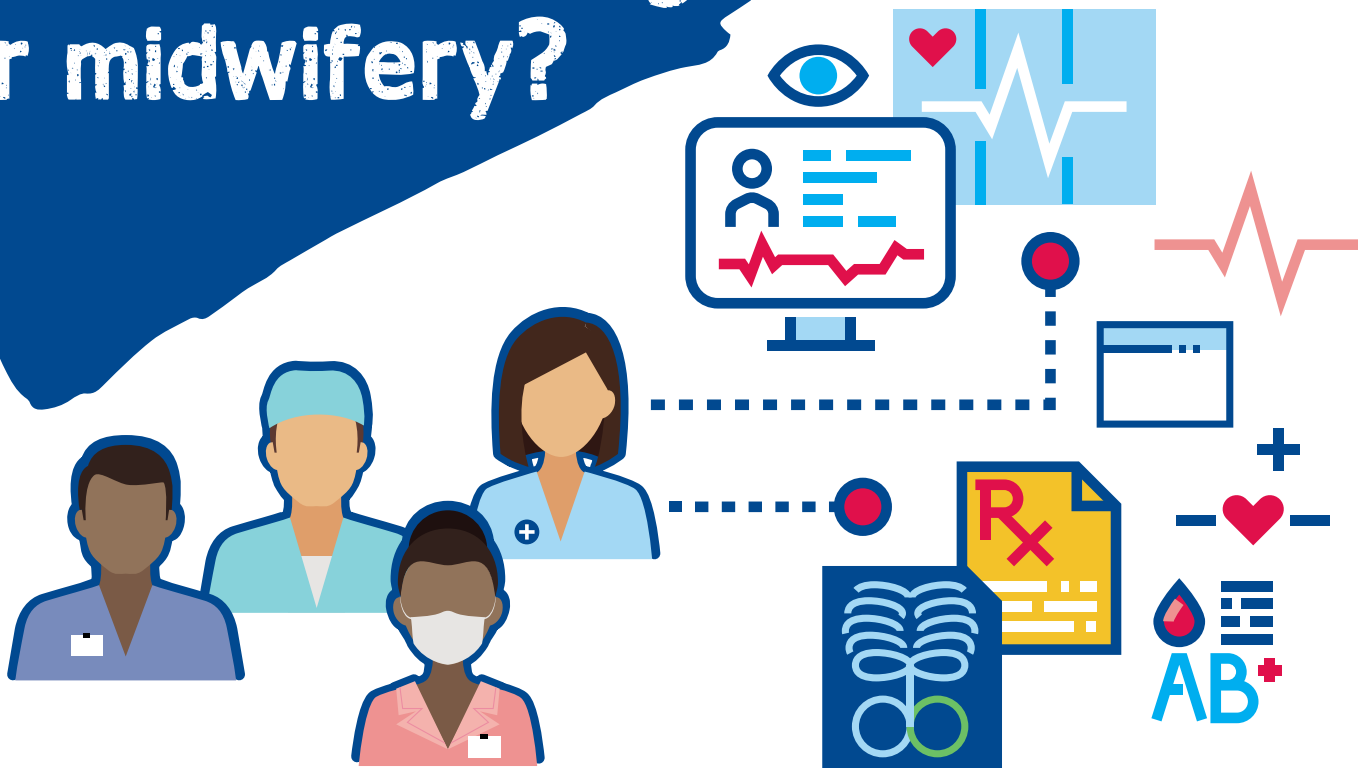
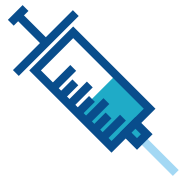
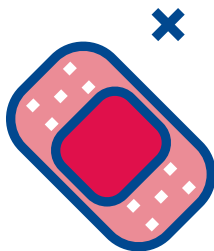
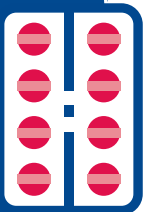


Thinking about a career in nursing or midwifery?



practice nurse
cancer nurse
midwife
travel health nurse
infection control nurse
school nurse



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prison
nurse
midwife
infection
control
nurse
practice nurse



cancer nurse
midwife
mental health nurse
school nurse
practice nurse

What is nursing? What is midwifery?

Nursing offers a diverse and rewarding career that really makes a difference.

Nurses act as leaders, carers and clinicians, taking responsibility for the care they provide to patients.

Nurses have a very important role in public health - supporting patients to follow advice and recommendations, whether this is making sure they take their medication, follow through with an exercise regime or change something in their lifestyle such as stopping smoking or losing weight.

Experienced nurses find fulfilling careers in positions of responsibility, often running nurse-led clinics, or taking leadership roles at executive level. It is possible to develop your career in clinical, research, education and management roles.

A typical day in nursing is busy and diverse; nurses don't just work in hospitals. There are opportunities to work in GP surgeries, clinics, nursing and residential homes, occupational health services, voluntary organisations, the pharmaceutical industry, or in the military.

