



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Nursing degree course interviews at GHA School of Health Studies record unprecedented numbers**

The GHA's School of Health Studies, in conjunction with Kingston University and St George's University of London (KUSGUL), has interviewed candidates for the fourth intake of a BSc (Hons) degree course in adult nursing as from this week. 2012 saw the first degree intake, and it is expected that by September 2018, the GHA will have 34 local graduates in nursing studies, all educated at the School of Health Studies ("SHS"). Mr James Viñales, Principal Lecturer of the course, has confirmed that the GHA is ensuring career progression for nursing grades in Gibraltar.

Mr Viñales noted that the SHS has made offers to 20 students for the September 2017 intake, with each receiving a £650 tax-free bursary to complete the course in Gibraltar. This is the highest-ever number of students. The three-year training programme will be fully delivered locally, with placements for students carried out throughout St Bernard's Hospital, Elderly Residential Services, Primary Care Centre, St Bernadette's, Ocean views and in the community.

The panel of examiners for the BSc (Hons) interviews include a patient who has experienced care at the GHA, a clinical nurse manager, ward sister, specialist nurse and academic members of the SHS.

Mr Viñales said: "Nurses make a huge difference in the quality of service and they provide patients with kind and dignified care at all times. A good nurse has to demonstrate compassion, courage and have strong communication skills. The students we are looking for must possess all of those qualities and more. They must also be able to understand their own limitations and have accountability for their own actions. This is a vocational profession. You have to like it, because it is tough and requires extraordinary commitment. We provide all the course materials and books, together with easy access to the SHS and KUSGUL library, journals and databases".

At the end of the training period, qualified nurses will be granted their licence to practice and inclusion in the Gibraltar Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Registration Board together with their academic BSc (Hons) nursing degree. The course is open to all resident Gibraltarians over the age of 18 who have attained 'A' Level education or equivalent and a minimum of five 'O' Levels including Mathematics, Science and English Language. There will be more interviews for the



September 2017 intake to be conducted in early July, with the advert for the BSc (Hons) to be released on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017.

Minister for Health, Care and Justice, the Honourable Neil F. Costa MP said: “I am incredibly content with the success of the degree course in nursing and with the tremendous response from Gibraltarians who are keen on a vocational career in such a demanding discipline. Any person who may be interested should not hesitate to contact us. Our aim is to open the degree programme every year and to have locally trained nurses to the highest professional standard, with the external assessment of a UK university, so that we can continue to provide a healthcare that is empathetic, compassionate and highly competent.”

For further information on this programme of study visit <http://shs.gha.gi>