

# Learning disability nurse

Learning disability nurses work to provide specialist healthcare and support to people with a learning disability, as well as their families and staff teams, to help them live a fulfilling life.

## Why choose learning disability nursing

There are many reasons why you should consider a career as a learning disability nurse. It offers you the chance to make a difference, a high degree of flexibility and a career with excellent employment prospects.

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[Get started](#)

## Ready to get started?

Get practical advice and everything you need to know in your inbox.

[Sign up for emails](#) <sup>[3]</sup>

## Working life

Children identified as having a learning disability are living longer, more fulfilled lives into adolescence, adulthood and older age. Learning disability nurses play a vital role working across the whole life span in both health and care settings.

The main areas of your role as a learning disability nurse involve:

- improving or maintaining a person's physical and mental health
- reducing barriers to them living an independent life
- supporting the person in living a fulfilling life

Learning disability nurses may also help people to learn the skills needed to find work. This can be significant in helping them to lead a more independent and healthy life where they can relate to others on equal terms.

You'll work in a range of settings, including people's homes, education, residential and community centres and hospitals. You may work shifts to provide 24-hour care. You'll work as part of a team including GPs, psychologists, social workers, teachers, general practitioners,

occupational therapists, speech and language therapists and healthcare assistants.

## **Sarah Trute**

### **Community behaviour specialist**

Learning disability nursing is quite different to other fields of nursing. It's about enabling each person to reach their full potential

[Read Sarah's story](#) <sup>[4]</sup>

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## **Entry requirements**

To become a learning disability nurse the main route is through a degree course at university. Entry requirements for these courses can vary depending on where and how you'd like to study so it's important to check with universities. You can find a learning disability nursing courses at the bottom of this page.

Typically you'll need a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4/C or above, possibly in English language or literature and a science subject, plus two A levels or equivalent level 3 qualifications, such as a T level or BTEC for an undergraduate degree. Some universities may ask for three A levels or equivalent. If you already have a degree, you might be able to study for a postgraduate qualification through a postgraduate programme.



There are other routes into learning disability nursing such as nurse degree apprenticeships and nursing associate apprenticeships.

## **Annual payments**

If you're eligible, you'll receive at least £6,000 a year towards your studies while at university. Your personal circumstances may mean you could receive more. And the good news? You'll never have to pay it back. Find out more. <sup>[5]</sup>

## **Other routes into learning disability nursing**

Nursing degree apprenticeships are available with some employers and numbers are expected to continue to grow. Increasing opportunities to apply for nursing associate apprenticeships [6] are also expected. This can lead to nursing degrees or nurse degree apprenticeships.

## Must have skills

Don't forget - academic qualifications aren't everything. Communication and interpersonal skills are crucial, as well as strong judgement, be able to teach advise and manage people.

If you're applying for a role either directly in the NHS or a university course, you'll be asked to show how you think the values of the [NHS Constitution](#) [7] apply in your everyday work.

## Training and career development

You could specialise in areas such as education, sensory disability or service management. You may want to work or move into management, teaching or clinical research.

## Pay and benefits

Your standard working week will be around 37.5 hours on shift pattern which can include nights, early starts, evenings, weekends and bank holidays. As a learning disability nurse, you'll be paid on the Agenda for Change (AFC) pay system [8], typically starting at band 5.

You'll also have access to our generous pension scheme and health service discounts, as well as 27 days of annual leave plus bank holidays.

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**Find your  
course to  
become a  
learning  
disability nurse**

**Region**

- Any -

**Type of qualification**

- Any -

**Full or part time**

- Any -

Search

Displaying 1 - 5 of 66 matches

## Nursing (Adult and Learning Disabilities)

Edge Hill University

View course <sup>[9]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification
  - Master of Science (with Honours) - Msci (Hon)
- Study mode
  - Full-time
- Duration of the course
  - 4 Years
- Leading to a career in
  - Nursing (Adult), Nursing (Learning disabilities)
- Contact details
  - study@edgehill.ac.uk <sup>[10]</sup>
  - +44 (0)1695 657000
- Region
  - North West
- Admissions address
  - St Helens Road
  - Ormskirk
  - L39 4QP
  - United Kingdom

## Nursing - Adult and Learning Disabilities (Dual Award)

Birmingham City University

View course <sup>[11]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification
  - Master of Science - MSci
- Study mode
  - Full-time
- Duration of the course
  - 4 Years
- Leading to a career in
  - Nursing (Adult), Nursing (Learning disabilities)
- Contact details
  - courseenquiries@bcu.ac.uk <sup>[12]</sup>
  - 0121 331 6295
- Region
  - West Midlands
- Admissions address
  - Westbourne Road

Birmingham  
B15 3TN  
United Kingdom

## **MN Integrated Masters (Adult Nursing plus other field)**

University of Chester

View course <sup>[13]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification  
    MNurs
- Study mode  
        Full-time
- Duration of the course  
        4 Years
- Leading to a career in  
        Nursing (Adult), Nursing (Learning disabilities), Nursing (Mental Health)
- Contact details  
    01244 511000
- Region  
    North West
- Admissions address  
        Parkgate Road  
        Chester  
        CH1 4BJ  
        United Kingdom

## **Nursing (Child and Learning Disabilities)**

Edge Hill University

View course <sup>[9]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification  
    Master of Science (with Honours) - Msci (Hon)
- Study mode  
        Full-time
- Duration of the course  
        4 Years
- Leading to a career in  
        Nursing (Children/ Paediatric), Nursing (Learning disabilities)
- Contact details  
    study@edgehill.ac.uk <sup>[10]</sup>  
    +44 (0)1695 657000
- Region  
    North West
- Admissions address  
        St Helens Road  
        Ormskirk  
        L39 4QP

United Kingdom

## Nursing - Learning Disabilities and Child (Dual Award)

Birmingham City University

View course <sup>[14]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification

Master of Science - MSci

- Study mode

Full-time

- Duration of the course

4 Years

- Leading to a career in

Nursing (Children/ Paediatric), Nursing (Learning disabilities)

- Contact details

courseenquiries@bcu.ac.uk <sup>[12]</sup>

0121 331 6295

- Region

West Midlands

- Admissions address

Westbourne Road

Birmingham

B15 3TN

United Kingdom

- Load more Load more results <sup>[15]</sup>

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### Live vacancies

If you cannot find a job vacancy in your area, you can also visit the NHS Jobs website <sup>[16]</sup> and search for more vacancies.

## Find a vacancy

Enter your location or postcode

Show results within

## Other roles that may interest you

- Mental health nurse <sup>[17]</sup>

- High intensity therapist [18]
- Children's nurse [19]
- Health visitor [20]

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**Source URL:** <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/learning-disability-nurse>

### Links

- [1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/privacy-and-cookies/#CookieDeclarationChangeConsentChange>  
 [2] <https://www.youtube.com/NHSCareers> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/we-are-the-nhs/registration?career=nursing-guide> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/learning-disability-nurse/real-life-story-sarah-trute> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/considering-or-university/financial-support-university>  
 [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/nursing-associate>  
 [7] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#NHS\\_Constitution](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#NHS_Constitution)  
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 [15] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/299?page=1> [16] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/>  
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