

Returning to nursing

Ready to reignite a fulfilling career in nursing? Your experience and skills are invaluable to us, and we're here to help you return to nursing with confidence.

Can't see the video? You'll need to accept all [cookies](#) ^[1]. Alternatively, visit our YouTube Channel to view our [videos](#) ^[2]

Benefits of returning

Few other roles will give you the same kind of fulfilment as nursing – think how many lives you've already changed? But it's not just emotionally rewarding, there are plenty of practical benefits too, including some you may not have experienced before:

- One of the most generous pension schemes in the UK.
- Flexible working and opportunities to work part-time, helping to create a balance that suits you. Childcare support may also be available but it varies between NHS trusts.
- At least 27 days holiday a year plus public holidays, and a standard working week of 37.5 hours.
- Additional support for professional development, helping you to feel confidence in your skills and achieve your career goals.
- A greater emphasis on working in multidisciplinary teams, allowing you to work with experts from many different departments.

Sarah Roberts

Return to practice nurse

Getting back to nursing is the thing that I am most proud of. I did it for me and it's reminded me that this is the best job in the world!

[Read Sarah's return to practice journey](#) ^[3]

How to get started

Our team of over 330,000 registered nurses make an incredible difference, every single day, and we can't wait for you to re-join them.

Still have an active registration?

If you have an active nursing registration but are not currently working in clinical practice, there is help available. You can access an online training programme on the [eLearning for Health platform](#) [4] to help you gain confidence before returning to the workplace. And if you want to find a practice placement, try contacting the deputy director of nursing or midwifery, or one of the matrons in your preferred NHS organisation.

Don't have an active registration?

It's not a problem if you're no longer a registered nurse – returning to practice is really straightforward, and here's how you can do it:

- If you've got recent experience > [Readmission](#)
- If you've been away for a while > Updating your skills through a [Test of Competence](#) or a [return to practice course](#).

Readmission

You might be able to re-register with the [NMC](#) [5] without doing a course or a test. You'll need:

- 450 registered practice hours over the last three years or 750 hours over the last five, including any practice hours gained on the COVID-19 temporary register
- 35 hours of continuing professional development (CPD) in the last three years
- to provide three character references

You can apply directly through the [NMC website](#) [6] or if you want to use hours worked through the COVID-19 temporary register, you'll need to [email the NMC](#) [7] to request a paper copy of the readmission pack.

You'll also receive £1,000 to help cover any childcare, travel and book costs.

You can find lots more information on requirements and the process on the [NMC website](#) [8].

Test of competence

If you've been out of nursing for a while, the Test of Competence is a great way to update your knowledge.

The test is made up of two parts:

- A multiple-choice computer based test (CBT).
- A practical test known as the [Objective structured clinical examination \(OSCE\)](#) [9]

How to apply for the test

You can apply through the [NMC website](#) [10], where you'll also find lots of preparation materials and essential reading to help you revise for the test.

Financial support for the test

We'll cover the cost of you taking a Test of Competence, but you may have to pay upfront and claim it back once you're registered and working with us. You may also be able to reclaim your travel and accommodation costs for your travel to the test centre.

If you'd like to know more, you can drop us an [email](#) ^[11] and we'll put you in touch with a member of our team who can answer any questions you may have.

Return to practice course

A return to practice course will refresh your skills, leaving you ready to return to nursing with confidence. It involves a combination of classroom and placement-based learning, so you can get stuck in right from the start. You'll also be assigned a personal mentor to support you through your studies.

The course takes between 3 and 12 months to complete, depending on how long you've been out of practice.

- [Find out more about return to practice courses](#) ^[12]
- [Find out more about the return to practice courses for general practice nursing](#) ^[13]

Financial support for your studies

You won't just be emotionally supported by our team, you'll be financially supported too. If you apply directly to a university, NHS England will pay for your course and placement fees. You'll also be given £1,000 to help cover any childcare, travel and book costs.

If you apply through an NHS organisation, your course and placement fees will be covered and you'll either receive a salary or £1,000 to help cover your costs.

Finding a course

Our [course finder](#) ^[14] is an easy way to look for return to nursing programmes. You can also use it to search for return to practice courses in general practice nursing.

