

# Nursing associate

Nursing associates work with healthcare support workers and registered nurses to deliver care for patients and the public.

## Working life

Nursing associates work across all four fields of nursing: adult, children's, mental health, and learning disability. Your skills and responsibilities will vary, depending on the care setting you work in. You'll need to demonstrate the values and behaviours of the [NHS Constitution](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

.

Your duties are likely to include:

- undertaking clinical tasks including venepuncture and ECGs
- supporting individuals and their families and carers when faced with unwelcome news and life-changing diagnoses
- performing and recording clinical observations such as blood pressure, temperature, respirations and pulse
- discussing and sharing information with registered nurses on a patient's condition, behaviour, activity and responses
- ensuring the privacy, dignity and safety of individuals is maintained at all times
- recognising issues relating to safeguarding vulnerable children and adults

nursing associate smiling at patient in bed

Ready to get started?

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

[Sign up for emails](#) <sup>[2]</sup>

## Pay and benefits

Your standard working week will be around 37.5 hours and may include a mix of shifts, such as nights, early starts, evenings and weekends. As a student nursing associate, you'll usually be paid on band 3 of the [Agenda for Change \(AFC\)](#) <sup>[3]</sup> pay system, with registered nursing associates usually employed on band 4.

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, which increases the longer you're in service.

## Entry requirements

To begin your training as a nursing associate, you'll need GCSEs grade 9 to 4 (A to C) in maths and English, or Functional Skills Level 2 in maths and English. Some employers will also ask for a level 3 qualification. You'll also need to show that you can study for a foundation degree level and complete the Nursing Associate Apprenticeship programme.

Student nursing associate places are usually advertised on NHS Jobs but some places are available through direct application to universities. Applicants accepted onto university courses will need to fund their own training.

### Peggy-Jane Murrell

#### Student nursing associate

I have always been made to feel very welcome and supported in my new role.

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

---

## Your training

You'll undertake a combination of academic learning and work-based learning. You'll be employed in a healthcare setting such as an acute, community or mental health hospital, care home or hospice but also gain experience in other settings. This will mean travelling to placements and working a mix of shifts.

Apprenticeships logo

It is very important to plan and manage the competing demands of your job role, study and placements. You'll develop an understanding of all elements of nursing and caring for individuals with conditions such as dementia, mental ill health and learning disabilities/difficulties.

## Career development

Once you've finished your training, you'll have the knowledge, understanding, skills, attitudes and behaviours to work as a nursing associate. Registered nursing associates can also go on to train as a registered nurse by putting their training towards a shortened nursing degree or registered nurse degree apprenticeship (RNDA).

Your nursing associate training may shorten a registered nurse degree apprenticeship to 2 years.

To find out more about the apprenticeship route, including how to apply, speak with your line manager, education team or apprenticeship lead. Your employer may want you to complete a year working as a registered nursing associate before you progress to registered nurse training.

## Registration

The Nursing and Midwifery Council ([NMC](#) <sup>[5]</sup>) is responsible for registering and regulating nursing associates.

### • Find your course to become a nursing associate

Region	Type of qualification	Full or part time
- Any - ▼	- Any - ▼	Search ▼

Displaying 1 - 5 of 26 matches

## Nursing Associate

Truro and Penwith College

[View course](#) <sup>[6]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification
  - Foundation Degree in Science - FdSc
- Study mode
  - Full-time
- Duration of the course
  - 2 Years
- Leading to a career in
  - Nursing associate
- Contact details
  - [HEenquiry@truro-penwith.ac.uk](mailto:HEenquiry@truro-penwith.ac.uk) <sup>[7]</sup>
  - 01872 305746
- Region
  - South West
- Admissions address
  - Truro College
  - College Road
  - Truro
  - TR1 3XX
  - United Kingdom

# Foundation Degree Nursing Associate

Kingston University

[View course](#) <sup>[8]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification
  - Foundation Degree in Science - FdSc
- Study mode
  - Full-time
- Duration of the course
  - 2 Years
- Leading to a career in
  - Nursing associate
- Contact details
  - [UKenquiries@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:UKenquiries@kingston.ac.uk) <sup>[9]</sup>
  - 0203 510 0106
- Region
  - London
- Admissions address
  - Yorkon Building
  - Kingston University
  - Kingston upon Thames
  - London
  - KT2 7LB
  - United Kingdom

