

Mr Richard Breakwell RN BSc(Hons) PGCE MA

Senior Lecturer

Nursing

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About

Richard Breakwell is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Nursing in the College of Medical and Dental Sciences.

Richard has been a registered nurse for over 20 years and during this time he has retained a keen interest in research and teaching related to the care of patients in the acute, hospital setting.

Richard's research focus is on student learning in both university and clinical practice. He is particularly interested in exploring the factors that influence student progress and how these affect student retention, attrition and overall course satisfaction.

Retaining close links with clinical practice, Richard also works with NHS and third sector partners to support students and their mentors in practice through face-to-face meetings and developing online support processes.

With a clear background in nurse education and theory, Richard is particularly interested in the pedagogy that underpins nurse education and curriculum development.

Richard's continuing aspiration is to develop nurse education programmes that inspire both undergraduate and postgraduate students to provide evidence-based nursing that enhances the experiences of patients and their families.

Qualifications

- MA Education 2004
- PGCE 2002 – NMC registered
- BSc(Hons) Combined Health Sciences 1998
- ENB 100: Intensive Care Course 1996
- ENB: 998 Teaching and Assessing 1996
- Registered General Nurse 1992

Biography

Richard qualified as a nurse in 1989. He worked clinically in several settings, including areas specialising in oncology, renal, and liver services. Following several years working in intensive care, he specialised as a transplant coordinator, working with adults and children receiving liver, kidney, small bowel transplants, and patients who were donating their organs for transplantation.

In 2000, Richard moved into nurse education, working for several years at the University of Central England, before taking up a post at the University of Birmingham in 2005.

During his time in education, Richard has gained a wide experience of aspects of nurse education, including aspects of teaching and learning, course management, and curriculum development. He has held several positions, including programme manager, adult branch lead, and curriculum planning developer.

More recently, Richard has developed his focus on how students cope with learning within the university setting, especially in the first year.

Teaching

Richard has a broad teaching portfolio, teaching and leading on a number of programmes.

In 2014, Richard was awarded the College of Medical and Dental Sciences for Excellence in Teaching and Supporting Student Learning.

His main input is into two programmes:

- **[Bachelor of Nursing \(/undergraduate/courses/med/nursing.aspx\)](#)** (Adult Field Lead)
- Mentor Preparation Programme (Programme Lead)

Richard was awarded a £7k grant to produce an eLearning website. This was completed in 2014 and now supports clinical mentors from local NHS trusts with their annual updating to meet NMC requirements.

Research

Richard's current doctoral study explores the factors that influence the progress of student nurses during the transitional first year of the studies.

Previously, Richard researched a newly designed assessment (Learning Application Reviews) for his MA that aimed to encourage to students to adopt a deeper approach to learning rather than a strategic or surface approach to their studies. For his BSc, he explored the use of nitric oxide in patients with ARDS.

Other activities

- Honorary Nurse Contract (UHB NHS Foundation Trust)
- Clinical Link Tutor (UHB NHS Trust)
- Member of the Bachelor of Nursing Curriculum Development Committee
- Fitness to Practise and Appeals Panel Member
- Reviewer for the Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation
- Inter-professional Learning Project Nurse Representative

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