

Nurses

work in hospitals, GP surgeries, clinics, nursing and residential homes, occupational health services, voluntary organisations that run hospices or residential care and the pharmaceutical industry. Nurses also work in the prison service, university education, on leisure cruise ships or for the armed forces.

Nurses focus on the needs of the individual, rather than specific illnesses or conditions. They help individuals and their families to live more comfortable lives by providing care, advice and counselling.

During the first year of your nursing degree or diploma, you will be introduced to all of the four 'specialisms' as part of the Common Foundation Programme. In years two and three, you will focus on whichever branch you have decided interests you most.

These are the 4 specialisms or branches of nursing

Adult nursing

Children's nursing

Learning disability nursing

Mental health nursing

Further Information

Royal College of nursing
rcn.org.uk

Entry Requirements- minimum qualifications

For entry to Degree programmes, most Educational Institutes will require at least two GCE Advanced Level (A-Level) passes.

For entry to diploma programmes you need:

Five GCSE grade C or above (including English and a Science/Maths subject for entry to Midwifery); or GNVQ Intermediate level plus one GCSE/GCE O level, grades A-C; or EDEXEL Foundation (BTEC) National or Higher National Diploma

Example of vocational courses that would be a pathway to nursing:

Diploma: Health and social care or science GNVQ
Foundation- (1 year) followed by a Health and social care or science GNVQ intermediate (one year)

Degree: Health and social care or science
AVCE (two years)

BTEC National diploma in applied science or health studies (two years)

The nhs cadet scheme – a practical, two year, work based scheme, like an apprenticeship, where you get the chance to work with a whole range of health areas including nursing.

Entry qualifications and progression

It is possible to take either a diploma or degree course to qualify as a nurse. Education is provided by universities, with placements in local hospital and community settings. The course is 50% theory and 50% practical. The first year is a Common Foundation Programme, which will introduce you to the basic principles of nursing. You will then specialise in either adult, children's, mental health or learning disability nursing. Full time diploma courses last three years. Degree courses last four years.



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