## Nursing Associate

University of Greater Manchester

[View course](#) <sup>[10]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification
  - Foundation Degree in Science - FdSc
- Study mode
  - Full-time
- Duration of the course
  - 2 Years
- Leading to a career in
  - Nursing associate
- Contact details
  - [enquiries@bolton.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@bolton.ac.uk) <sup>[11]</sup>
  - +44 (0)1204 903903
- Region
  - North West
- Admissions address
  - Deane Road
  - Bolton
  - BL3 5AB

United Kingdom

## FdSc Nursing Associate

University of Greenwich

[View course](#) <sup>[12]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification
  - Foundation Degree in Science - FdSc
- Study mode
  - Full-time
- Duration of the course
  - 2 Years
- Leading to a career in
  - Nursing associate
- Contact details
  - [courseinfo@gre.ac.uk](mailto:courseinfo@gre.ac.uk) <sup>[13]</sup>
  - 020 8331 9000
- Region
  - London
- Admissions address
  - Avery Hill Campus
  - Avery Hill Road
  - London
  - SE9 2UG
  - United Kingdom

## Nursing Associate

University of Lincoln

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

- Qualification
  - Foundation Degree in Science - FdSc
- Study mode
  - Full-time
- Duration of the course
  - 2 Years
- Leading to a career in
  - Nursing associate
- Contact details
  - [enquiries@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@lincoln.ac.uk) <sup>[15]</sup>
  - 01522 886644
- Region
  - East Midlands
- Admissions address
  - Brayford Pool
  - Lincoln
  - LN6 7TS

- England
  - [Load more Load more results](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

## • Live vacancies

### Find a vacancy

Enter your location or postcode

Show results within

Search

#### ◦ Nursing Associate

London, SE8 5DA  
London, SE13 5PJ

Salary:  
£30000.00 to £33000.00

Type:  
Permanent

Employer:  
Penrose Health

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

#### ◦ Nursing Associate

Gateshead, NE11 0QD

Salary:  
£15.43

Type:  
Bank

Employer:  
Community Based Care Workforce Solutions LTD

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

#### ◦ Nursing Associate

Salisbury, SP1 3UH  
Salisbury, SP5 1PQ  
Salisbury, SP4 0LR

Salisbury, SP1 1DX

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Three Chequers Medical Practice

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate**

Salisbury, SP5 3JP

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Downton Surgery

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[20]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate**

Sheffield, S1 4RH

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate**

Cambridge, CB22 3FB

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[22]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate**

Hove, BN3 4AG

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [23]

- **Nursing Associate**

Stockport, SK3 8NR

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [24]

- **Nursing Associate**

Lowestoft, NR32 1DE

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Coast Community Healthcare CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [25]

- **Nursing Associate**

Haywards Heath, RH16 4EX

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [26]

- **Nursing Associate - Ward L5**

Salford, M6 8HD

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00



Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate - Ward L5 job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[27]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate (Band 4)**

Bury, BL9 7RG

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bury Hospice

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate \(Band 4\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[28]</sup>

- **Band 4 Nursing Associate**

Clapham, Bedford, MK41 6AT

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 4 Nursing Associate job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[29]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate Special Schools**

Walsall, WS29PS

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate Special Schools job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[30]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate - Band 4**

Swindon, SN25 4AN

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

HCRG Care Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate - Band 4 job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[31]</sup>

- **Qualified Nursing Associate - Community**

Durham, DH1 5RD

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Qualified Nursing Associate - Community job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[32]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate - Burns & Plastics**

Whiston, L35 5DR

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate - Burns & Plastics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[33]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate for General Practice**

London, E8 3HN

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Richmond Road Medical Centre

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate for General Practice job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[34]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate - Bury Town INT**

Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3YU

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate - Bury Town INT job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[35]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate - Stort Valley and Villages**

Bishops Stortford, CM23 5JH

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate - Stort Valley and Villages job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[36]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate - Integrated Sexual Health and HIV**

London, W2 1NY

Salary:

