Rise in unfilled posts blamed on squeeze on overseas recruitment

By Erin Dean

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Nurse shortages

Healthcare workforce expert James Buchan, a professor at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, said the government is likely to come under pressure over the next few years to reinstate more nursing roles onto the shortage occupation list.

Earlier this year the RCN raised concerns in its submission to a consultation by the NHS Workforce Review Team. The team’s Assessment of Workforce Priorities 2009/10 had said international recruitment could become an option again to plug shortfalls in nursing. However, the immigration rules meant this was unlikely to happen.

‘The RCN is particularly concerned about the recruitment problems caused by these immigration policies on the care home sector and long-term care of older people,’ the college’s response said.

MEET STUDENTS’ EUROPE-WIDE LEADER

Second-year nursing student Saffron Brown, pictured, will help raise the profile of students across the UK and Europe.

Ms Brown, a child branch student at Northumbria University, has been elected president of the European Nursing Students Association (ENSA). From October she will also become student member of the RCN’s governing council.

‘I am passionate about nursing and have an interest in its future within a European context,’ she told Nursing Standard.

‘It is an honour to be elected as ENSA president, especially at a time when there are a lot of changes in nursing education coming through with plans to standardise education across Europe.

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