All registered nurses must choose from one of four specialisms as part of their nursing degree – adult

nursing, children's nursing, mental health nursing or learning disability nursing. It's possible to change after graduating, so this doesn't mean your career is decided. And you can do a similar course to become a midwife.

What is midwifery?

Midwives are the key health professionals supporting, guiding and caring for the mother, baby and family through the months of pregnancy, during the birth itself and afterwards in the postnatal period.

As a midwife, you'll work at the heart of the community, as the primary co-ordinator of care for all pregnant, labouring and postnatal women. You will provide support, guidance and care for mother, baby and family.

Being a midwife is a demanding and unique role. You'll be responsible for creating and sustaining a positive relationship with the pregnant woman, to help her to have the best possible birth experience. Many midwives carry their own caseload and work in community settings, while others are based in hospitals. There are lots of opportunities to add to your general midwifery skills by specialising in a particular area such as public health or overseeing teenage pregnancy clinics.

Adult

Adult nurses work with patients over 18. They can work in hospitals or in community settings such as people's homes, health centres or nursing homes. Once qualified, they can take extra courses to specialise in areas such as cancer care, women's health, accident and emergency, critical care, practice nursing, health visiting or school nursing.

Children

Children's nurses work with children and young people up to 19 years old, and can work in a variety of settings, from specialist baby care units to adolescent units. Children react to illness in a very different way to adults, and children's nurses are specially trained to understand their needs. Children's nurses also support, advise and educate parents and carers. Once qualified, they can specialise in areas such as health visiting, school nursing, intensive care, child safeguarding and cancer care.

Learning disability

Nurses who qualify in this branch of nursing help people with learning disabilities to live independent and fulfilling lives. They may work with people in supported accommodation, or with those who need more intensive support - for instance, in hospitals or in specialist secure units for offenders with learning disabilities. There is also the opportunity to specialise in areas such as epilepsy management or working with people with sensory impairment.

Mental health

Mental health nurses plan and deliver care for people living at home, in small residential units or in specialist hospital services. Nurses working in this field need enhanced communication skills to support families and carers. They work with other health care professionals to ensure patients with mental illness get the specialised care they need. They may develop expertise in areas such as rehabilitation, child and adolescent mental health, substance misuse or working in secure settings.



practice nurse
prison nurse
forensic nurse
school nurse
travel health nurse
psychiatric nurse



What qualifications do I need?

All nursing and midwifery programmes are offered at degree level.

Each university sets its own requirements, so make sure you check with them before applying. This is usually around five GCSEs including English, maths and a science (usually biology or human biology), plus two A-levels or equivalent. You will also have to:

- demonstrate evidence of literacy and numeracy
- complete a health questionnaire and identify any special needs related to a disability
- declare any past criminal convictions
- allow the university to check whether you have a police record. You will not automatically be barred if you have a criminal conviction or caution. The university will take into account the circumstances and will treat any information in the strictest of confidence.

Northern Ireland and Wales ask for similar qualifications. In Scotland, you will need five Highers, including maths and English. If you already have a degree in a relevant subject, you can often get recognition for this (a process called Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning - APEL), enabling you to do the course in two rather than three years. If you are working as a health care assistant,

your employer may support you to gain entry requirements to study nursing and midwifery through a local university or the Open University. Other routes into nursing include nursing associates and degree level nursing apprenticeships.



school
nurse

theatre
nurse

mental
health
nurse

travel
health
nurse

forensic
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prison
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practice
nurse

Nursing associate

The role of nursing associate is currently being trialled in England. It sits alongside existing nursing care support workers and fully-qualified registered nurses in both health and social care.

It will open up a career in nursing to people from all backgrounds and offer the opportunity to progress to training to become a registered nurse. As the trainee roles are being piloted in a variety of health and care settings, nursing associates will have wider opportunities and more flexibility to move between acute, social and community and primary care.

Nursing degree apprenticeships

Nursing degree apprenticeships are currently under development, with plans to make these available from September 2017. They will offer flexible routes to becoming a nurse that won't require full-time study at university - although nursing degree apprentices will still need to undertake academic study at degree level and meet the standards laid down by the NMC.

You will need to secure a position as a nursing degree apprentice and your employer will then release you to study at university on a part-time basis. You will train in a range of practice placement settings.

Most nursing degree apprenticeships will take four years. If you already have prior learning and experience, you may get some recognition of this through Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) and so the nursing degree apprenticeship may take you less than four years to complete.

Entry requirements for nursing degree apprenticeships have yet to be confirmed. Those completing a nursing associate apprenticeship will be able to count this training towards the degree-level apprenticeship, and so reduce the length of the apprenticeship.



practice
nurse cancer
nurse
infection
control
nurse
midwife
travel health
nurse
school
nurse



Values and behaviour - the Principles of Nursing Practice

The Principles of Nursing Practice are used by the RCN to describe what everyone can expect from nursing:

Principle A

Nurses and nursing staff treat everyone in their care with dignity and humanity – they understand their individual needs, show compassion and sensitivity, and provide care in a way that respects all people equally.