£33094.00 to £36195.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate - Integrated Sexual Health and HIV job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[37]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate – Physical Health in Inpatient Mental Health**

Orpington, BR6 8NY

Salary:

£31081.00 to £33665.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate – Physical Health in Inpatient Mental Health job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[38]</sup>

## • **Return to practice**

If you're no longer a registered nursing associate, returning to practice is really straightforward. Here's how you can do it:

- readmission
- Test of competence
- return to practice course

### **Readmission**

You might be able to re-register with the [NMC](#) <sup>[5]</sup> without doing a course or a test. You'll need to [contact the NMC](#) <sup>[39]</sup> to find out how to do this.

### **Test of competence**

The test is made up of two parts:

- a multiple choice computer based test (CBT)
- a practical test known as the [Objective structured clinical examination \(OSCE\)](#) <sup>[40]</sup>

You can apply through the [NMC website](#) <sup>[41]</sup>, where you'll also find lots of preparation materials and essential reading to help you revise for the test.

### **Return to practice course**

A return to practice course will refresh your skills, leaving you ready to return to being a nursing associate with confidence. It involves a combination of classroom and placement-based learning. Find return to practice courses on our [course finder](#). <sup>[42]</sup>

## **Other roles that may interest you**

- [Healthcare assistant](#) <sup>[43]</sup>
- [Adult nurse](#) <sup>[44]</sup>
- [Assistant practitioner](#) <sup>[45]</sup>
- [Knowledge and library services](#) <sup>[46]</sup>

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/node/4139/nursing-associate>

### **Links**

[1] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#NHS\\_Constitution](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#NHS_Constitution) [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/we-are-the-nhs/registration?career=nursing-guide> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/nursing-associate/real-life-story-peggy-jane-murrell> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#NMC> [6] <https://www.truro-penwith.ac.uk/courses/fdsc-nursing-associate-2/> [7] [mailto: HEenquiry@truro-penwith.ac.uk](mailto:HEenquiry@truro-penwith.ac.uk) [8]

<https://www.kingston.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/nursing-associate-fdsc/> [9] [mailto: UKenquiries@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:UKenquiries@kingston.ac.uk) [10] <https://www.bolton.ac.uk/course/NRS029-F-UOB-AX/2021-22/> [11] [mailto: enquiries@bolton.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@bolton.ac.uk) [12] <https://www.gre.ac.uk/foundation-degrees/eduhea/nursing-associate-foundation-degree> [13] [mailto: courseinfo@gre.ac.uk](mailto:courseinfo@gre.ac.uk) [14] <https://www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/course/nurasouf/> [15] [mailto: enquiries@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@lincoln.ac.uk) [16] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/3471?page=1> [17] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/A5321-25-0007> [18] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/M0065-25-0007> [19] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/A3179-25-0028> [20] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/A5734-25-0003> [21] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9457-25-0268> [22] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/B0202-25-0039> [23] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9354-25-0829> [24] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9362-25-0670> [25] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/B9849-088-25> [26] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9279-25-1463> [27] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9236-25-1360> [28] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/B0085-25-0019> [29] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9363-25-0812> [30] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9407-25-0265> [31] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0279-25-1321> [32] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9346-25-0950> [33] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9409-25-0667> [34] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/A2192-25-0004> [35] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9179-25-0387> [36] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9812-25-0398> [37] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9290-25-0970> [38] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9277-25-0956> [39] <https://www.nmc.org.uk/contact-us/> [40] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Objective\\_structured\\_clinical\\_examination\\_OSCE](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Objective_structured_clinical_examination_OSCE) [41] <https://www.nmc.org.uk/registration/joining-the-register/toc/na-toc-2021/> [42] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field\\_leading\\_to\\_a\\_career\\_in\\_tid=3428&field\\_region\\_tid=All&field\\_qualification\\_type\\_tid=All&field\\_qualification\\_level\\_tid=All](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field_leading_to_a_career_in_tid=3428&field_region_tid=All&field_qualification_type_tid=All&field_qualification_level_tid=All) [43] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/healthcare-assistant> [44] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/adult-nurse> [45] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/assistant-practitioner> [46] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/knowledge-and-library-services>