

NURSING

A career that is interesting, rewarding & challenging

Be part of
Northern Ireland's
Health and Social Care Service



What is nursing?

Nursing offers you a career that is varied, interesting and rewarding, each day providing you with different challenges and opportunities.

If you are interested in caring for people and have excellent communication and problem-solving skills, then nursing is for you.

"Nursing is more than caring for sick people in a hospital."

Who do nurses work with?

Nurses make up the largest part of the workforce in Northern Ireland's Health and Social Care Service and generally work in teams with assistants, doctors, therapists, social workers and other healthcare professionals.

Where do nurses work?

Nurses can be found in every sort of healthcare setting, from caring for patients in their own homes or a nursing home to working in a hospital intensive care unit. Nurses can also choose to work in education or research. With so much variety for you to choose from, you will certainly find a role in nursing that is for you.

Why choose nursing?

A career in nursing will offer you a wealth of opportunities to develop your skills, knowledge and expertise while at the same time allowing you to help people improve their lives when they need it most.

What patients say about nurses

"My nurses treat me as a person not an illness They provide high standards of care and are dedicated - they are careful, kind and gentle"

Begin your nursing career by undertaking a degree programme in one of the four branches of nursing:

Adult nursing

Adult nurses work with adults of all ages and with a wide variety of health conditions, which may be acute or chronic, in order to help improve the patients' quality of life.

They can work as a member of a team with other professionals in a hospital setting or on a more individual basis in a community setting.

The adult nursing healthcare environment is busy, fast-changing and demanding, and so you need to:

- have excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- be able to act on your own initiative
- have highly developed observational skills
- be emotionally strong and good at problem-solving
- have commitment to continued learning throughout your career.

"I feel privileged to be in a position of making a difference to patients."



Children's nursing

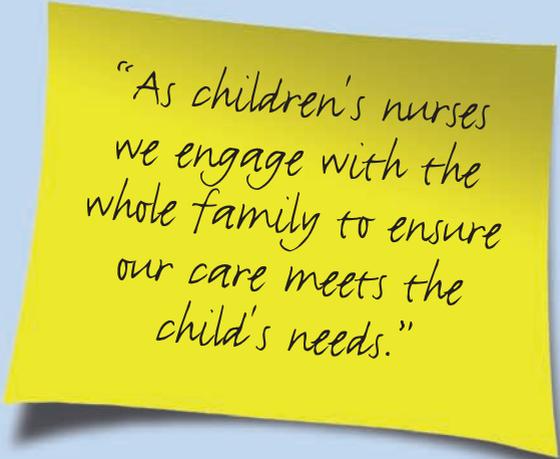
A children's nurse cares for children of all ages and with a wide range of health conditions, from a sick newborn baby to an adolescent who has been in a road accident.

They work closely with family members or carers to make sure that the child does not suffer additional stress as a result of being ill or in hospital.

Children's nurses can work as a member of a team with other professionals in a hospital setting or a community setting.

The children's nursing healthcare environment is busy, fast-changing and demanding, and so you need to:

- have excellent interpersonal and communication skills; to be sensitive and be able to communicate without words
- be able to act on your own initiative
- have excellent observational and teaching skills
- be emotionally strong and good at problem-solving
- have commitment to continued learning throughout your career.

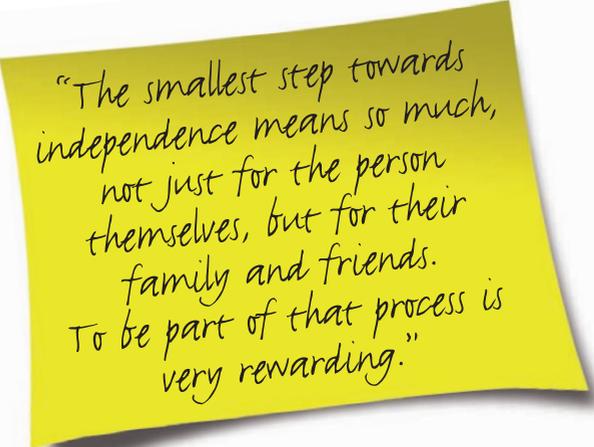


"As children's nurses we engage with the whole family to ensure our care meets the child's needs."