There are also opportunities for you to earn while you study. To search for a salaried return to practice course, visit [NHS Jobs](#) ^[15] and search 'return to practice'.

Universities in Wales also run return to practice nursing programmes. You can find more information on the [NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership website](#) ^[16].

We're here to help

Returning to nursing won't just make a difference to other people's lives, it'll make a big difference to yours too – and we're here to make it as easy as possible. No matter which route you choose, we can guide you through the process. If you'd like to discuss your options, [simply request a call-back](#) ^[17] and a member of our team will give you a call.

• Find your return to practice course

Region

- Any - ▼

Type of qualification

- Any - ▼

Full or part time

Search

Displaying 26 - 30 of 33 matches

Nursing (return to practice)

Bournemouth University

[View course](#) ^[18] Opens in a new window

- Study mode

Part-time

Duration of the course

3-12 months depending on individual returner's needs and circumstances

Leading to a career in

Nursing (return to practice)

- Contact details

returntonursing@bournemouth.ac.uk ^[19]

01202961916

- Region

South West

Admissions address

Royal London House

Christchurch Road

Bournemouth

Dorset

BH1 3LT

Entry Requirements

If you have previously been a registered nurse and wish to return to the profession then you may need to undertake a Return to Practice programme. The programme allows you to update your skills and knowledge so that you can become re-registered and return to work in nursing. The course will take approximately three to six months to complete, although some people may take longer (up to 12 months) depending on clinical placement hours required, the length of time out of practice and length of time previously in practice. Courses are flexible to fit around existing commitments, such as childcare.

Funding

NHS England will provide a one off contribution to nurses Returning to Practice to assist with costs and expenses such as purchasing books, car parking, child care etc. NHSE will also pay for the course for returnees as well as contribute to placement costs.

Apply today

Applications for Return to Practice programmes should be made directly to the email address at this university (above). They can tell you more about their course and which local trusts provide the clinical placements. Alternatively, you can contact NHS England in the South West on england.returntopractice.sw@nhs.net
[20]

Nursing (return to practice)

University of Plymouth

View course [21] Opens in a new window

- Study mode
 - Distance learning/online
- Duration of the course
 - 3-12 months depending on individual returner's needs and circumstances
- Leading to a career in
 - Nursing (return to practice)
- Contact details
 - adele.kane@plymouth.ac.uk [22]
 - 01752 586951
- Region
 - All England, All UK, East Midlands, East of England, London, North East, North West, South East, South West, West Midlands, Yorkshire and The Humber
- Admissions address
 - 4th Floor Rolle
 - Drake Circus
 - Plymouth
 - PL48AA

Entry Requirements

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Nursing (return to practice)

Bristol, University of the West of England

[View course](#) ^[23] Opens in a new window

- Study mode
 - Part-time
- Duration of the course
 - 3-12 months depending on individual returner's needs and circumstances
- Leading to a career in
 - Nursing (return to practice)
- Contact details
 - has.cpd@uwe.ac.uk ^[24]
 - 011732 88596
- Region
 - South West
- Admissions address
 - Glenside Campus
 - Blackberry Hill
 - Stapleton
 - Bristol
 - BS16 1DD

Entry Requirements

If you have previously been a registered nurse and wish to return to the profession then you may need to undertake a Return to Practice programme. The programme allows you to update your skills and knowledge so that you can become re-registered and return to work in nursing. The course will take approximately three to six months to complete, although some people may take longer (up to 12 months) depending on clinical placement hours required, the length of time out of practice and length of time previously in practice. Courses are flexible to fit around existing commitments, such as childcare.

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Nursing (return to practice)

University of Hertfordshire

View course [25] Opens in a new window

- Study mode
 - Part-time
- Duration of the course
 - 3-6 months depending on individual returner's needs and circumstances
- Leading to a career in
 - Nursing (return to practice)
- Contact details
 - cpdhealth@herts.ac.uk [26]
 - 01707 285306
- Region
 - London
- Admissions address
 - College Lane
 - Hatfield
 - Hertfordshire
 - AL10 9AB

Entry Requirements

There is the option to study this course at level 6 (degree level) [25] or level 7 (masters level) [27].

