng.pdf \(who.int\)](#).

Providing opportunities such as international faculty exchange programmes, internships or mentorships give future generations of nursing and midwives experience of research to inform

practice and health policy. Early Career Researchers in Nursing and Midwifery have found that having a mentor is key to their professional development and career pathways. Useful resources include; [Mentoring skills workshop | RCP London](#) and [Coaching and Mentoring – Leadership Academy](#) and our commentary on mentoring [Effective mentoring is key to enhancing practice and developing the next generation of nurses | Evidence-Based Nursing \(bmj.com\)](#)

Commentaries in Evidence Based Nursing raise important discussion points for the understanding of evidence based practice and the promotion of it for the future of nursing and midwifery research;

- [Nursing leaders must make a conscientious effort to invest in practices that support evidence-based practice \(EBP\) among nurses to improve patient outcomes and decrease nursing turnover | Evidence-Based Nursing \(bmj.com\)](#)
- [Research skills should be embedded in undergraduate nursing programmes | Evidence-Based Nursing \(bmj.com\)](#)
- [Approaches for educators to effectively teach research and research methods | Evidence-Based Nursing \(bmj.com\)](#)

EBN blogs by and for early career researchers can be found on our blog page [Evidence-Based Nursing blog - Analysis and discussion of developments in Evidence-Based Nursing. \(bmj.com\)](#)

Interested in writing for us? Evidence Based Nursing publishes critical commentaries and summaries of research in nursing and welcomes, you can find out more information here [Write for Us | Evidence Based Nursing \(bmj.com\)](#)