Principle B

Nurses and nursing staff take responsibility for the care they provide and answer for their own judgments and actions – they carry out these actions in a way that is agreed with their patients, and the families and carers of their patients, and in a way that meets the requirements of their professional bodies and the law.

Principle C

Nurses and nursing staff manage risk, are vigilant about risk, and help to keep everyone safe in the places they receive health care.

Principle D

Nurses and nursing staff provide and promote care that puts people at the centre, involves patients, service users, their families and their carers in decisions and helps them make informed choices about their treatment and care.

Principle E

Nurses and nursing staff are at the heart of the communication process: they assess, record and report on treatment and care, handle information sensitively and confidentially, deal with complaints effectively, and are conscientious in reporting the things they are concerned about.

Principle F

Nurses and nursing staff have up-to-date knowledge and skills, and use these with intelligence, insight and understanding in line with the needs of each individual in their care.

Principle G

Nurses and nursing staff work closely with their own team and with other professionals, making sure patients' care and treatment is co-ordinated, is of a high standard and has the best possible outcome.

Principle H

Nurses and nursing staff lead by example, develop themselves and other staff, and influence the way care is given in a manner that is open and responds to individual needs.

For more information:

www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/principles-of-nursing-practice



psychiatric
nurse practice
nurse
forensic
nurse
school
rehabilitation
nurse
prison
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orthopaedic
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prison
nurse
school



prison
nurse
infection
control
nurse
midwife
practice nurse

How is the course structured?

Nursing and midwifery courses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland last for three years. Some universities in Scotland run four year courses.

You will study at the university to learn the theory and science of your chosen profession. You will also go out on placement to work within hospitals and community settings and be taught the practical, caring side of nursing and midwifery.

During the first year of a nursing course you will learn the essentials of nursing, including: communication and care, the context of health and social care and the foundations for nursing.

In later years you expand on the skills learned in your first year but focus on your specialist area of nursing (adult, children, mental health or learning disability). Some universities offer international exchange schemes for students.

During the midwifery degree programme students learn the theory and practical skills required to care for pregnant women, deliver babies and educate and support parents. The social, political and cultural issues affecting maternity care are also covered.

Once you have completed your course, you should register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council so that you can legally practice as a nurse or midwife.

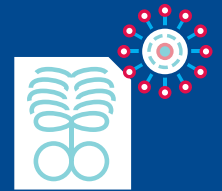
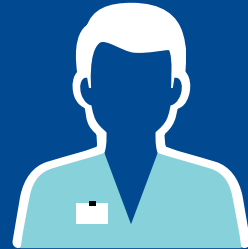
Where can I study?

The NHS Careers website is an invaluable resource if you are looking to work in the NHS. Visit www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/looking-course to find a university offering nursing and midwifery degrees in the UK.

Visit www.nhs.uk/workers/working-in-the-nhs/workingstudying-elsewhere-in-the-UK to find a university offering nursing and midwifery degrees in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Visit the university website to learn more about the content of the course and go along to an open day to get a feel of the university and talk to the lecturers and current students. Once you have decided which course and university, you should apply through the UCAS website – www.ucas.ac.uk

Once you have started your course, make sure you join the **Royal College of Nursing** as a nursing or midwifery student. Membership gives you access to a range of services, including Europe's largest nursing library and e-library, online learning resources to help with your dissertation and assignments, one-to-one careers coaching and e-books, support during your practice placements and an online discount scheme so you can save on university essentials. The cost of student membership is just 84p per month or £10 a year.



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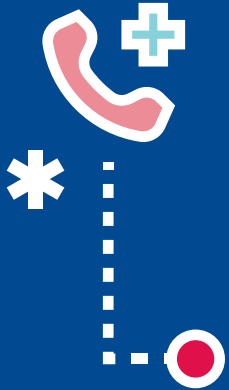
How much will it cost me to go to university?

From 1 August 2017 new students in England on most nursing, midwifery and allied health professional pre-registration courses will have access to the standard student support package of tuition fee loans and support for living costs, rather than getting an NHS bursary.

The Department of Health has published information on NHS bursary reform on its website at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health.

The Funding Clinic provides more information on the new system and the funding available.

Download *The Student Money Guide* for advice on funding, benefits and housing as well as tips on saving money and budgeting
www.rcn.org.uk/student-money-guide



psychiatric
nurse practice
nurse
forensic
nurse
cancer nurse
orthopaedic
nurse
school
loop
rehabilitation
nurse
prison
nurse

How much will I earn?

The starting salary for a newly registered nurse and midwife in the National Health Service (NHS) is £22,128 and can rise to over £80,000 for a nurse director or senior midwife.

NHS salaries are currently the same nationwide.



cancer nurse
midwife
mental health nurse
school nurse
practice nurse



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