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# 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.

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.

specialisms as part of their nursing degree (some

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.

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### **Course structure**

#### Nursing and midwifery degree course

Nursing and midwifery courses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland last three years. Some postgraduate courses last two 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. Some of the practice is also taught via simulation in universities. 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.

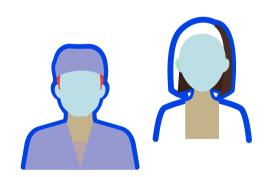
learn lots of practical skills and the essentials of nursing, including: communication and care, the context of health and social care and the foundations for nursing. gain experience other health and care settings and situations. This will mean travelling to placements and working a mix of shifts. A nursing associate can do further training and 'top up' to foundation degree level.

#### Nursing degree apprenticeships

the programme doesn't require fulltime study at

will still need to undertake academic study at degree level and meet the NMC standards.

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







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# What qualifications do I need to study?

#### Nursing and midwifery

will have to study at degree level. The entry requirements vary as they are set by the university.

You will need 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

An example of the requirements in England, Northern

English, maths and a science (usually biology or

In Scotland, one of the following is required:

3-5 SQA Highers plus 2 standard grades/

and maths

- Completion of a relevant HNC/HND including English plus maths at Standard Grade/ National 5 level
- Completion of an appropriate Scottish Wider V Ë] @ À d° p

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



#### 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

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

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# 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 and midwifery degrees in the UK.

Visit www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/working-in-the-nhs/workingstudying-elsewhere-in-the-UK to

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 www.ucas.ac.uk Nursing degree courses are also run by the Open University - www.open.ac.uk

Join the **Royal College of Nursing** once you are accepted on to your course or programme. Membership gives you access to a range of services, including Europe's largest nursing library



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## How much will it cost to study?

# The f nancial package available to students varies greatly across England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Please always refer to the relevant funding body or the University you will be attending to check eligibility criteria for awards.

#### England

New undergraduate and postgraduate nursing

and residence requirements will be able to access student loans to pay for the cost of course fees and towards maintenance and childcare costs.

In addition to the allowances available from the Student Loans Company (www.slc.co.uk additional support is available from the NHS Business Services Authority (www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/ student-services

clinical placements. Support is also available through the RCN Foundation. More information is available at: www.rcnfoundation.org.uk

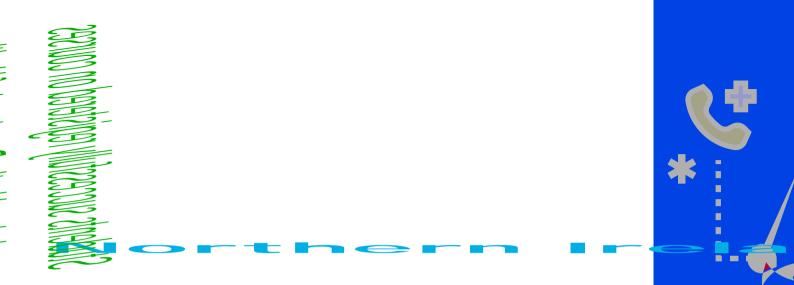
#### The Learning Support Fund (www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/ learning-support-fund

dependents allowance, additional travel and accommodation costs to clinical placements over their normal daily travel costs and an exceptional hardship fund of up to £3,000 per student per academic year.

#### Wales

Students commencing their studies from September 2017 and commit to work in Wales for the two years following the completion of their course will be able to access NHS Wales Bursary funding to meet the cost of training.

Individuals who do not feel they can commit









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# How much will I earn?

The starting salary for a newly qualif ed nurse or midwife in the NHS is as follows:

- England and Wales: £24,214
- Northern Ireland: £22,795
- Scotland: £24,670 A nursing director or senior midwife can earn over £80,000.

Nurse/Midwifery director:

# >£80,000 £22,795

#### Nursing associates

During your training, you will receive a salary from your employer. Once registered with the NMC, the starting salary of a nursing associate in the NHS

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