

# Bringing the portfolio together

<b>Keeping a portfolio</b> The NMC recommends you keep evidence that you have met the requirements of revalidation in a portfolio	This can help in discussions with a third-party confirmer
	You should keep the portfolio until after your next revalidation
	You may be asked to submit further information in support of your application for revalidation and this is where the portfolio becomes especially important

*'A big tip to other registrants would be to be mindful of the importance of feedback received and keep a record.'*

I put together a professional portfolio presenting evidence of 40 hours\* of continuing professional development (CPD), 20 hours of which needed to be participatory. My portfolio also contained five reflections on practice and a section on third-party feedback.

Finding the time to put my evidence together was the most challenging aspect of the process for me, not because I was struggling to find enough evidence to use, but because I found it difficult to put the required time aside.

I am responsible for seven health visiting and school nursing locality teams, plus services across two boroughs, such as looked-after children nursing, family-nurse partnership, complex needs nursing and sickle-cell nursing. I also sit on the Evelina London executive group.

It also took me a while to decide which aspects of my accumulated evidence should be included. I've worked in nursing for 33 years and there was a lot of material to go through. Although we were asked to give evidence from the past three years, my experience to date played a crucial part in my professional development.

The requirement to include third-party feedback was a particular challenge, as I had not been keeping evidence of client or colleague feedback. I therefore needed to spend some time gathering this for my revalidation portfolio.

I understand that preparing for revalidation could be seen as a Herculean task, but my advice would be to build up your portfolio over time.

Keep records of CPD, including what the learning outcomes were and what impact on future practice this has had, and use feedback to inform your practice.

Finally, get into the habit of being a reflective practitioner, as this will ensure that pulling together your evidence from across a three-year period is an enjoyable process. It takes a bit of time but, overall, revalidation is certainly a positive and worthwhile experience.

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\*The total requirement is now 35 hours; the minimum number of participatory hours is still 20.