

# 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.

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## 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](#) [4]

## **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.](#) [5]

## **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 [9] 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 [10]
  - +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 [11] 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 [12]
  - 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 [13] 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 [9] 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 [10]

+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 [14] 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 [12]

0121 331 6295

- Region

West Midlands  
Admissions address  
Westbourne Road  
Birmingham  
B15 3TN  
United Kingdom

◦ Load more Load more results [15]

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## Live vacancies

If you cannot find a job vacancy in your area, you can also visit the NHS Jobs website [16] 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 [17]
- 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?career=nursing&utm\\_source=Twitter&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=Orlo&utm\\_content=%252523N](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/learning-disability-nurse?career=nursing&utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Orlo&utm_content=%252523N)

### 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) [8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates> [9] <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/courses/nursing-msci/> [10] [mailto: study@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:study@edgehill.ac.uk)  
[11] <https://www.bcu.ac.uk/nursing-and-midwifery/courses/nursing-adult-learning-disability-dual-msci-2021-22> [12] [mailto: courseenquiries@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:courseenquiries@bcu.ac.uk) [13] <https://www.chester.ac.uk/study/course-search/dual-field-adult-and-learning-disability-mnurs-hons-integrated-masters/> [14] <https://www.bcu.ac.uk/nursing-and-midwifery/courses/nursing-learning-disability-child-dual-msci-2021-22>  
[15] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/299?career=nursing&utm\\_source=Twitter&utm\\_medium=social](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/299?career=nursing&utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social)  
[16] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/> [17] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/mental-health-nurse>

- [18] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/roles/high-intensity-therapist>
- [19] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/childrens-nurse>
- [20] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/health-visitor>