



The Historical Development of Norland
by Luke Jeffery

My research is focused on the historical development of Norland, in particular on the improvement of women's social status during the period from Norland's founding until the close of World War II. In order to do this I have been working in the Norland archives, especially focusing on the *Norland Quartely*, a newsletter sent from the college to all of its trained nurses.

The *Quarterly* contains letters from Mrs Ward (the Foundress), and from the Principal of Norland, along with correspondence from Nurses (Norlanders); all of which have proved invaluable in conducting the research. I have focused on the ways in which Norland College has improved the status and lives of women, specifically Norlanders, but also how the college has helped to raise the status of the early years profession more generally. I found that although the college has always been considered very exclusive, there have been great efforts by the staff and Norlanders to provide training places for those who would not normally have afforded the high training fees. There is a feeling throughout that Norland has always had an air of feminism about it, but that this has been necessary in order to focus on women and to raise their status. My research concludes that although only a small organisation, Norland has played a pivotal role in improving women's lives, due to the part it has played in encouraging the Government to recognise the need for national early years training standards.