

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.

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.

'Learning disability nursing is quite different to other fields of nursing. It's about enabling each person to reach their full potential'. Sarah Trute, community behaviour specialist

Read Sarah's story [1]

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 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.

New annual payments

You'll be entitled to receive at least £5,000 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.

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 [2] 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 [3] 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 [4], 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.

- Expand / collapse
Live vacancies
 - View Vacancy [5]

Learning Disability Nurse

Abertillery, NP13 2DA

- **Salary:**
£29,202 - £35,460

- **Type:**
Permanent

- **Employer:**
Elysium Healthcare

- View Vacancy
- View Vacancy [6]

Learning Disability Nurse

Cheadle, Staffordshire, ST10 4QU

- **Salary:**
£35,700 per annum

- **Type:**
Permanent

- **Employer:**
Elysium Healthcare

- View Vacancy
- View Vacancy [7]

Learning Disability Nurse

Welton, Lincolnshire, LN2 3JN

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Salary:

£30,300 per annum

-

Type:

Permanent

-

Employer:

Elysium Healthcare

- [View Vacancy](#)

- [View Vacancy \[8\]](#)

Learning Disability Nurse

Cheadle, Staffordshire, ST10 4QU

-

Salary:

£31,200 - £35,802

-

Type:

Permanent

-

Employer:

Elysium Healthcare

- [View Vacancy](#)

- [View Vacancy \[9\]](#)

Registered Learning Disability Nurse / RNLD

Podsmead, Gloucester, GL1 5UA

-

Salary:

£18.31 per hour (£39,989 per annum)



Type:

Permanent



Employer:

Cygnet Health Care

- View Vacancy

- View Vacancy [10]

Registered Learning Disability Nurse (RNLD)

Stevenage, SG1 4YS



Salary:

Up to £23.26 per hour (£43,000 per annum)



Type:

Permanent



Employer:

Cygnet Health Care

- View Vacancy



Expand / collapse

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 40 matches

BN (Hons) Learning Disabilities Nursing

Bangor, University of Wales

View course [Opens in a new window](#)
[11]

Region **Wales**

Type of course
Undergraduate

Full or part time
Full time

Duration
3 years

Contact details
admissions@bangor.ac.uk [12] **01248 383717**

Course webpage <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/B763-Learning-Disability-Nursing>
[11]

Admissions address

Bangor
Gwynedd
LL57 2EF

Course webpage <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/B763-Learning-Disability-Nursing>
[11]

BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies (Learning Disabilities)

Teesside University

View course [Opens in a new window](#)
[13]

Region **North East**

Type of course
Undergraduate

Full or part time

Full time

Duration

3 years

Contact details

shlsadmissions@tees.ac.uk [14] **01642 384110**

Course webpage http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG_course.cfm [15]

Admissions address

Middlesbrough

Tees Valley

TS1 3BA

Course webpage http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG_course.cfm [15]

Bachelor of Nursing (Hons) (Learning Disabilities)

South Wales, University of

View course Opens in a new window

[16]

Region **Wales**

Type of course

Undergraduate

Full or part time

Full time

Duration

3 years

Contact details

enquiries@southwales.ac.uk [17] **03455 76 77 78**

Course webpage <http://courses.southwales.ac.uk/courses/31-bachelor-of-nursing-hons-learning-dis...>

[16]

Admissions address

Pontypridd

CF37 1DL

Course webpage <http://courses.southwales.ac.uk/courses/31-bachelor-of-nursing-hons-learning-dis...>
[16]

BSc (Hons) Nursing (Learning Disability)

Huddersfield, University of

View course Opens in a new window
[18]

Region **Yorkshire and The Humber**

Type of course
Undergraduate

Full or part time
Full time

Duration
3 years

Contact details
study@hud.ac.uk [19] **01484 472699**

Course webpage <https://courses.hud.ac.uk/2021-22/full-time/undergraduate/nursing-learning-disab...>
[18]

Admissions address

Queensgate
Huddersfield
West Yorkshire
HD1 3DH

Course webpage <https://courses.hud.ac.uk/2021-22/full-time/undergraduate/nursing-learning-disab...>
[18]

BSc (Hons) Learning Disability Nursing

London, South Bank University

View course Opens in a new window
[20]

Region **London**

Type of course
Undergraduate

Full or part time
Full time

Duration
3 years

Contact details
course.enquiry@lsbu.ac.uk [21] **0800 923 8888**

Course webpage <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/courses/course-finder/learning-disability-nursing-bsc-hons> [20]

Admissions address

Southwark Campus
103 Borough Road
London
SE1 0AA

Course webpage <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/courses/course-finder/learning-disability-nursing-bsc-hons> [20]

◦ [Load more](#) [22]

Interested in nursing?

We'll send you free, expert advice on starting a nursing career.

[Let's go](#) [23]

Other roles that may interest you

- [Mental health nurse](#) [24]
- [High intensity therapist](#) [25]
- [Children's nurse](#) [26]
- [Health visitor](#) [27]

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

Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/learning-disability-nurse/real-life-story-sarah-trute>

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

[3] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#NHS_Constitution

[4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates>

[5] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916408714>

- [6] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916412409>
- [7] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916412404>
- [8] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916412411>
- [9] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916402329>
- [10] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916392229>
- [11] <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/B763-Learning-Disability-Nursing>
- [12] [mailto: admissions@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@bangor.ac.uk)
- [13] http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG_course.cfm?courseid=945&fos=9&fossb=25
- [14] [mailto: shlsadmissions@tees.ac.uk](mailto:shlsadmissions@tees.ac.uk)
- [15] http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG_course.cfm?courseid=945&fos=9&fossb=25
- [16] <http://courses.southwales.ac.uk/courses/31-bachelor-of-nursing-hons-learning-disabilities>
- [17] [mailto: enquiries@southwales.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@southwales.ac.uk)
- [18] <https://courses.hud.ac.uk/2021-22/full-time/undergraduate/nursing-learning-disability-bsc-hons>
- [19] [mailto: study@hud.ac.uk](mailto:study@hud.ac.uk)
- [20] <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/courses/course-finder/learning-disability-nursing-bsc-hons>
- [21] [mailto: course.enquiry@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:course.enquiry@lsbu.ac.uk)
- [22] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/299?page=1>
- [23] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/nursing-registration>
- [24] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/mental-health-nurse>
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- [27] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/health-visitor>