

NURSING STUDIES in the 1985-86 SESSION

Eleven students will remain on the course in 1985/86, being the second and last cohort who will be taking their fourth and final year. They will be required to spend four days a week during the first term, and two and a half days a week during the second term and during the third term up to the end of May when they take their final university examinations, in professional training at the Middlesex Hospital. The remainder of their time will be taken up in studying three course-units, Nursing Administration, Geriatric Nursing, and the Sociology of Health and Illness, and in writing an Extended Essay which counts as a fourth course-unit.

We have always known that this group of students would have to finish their course in central London, not least because the fragmented nature of their course, which is divided between academic and professional studies, and the particularly heavy load imposed upon them in their final year, make it essential for them to be located where both aspects of their work can be co-ordinated. Bedford Square has always been the only practicable location. It is necessary for us to start planning our requirements there as soon as possible so that any consequences for other users of Bedford Square can be looked into. This paper sets out all the various needs of the Nursing Studies section for 1985/86. It does not seem to me that they constitute an insuperable problem but there are a considerable number of small difficulties that will have to be overcome.

(1) ACCOMMODATION: There are two teachers associated with the course, Mrs Ferguson, the Director and Mrs Meerabeau, the lecturer in Nursing Studies. Both will require offices, both for their own use and for tutorial work with the students. There is in addition a part-time secretary (40% or four mornings a week from 9.30 to 1.00) who will require accommodation for herself and the course records. I am assuming that any other members of the Department or any visiting lecturers teaching these students will make use of Mrs Ferguson's or Mrs Meerabeau's room.

(2) TEACHING FACILITIES: Tutorial work will be accommodated as stated above. A room large enough to take all eleven students will be needed on Fridays in the first term and on two days a week during the second and third terms, not necessarily, of course, for the whole of the day. It could be that if they had a large enough room, Mrs Ferguson's or Mrs Meerabeau's office could serve this purpose.

(3) LIBRARY FACILITIES: A great many of the books used by these students will be specialist books which will not be required at Egham. The principal problem with respect to these will be housing them and looking after them. Much will depend on what

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accommodation is provided for the teachers and secretary and perhaps that ought to be decided on with these library needs in mind. In addition, the students will need to consult other books in general demand among students in the Department at Egham, particularly for the writing of their Extended Essay. The solution here would seem to be for them to make considerable use of the facility to borrow for an extended period. They will be encouraged, and enabled, to go to Egham to consult the Library staff there as well as the books, but we must not underestimate the difficulties these students will experience in their peculiar situation. I shall, of course, explore what other library resources can be tapped. It will be appreciated, however, that the co-operation I was once able to secure from the Middlesex may not now be forthcoming so readily.

(4) THE STUDENTS' NEEDS: The student facilities in the London Base will be very convenient for the Nursing Students students and since they will be needing them only for part of the week, these facilities should not be swamped by just eleven students. What will be a problem will be residence. Up to now, the students have been in residence for most of the time; this is because they need, when they are engaged in professional training in the Hospital, to start work very early in the day. Obviously residence in Egham would be of little use to students starting in central London at 7.0 a.m. What I would like to explore would be the possibility of our making a special case in respect of these students for their being accommodated in an intercollegiate hall of residence.

(5) OTHER ISSUES: It should not be forgotten that these students' course does not finish until the end of July 1986, despite the fact that their examinations will be over by early June. The remainder of the course is spent in professional training in Accident, Emergency and Theatre which is part of their degree course. This period of study post examination and outside term happens each year and is usual in nursing studies degree courses. We do not need to provide any teaching facilities for this period but the teachers will need to have their rooms so that they can see students when necessary. Finally, the major part of the teaching provided outside the Nursing Studies section will be in the Sociology of Health and Illness which will be provided by the Medical Sociology section at Bedford Square. This is not a problem for us except that it will add yet another timetabling restraint in respect of Ray FitzPatrick.

5 November 1984.

I.F. Burton.