

# Return to nursing - FAQs

We are the NHS. We want you back. Get the answers you need and return to nursing.?

- Why should I returning to nursing?

Expand / collapse

Now is a great time to return! Our programme will support you and enable you to renew your registration with your professional body and re-enter practice with the competence and confidence. Not to forget that there are also jobs available!?

We know that you already have the skills and experience that can make a big difference to patients, clients, carers and their families so we are keen to get you back.?

- Do I need to retrain?

Expand / collapse

If your registration has lapsed, you will have to complete an NMC [1]-approved return to practice course which takes between three and 12 months to complete. There are RtP nursing programmes [2] available across England and specific RtP general practice nursing programmes available in the East of England [3], London [4], North East [5], North West [6], South West [7] and West Midlands [8] regions of England.

The amount of retraining you require depends on how long you have been out of practice. The longer you have been out of practice, the more practice hours you will need to complete.

If you have been out of clinical practice but your registration is still active, you can apply for a post and establish if you can be supported by a preceptorship programme. The programme will support you to update your skills and knowledge and ensure that you are job ready. Job opportunities are advertised on the NHS Jobs website [9].?

- Will my course be funded?

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Yes, Health Education England will pay your course fees, clinical placement fee and stipendiary to help towards travel, childcare and book costs.?

Unfortunately, HEE is unable to fund:?

- overseas nurses who haven't previously been registered with the NMC
- returnees who do not reside and work in England
- Any other financial support available?

Expand / collapse

A £500 stipendiary is provided to support you to return to practice and will help towards travel, childcare and book costs etc. Your university return to practice lead will be able to provide further details at your interview.

- Will the course lead directly to a job?

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Many organisations now offer RTP placements that lead to a permanent position, but it is entirely dependent on each organisation and it is advisable to explore this further at your interview. NHS organisations advertise posts on the NHS Jobs website [9].

In some areas there is an employer-led return to practice programme, where you are employed as a return to practice nurse, normally on band 3, and are guaranteed a post once you have successfully completed the programme. Keep an eye on NHS Jobs [9] for return to practice nursing opportunities.?

- Can I work flexibly?

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Flexible working for nurses is an option. We suggest you discuss this at your interview with the employer who is supporting your clinical placement.

- Is there anything I can do to prepare?

Expand / collapse

Universities offer a reading list of key documents that you might be interested in studying to help you update your knowledge of current policy. Universities also offer study skills courses to help you prepare for studying on a university course. This would be discussed at interview with the return to practice lead.

Local trusts and universities offer open days too so you can ask any questions before you apply for the programme.

- How long will the course be?

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The return to practice programme can take three to 12 months to complete, and is a combination of classroom and placement-based learning. The hours you spend on placement will vary, depending on how long you have been off the register. This will be negotiated with you when you apply.

- Are there courses near me?

Expand / collapse

Use our [course finder \[10\]](#) to find [return to nursing practice \[11\]](#) and [RTP - general practice nursing programmes \[12\]](#) where you live or want to study.??

- I have been out of practice for awhile

Expand / collapse

The return to practice course is open to all, regardless of how long you have been out of practice. The course will update you on any new developments in nursing and you will have support and mentoring throughout.?

- Will I be supported upon returning?

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Re-registered practitioners will be supported by a preceptorship programme on their return to the workforce and the programme can be tailored to your requirements.??View [Health Education England's video about preceptorship for nurses \[13\]](#)

- I get a pension. Can I return part-time?

Expand / collapse

[Return to practice programmes? \[11\]](#) and [RTP - general practice nursing programmes \[14\]](#) are usually delivered part-time. In respect of employment, we recommend reading the factsheet on the [NHS Pensions website \[15\]](#).?

NHS employment opportunities are advertised on the [NHS Jobs website \[9\]](#).

- What is abatement?

Expand / collapse

Abatement is the process by which your NHS pension is reduced pound-for-pound if your earnings on re-employment in the NHS, plus the enhanced element of your NHS pension, exceed your pre-retirement NHS pensionable earnings.

It may apply if you return to NHS employment a

- I don't live in England. Can I apply?

Expand / collapse

Funding from Health Education England for the return to practice programme is available for nurses who currently reside and work in England. Nurses from outside England are welcome to apply for the programme, but I am afraid funding isn't available.?

- Are there any other ways to return?

Expand / collapse

Another route back into nursing and midwifery is a test run by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC [1]). Launched in January 2020, it involves an online test and an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). Unlike the return to practice course, this route is not currently funded by the NHS.

More information on the test including information on how to apply is available on the NMC website [16].?

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**Source URL:** <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/returning-nursing/return-nursing-faqs>

### Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#NMC>

[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/returning-nursing>

[3] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field\\_leading\\_to\\_a\\_career\\_in\\_tid=3239&field\\_qualification\\_type\\_tid=All&field\\_study\\_mode\\_tid=All](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field_leading_to_a_career_in_tid=3239&field_qualification_type_tid=All&field_study_mode_tid=All)

[4] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field\\_leading\\_to\\_a\\_career\\_in\\_tid=3239&field\\_qualification\\_type\\_tid=All&field\\_study\\_mode\\_tid=All](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field_leading_to_a_career_in_tid=3239&field_qualification_type_tid=All&field_study_mode_tid=All)

[5] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field\\_leading\\_to\\_a\\_career\\_in\\_tid=3239&field\\_qualification\\_type\\_tid=All&field\\_study\\_mode\\_tid=All](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field_leading_to_a_career_in_tid=3239&field_qualification_type_tid=All&field_study_mode_tid=All)

[6] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field\\_leading\\_to\\_a\\_career\\_in\\_tid=3239&field\\_qualification\\_type\\_tid=All&field\\_study\\_mode\\_tid=All](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field_leading_to_a_career_in_tid=3239&field_qualification_type_tid=All&field_study_mode_tid=All)

[7] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field\\_leading\\_to\\_a\\_career\\_in\\_tid=3239&field\\_qualification\\_type\\_tid=All&field\\_study\\_mode\\_tid=All](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field_leading_to_a_career_in_tid=3239&field_qualification_type_tid=All&field_study_mode_tid=All)

[8] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field\\_leading\\_to\\_a\\_career\\_in\\_tid=3239&field\\_qualification\\_type\\_tid=All&field\\_study\\_mode\\_tid=All](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field_leading_to_a_career_in_tid=3239&field_qualification_type_tid=All&field_study_mode_tid=All)

[9] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/>

[10] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder>

[11] [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](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)

[12] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field\\_leading\\_to\\_a\\_career\\_in\\_tid=3239&field\\_qualification\\_type\\_tid=All&field\\_study\\_mode\\_tid=All](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field_leading_to_a_career_in_tid=3239&field_qualification_type_tid=All&field_study_mode_tid=All)

[13] <https://vimeo.com/115880179>

[14] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/returning-nursing/return-general-practice-nursing>

[15] <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pensioner-hub/re-employment>

[16] <https://www.nmc.org.uk/registration/returning-to-the-register/completing-a-test-of-competence-for-return-to-practice>