

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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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 21 - 25 of 66 matches

Learning Disability Nursing

University of Northampton

View course [9] Opens in a new window

◦ Qualification

Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)

Study mode

Full-time

Duration of the course

- 3 Years
- Leading to a career in
 - Nursing (Learning disabilities)
- Contact details
 - study@northampton.ac.uk [10]
 - 0300 303 2772
- Region
 - East Midlands
- Admissions address
 - Waterside Campus
 - University Drive
 - Northampton
 - NN1 5PH
 - United Kingdom

Nursing (Learning Disability) MSc

Keele University

View course [11] Opens in a new window

- Qualification
 - Master of Science - MSc (PG)
- Study mode
 - Full-time
- Duration of the course
 - 2 Years
- Leading to a career in
 - Nursing (Learning disabilities)
- Contact details
 - nursing.admissions@keele.ac.uk [12]
 - 01782 679600
- Region
 - West Midlands
- Admissions address
 - Keele University
 - Keele
 - ST5 5BG
 - United Kingdom

Learning Disabilities Nursing

Coventry University

View course [13] Opens in a new window

- Qualification
 - Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)
- Study mode
 - Full-time
- Duration of the course
 - 3 Years
- Leading to a career in

- Nursing (Learning disabilities)
 - Contact details
 - ukadmissions@coventry.ac.uk [14]
 - 024 7765 2222
 - Region
 - West Midlands
- Admissions address
 - Priory Street
 - Coventry
 - CV1 5FB
 - United Kingdom

Nursing (Learning Disability)

Edinburgh Napier University

View course [15] Opens in a new window

- Qualification
 - Bachelor of Nursing - BN
- Study mode
 - Full-time
- Duration of the course
 - 3 Years
- Leading to a career in
 - Nursing (Learning disabilities)
- Contact details
 - studentrecruitment@napier.ac.uk [16]
 - +44 (0)333 900 60 40
- Region
 - Scotland
- Admissions address
 - Sighthill Campus
 - Bankhead Avenue
 - Edinburgh
 - EH11 4DE
 - United Kingdom

Nursing (Learning Disabilities)

University of Gloucestershire

View course [17] Opens in a new window

- Qualification
 - Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)
- Study mode
 - Full-time
- Duration of the course
 - 3 Years
- Leading to a career in
 - Nursing (Learning disabilities)
- Contact details

enquiries@glos.ac.uk [18]
03330 141414

- Region
South West
Admissions address
Park Campus
The Park
Cheltenham
GL50 2RH
United Kingdom
- Load more Load more results [19]

Live vacancies

If you cannot find a job vacancy in your area, you can also visit the NHS Jobs website [20] 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 [21]
- High intensity therapist [22]
- Children's nurse [23]
- Health visitor [24]

Source URL:<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/learning-disability-nurse?page=4>

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 [8]

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates> [9] <https://www.northampton.ac.uk/courses/learning-disability-nursing-bsc-hons/>

[10] [mailto: study@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:study@northampton.ac.uk)

[11]

https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/postgraduatestudy/postgraduatecourses/learningdisabilitynursing/?utm_source=UCAS

[12] [mailto: nursing.admissions@keele.ac.uk](mailto:nursing.admissions@keele.ac.uk)

- [13] <https://www.coventry.ac.uk/course-structure/ug/2020-21/hls-nhs/learning-disabilities-nursing-bsc-hons/>
[14] [mailto: ukadmissions@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:ukadmissions@coventry.ac.uk) [15] <http://www.napier.ac.uk/en/courses/bn-nursing-learning-disabilities-undergraduate-fulltime> [16] [mailto: studentrecruitment@napier.ac.uk](mailto:studentrecruitment@napier.ac.uk) [17] <https://www.glos.ac.uk/nud> [18] [mailto: enquiries@glos.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@glos.ac.uk)
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