



**CAN YOU MAKE
A DIFFERENCE TO
PEOPLE'S LIVES?**

NURSING – A FRESH LOOK

NHS Careers

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COULD NURSING BE THE CAREER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

Answer six simple questions to find out:

Want your work to make a real difference to people?

Like to be able to follow your interests?

Enjoy learning new skills?

Need work to fit around your life?

Prepared to take a lead?

Excited by the potential to earn over £95,000 at the top?

**If you answered 'yes' to any,
then it's time to find out more.**

Learning more about this unique career may surprise you. Nursing has changed a lot – and it's still changing.

Take a fresh look...

WHAT KIND OF NURSING SUITS YOU?

Take our personality quiz and find out what type of nursing career you would be suited to...

Find out more at
www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/nursing



MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE



As a nurse, you have a huge impact on people, in so many ways. It's about giving the best possible care to each person.

How you provide that care can be very varied. You might promote healthier lifestyles, teach skills that increase people's independence, take emergency action to save a life, train your colleagues in new skills or care for someone at the end of their life.

You'll make a difference to patients, their families and your colleagues.



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As a nurse you are always in demand. You really can work anywhere, here or abroad, doing almost anything you want.”

Kerrie-Jayne Salcedo,
forensic nurse practitioner



“

Nursing roles are more specialised today than they have ever been. Flexi-time is easy, I can work from home on a secure NHS laptop and keep in touch via Blackberry.”

Lee Busher,
lead resuscitation officer

FOLLOW YOUR INTERESTS

A nursing career supports you to develop your interests and, if you want, to specialise in something you're passionate about.

You may discover you enjoy working with people suffering from acute mental health conditions.

Perhaps you'll rise to the challenge of specialist nursing for adults with brain and spine conditions.

Caring for children with cancer might be your goal.

You might relish community work with people who have learning disabilities.

No two nursing career paths are the same.

LEARN NEW SKILLS

If you love learning, you'll probably love nursing. Developing new skills throughout your career is a requirement; how far you take it is up to you.

Learning might be a training course, on anything from trauma care to leadership techniques.

Relevant part-time academic study is supported with study leave and sometimes funding. You could work towards a part-time degree, masters degree or a certificate in teaching.

Working in different areas to gain experience is also encouraged.

FIT YOUR CAREER AROUND YOUR LIFE

Whatever your circumstances, there's a nursing role to suit your needs. If you want to work close to home, there are hundreds of locations to choose from – not just hospitals, but schools, care homes, prisons, clinics and GP surgeries, to name just a few.

For the more adventurous, there are opportunities to work overseas temporarily or permanently, or even on a cruise ship.

Some nurses work usual office hours, others work night shifts, rotating shifts or any combination. Flexi-time and part-time roles are also well supported, so the last thing you need to worry about is how to fit work around your life.

FUTURE POTENTIAL

Nursing can also be financially rewarding. Pay for newly qualified nurses compares well to other graduate entry salaries.

Nursing pay scales are transparent, so you can see exactly what you're aiming for, every step of your career. Progression can be quick if you are willing to put the work in to develop your skills.

At the top, nursing directors can earn over £95,000 per year.



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After working on a ward as a district nurse, in a GP surgery and for the ambulance service, I moved to the police. I'm now part of a team of nurses looking after people detained in custody.”

Christopher Johnston,
forensic nurse practitioner.



“

After 11 years as project manager, I switched. Nursing offered me that 'human touch'. It's definitely been worth it.'

Sarah Trute,
community behaviour specialist.



“

As a nurse you are always in demand. You really can work anywhere, here or abroad, doing almost anything you want.”

Kerrie-Jayne Salcedo,
forensic nurse practitioner.



“

Since qualifying and specialising, my finances compare pretty well with mates in other jobs.”

Paul Malone,
ambulance control triage nurse.

NURSING SPECIALISMS

No two careers in nursing are the same. There are so many different career options that whatever your interests, experience or passion, there will be a role to suit you.

You can choose to specialise in one of the four areas of nursing but, with the right support and training, opportunities are always available to switch specialism and take your nursing career almost anywhere you like.

Learning disability

Around 1 in 50 people in the UK have some level of learning disability, which makes it harder to learn, communicate and do everyday tasks.

As a learning disability nurse, you will help your clients to get – and stay – as physically and mentally healthy as possible. Better health and greater independence help people with learning disabilities to be more accepted by society, so this type of care is vital to both the individual and the wider community.

Adult

As an adult nurse, you could work almost anywhere and your patients will be adults of all ages. They may suffer from one or more physical health condition of any kind, which could be short term or long term. This could include heart disease, injuries from an accident, pneumonia, a hip replacement, diabetes, or cancer, to name just a few.

Your aim is to improve your patients' quality of life, whatever their situation. From the start you will learn how to observe patients and assess their needs, plan and deliver the most appropriate care for them, and evaluate the results.

Children's

As a children's nurse, you will work with a diverse range of patients, from tiny newborns to teenagers, and every child in between. You will also need to work very closely with the child's parents or carers, educating and advising them about treatment options and providing support to help them deliver follow-up care and medication at home.

As with any nursing role, you'll evaluate patient needs in order to provide the best possible care. The main difference is that children, particularly

younger children, often cannot communicate their needs or pain levels very well, so you will need to be very sensitive to their situation and monitor outcomes carefully.

Mental health

Up to a third of the UK population are thought to suffer from some kind of mental health condition at some point in their lives.

As a mental health nurse, your role is to promote and support their recovery. You might help one person to take their medication correctly while advising another about relevant therapies or social activities. You will build effective relationships with people who use these services, as well as their relatives and carers and need to have a good knowledge of mental health and illness theories and how to apply them.



“

I always knew I wanted to work with children, and volunteering with St John's Ambulance steered me towards nursing instead of teaching.”

Katie Ryan,
practice educator.

HOW DO I KNOW IF NURSING IS FOR ME?

The best way to find out is by learning more.

A good starting point is
www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/nursing

You can...

- **understand the differences between the four nursing specialisms**
- **try our unique personality quiz to see how well suited you might be to nursing**
- **find the nursing course for you, understand the entry requirements and the support you can expect while studying.**

FURTHER INFORMATION

However or whenever you decide to become a nurse, you will get support all the way: from financial help while you're training, to the chance to develop new skills throughout your career.



Read our real life stories

www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/nursing



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The biggest shame of all would be to overlook such a fantastic career opportunity, with all its life-changing experiences.”

Chris Dzikiti,
modern matron.



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I spent years working nights to fit around my kids when they were younger, but now I prefer my staggered office hours.”

Tracey Buckingham,
senior sister HIV outpatients.