

What is
a trade
union?

Why should I join one?



Royal College
of Nursing

What is a trade union?

A trade union is an organisation of workers formed to protect and improve their working conditions.

Unions use the collective strength of their membership to negotiate for fair pay and decent working conditions.

Trade unions provide representation to support their members, ensuring all workers are treated fairly by their employers.

The Royal College of Nursing is the world's largest trade union for nursing.

Improving your workplace

The RCN is a trade union and professional body.

This puts us in a unique position to stand up for nursing, and work to improve terms and conditions and the working environment for members, which ultimately leads to better patient and client care.

We challenge when we see things that are unfair or do not seem right.

We negotiate over pay, terms and conditions.

With your support, the RCN campaigns for improvements in the workplace – making the working environment safer for you, your patients and clients.

Local representation and support

Local RCN representatives work in nursing and share your experiences in the workplace. They stand up for you and for nursing.

- 1** Learning representatives support your ambitions by promoting learning and career development.
- 2** Stewards protect your rights, ensuring fair treatment on all employment-related matters.
- 3** Safety representatives play a vital role in ensuring you operate within a healthy and safe working environment.

Who can join the RCN?

Whether you work full-time or part-time or are an agency worker, you can join the RCN.

Membership is available to:

- Registered nurses
- Midwives
- Health care assistants
- Assistant practitioners
- Health care support workers
- Nursing associates
- Trainee nursing associates
- Student nurses
- Student midwives
- Nursing apprentices

Join the RCN

We are the only trade union specific to nursing, which gives us a unique position to lobby on behalf of our members.

Many of our staff have a nursing background and have an understanding of the issues affecting you in your workplace.

Receive expert legal advice from the largest in-house team of nursing-specialist lawyers of any union in the UK.

We provide a wide range of world-class learning resources, including the largest nursing library and e-library in Europe.

Our Membership and Advice teams are here to help all members. **[rcn.org.uk/contact](https://www.rcn.org.uk/contact)**

Why should I join?

To protect yourself and to strengthen the power of the collective voice for nursing.

- Free employment and legal advice.
- Individual advice and support in your employment.
- Protection and representation at work.

Being a member of a union really matters.

**We are the largest
nursing-specific professional
trade union in the world, with
more than 450,000 members.**

To find out more...

**Please visit rcn.org.uk
or call **0345 772 6100****

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