Return to practice programme

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Funding

Health Education England (HEE) will provide a one off contribution to nurses Returning to Practice to assist with costs and expenses such as purchasing books, car parking, child care etc. HEE will also pay for the course for returnees as well as contribute to placement costs. Please take a look at our page of frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Apply today

Applications for Return to Practice programmes should be made directly to the named person at this university (above). They can tell you more about their course and which local trusts provide the clinical placements. Alternatively, you can contact NHS Health Education England in London on returntopractice.london@hee.nhs.uk ^[28]

Nursing (return to practice)

University of Cumbria

[View course](#) ^[29] Opens in a new window

- Study mode
 - Part-time
- Duration of the course
 - 6 months
- Leading to a career in
 - Nursing (return to practice)
- Contact details
 - kim.hanson@cumbria.ac.uk ^[30]
 - 01228 588 588
- Region
 - North East, North West
- Admissions address
 - Fusehill Street
 - Carlisle
 - Cumbria
 - CA1 2HH

Entry Requirements

If you have previously been a registered nurse and wish to return to the profession then you may need to undertake a Return to Practice programme. The programme allows you to update your skills and knowledge so that you can become re-registered and return to work in nursing. The course takes six months to complete. Courses are flexible to fit around existing commitments, such as childcare.

Funding

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[Apply today](#)

Applications for Return to Practice programmes should be made directly to the named person at this university (above). They can tell you more about their course and which local trusts provide the clinical placements. Alternatively, you can contact NHS Health Education England in the North East and Yorkshire on returntopractice.north@hee.nhs.uk [31].

- [Load more Load more results](#) [32]

• Live return to practice vacancies on NHS Jobs

Find a vacancy

Enter your location or postcode

Show results within

Search

Get your guide to returning to nursing

Sign-up and receive expert information and advice on coming back

[Let's go](#) [33]

Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/returning-nursing?page=5>

Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/privacy-and-cookies/#CookieDeclarationChangeConsentChange> [2] <https://www.youtube.com/NHSCareers> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/returning-nursing/real-life-story-sarah-roberts> [4] <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/back-to-the-floor/> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#NMC> [6] <https://online.nmc-uk.org/Account/Login> [7] <mailto:readmission@nmc-uk.org> [8] <https://www.nmc.org.uk/registration/returning-to-the-register/readmission/> [9] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Objective_structured_clinical_examination_OSCE [10] <https://www.nmc.org.uk/registration/returning-to-the-register/return-test-of-competence> [11] <mailto:returntopractice.wm@hee.nhs.uk> [12] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/returning-nursing/returning-nursing/return-nursing-practice-programme/return-nursing->

[practice-programme \[13\]](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/returning-nursing/return-general-practice-nursing) https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field_leading_to_a_career_in_tid=3195&field_qualification_type_tid=All&field_study_mode_tid=All&
[15] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk> [16] <https://heiw.nhs.wales/careers/> [17]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/we-are-nhs/returning-nhs/return-career-healthcare> [18]
<https://www1.bournemouth.ac.uk/study/courses/return-practice-nursing-level-6-credits> [19] <mailto:returntonursing@bournemouth.ac.uk> [20] <mailto:england.returntopractice.sw@nhs.net> [21]
<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/study/cpd/return-to-practice> [22] <mailto:adele.kane@plymouth.ac.uk> [23]
<https://courses.uwe.ac.uk/UZTYCX203/return-to-practice#about> [24] <mailto:has.cpd@uwe.ac.uk> [25]
<https://www.herts.ac.uk/courses/short/6hsk1091-return-to-practice> [26] <mailto:cpdhealth@herts.ac.uk> [27]
<https://www.herts.ac.uk/courses/short/7hsk0366-return-to-practice> [28]
<mailto:returntopractice.london@hee.nhs.uk?subject=Returning%20to%20nursing> [29]
<https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/cpd-and-short-courses/return-to-practice-level-6/> [30] <mailto:kim.hanson@cumbria.ac.uk> [31]
<mailto:returntopractice.north@hee.nhs.uk?subject=Returning%20to%20nursing> [32]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/1048?page=6> [33] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/we-are-nhs/returning-nhs/return-career-healthcare?career=Nurse>