Learning disability nursing

Working closely with individuals, family and carers, learning disability nurses give children and adults with a learning disability the help, care and skills they need to lead a healthier and more independent life.

Nurses specialising in this area work as a member of a team with other professionals such as social workers, psychologists and doctors. They work in a range of settings such as an individual's own home, schools, day care settings, specialist residential units and in hospitals.



"The smallest step towards independence means so much, not just for the person themselves, but for their family and friends. To be part of that process is very rewarding."

The learning disability nursing healthcare environment is both rewarding and challenging. Job satisfaction comes from a wide variety of circumstances, for example when you: help an individual learn new skills which develops their self-confidence; help an individual and their family to manage their epilepsy or care for an individual with complex health needs.

A learning disability nurse needs to:

- have excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including compassion, patience and sensitivity
- be creative, adaptable and flexible, in your practice
- act as an advocate to help people with a learning disability get the same services as everyone else
- be emotionally strong
- have commitment to continued learning throughout your career.

Mental health nursing

As many as one in five people in Northern Ireland may develop some form of mental health problem over their lifetime. Mental health nurses can provide care for individuals with conditions ranging from personality or psychological disorders to neuroses and psychoses.

Mental health nurses work as part of a team with other healthcare professionals and are at the centre of a patient's recovery, providing them with care and offering support to their families. They form healing relationships with people who have a mental health illness, to assist their recovery and help the person return to a healthier life.

The mental health nursing healthcare environment is complex and challenging yet very rewarding, so you need to:

- have excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including the ability to empathise with people and understand their problems without judgement or bias
- be a good listener
- be patient and sensitive and also emotionally strong
- be able to act on your own initiative
- have commitment to continued learning throughout your career.

"No two people with the same illness will experience it in the same way. There is so much to learn the rewards are humbling."



How do I become a nurse?

Each university has its own application and interview process, so visit their websites for information to help you decide which branch of nursing is for you, and how to apply.

General entrance criteria

The Nursing and Midwifery Council is the organisation that registers all nurses working in the United Kingdom. It has set a minimum standard for entry which requires applicants to provide the universities with evidence of literacy and numeracy, sufficient to undertake a pre-registration nursing programme of education to a satisfactory level of attainment..

Choose one of these fields of practice

Queen's University Belfast offers:

Adult Nursing, Children's Nursing, Learning Disability Nursing and Mental Health Nursing

University of Ulster offers:

Adult Nursing and Mental Health Nursing

How to apply

For further information on how to apply and entry requirements contact:

School of Nursing and Midwifery,
Queen's University Belfast
Medical Biology Centre
97 Lisburn Road
Belfast, BT9 7BL
Tel: 028 90975714 or 028 90972233
Visit: www.qub.ac.uk/nur

The Faculty Office
Life and Health Sciences
University of Ulster, Magee Campus
Northland Road, Londonderry
Co. Londonderry, BT48 7JL
Tel: 028 7167 5027
Visit: www.science.ulster.ac.uk/nursing

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CAREER THAT IS INTERESTING, CHALLENGING AND REWARDING AND THAT OFFERS EXCELLENT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES?

Career opportunities

Once qualified as a nurse, you will have a starting salary of over £20,000 per annum. As you gain more experience, you can choose to develop your career in many different ways.

Here are just a few examples. You can:

- stay in clinical practice and develop yourself as an advanced practitioner or even a consultant nurse
- lead and manage a team as a ward sister or a Director of Nursing
- work as a lecturer, or researcher in one of the universities
- work as a nurse advisor in the Department of Health or in one of the other Health and Social Care organisations
- become self-employed and provide care where there are currently gaps in the services patients need.

For more information about a Career in

- Adult Nursing
- Children's Nursing
- Learning Disability Nursing
- Mental Health Nursing

Visit: www.nursingcareersni.com

