

# 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>

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## 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 11 - 15 of 26 matches

## Nursing Associate

University of Cumbria

[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
- Region
  - North West
- Admissions address
  - Bowerham Road
  - Lancaster
  - LA1 3JD
  - United Kingdom

## Nursing Associate

University of Huddersfield

[View course](#) <sup>[7]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification
  - Foundation Degree - FD
- Study mode
  - Full-time
- Duration of the course
  - 2 Years
- Leading to a career in
  - Nursing associate
- Contact details
  - [hhsadmissionsinfo@hud.ac.uk](mailto:hhsadmissionsinfo@hud.ac.uk) <sup>[8]</sup>
  - +44 (0)1484 957504
- Region
  - Yorkshire and The Humber
- Admissions address
  - Queensgate
  - Huddersfield
  - HD1 3DH
  - United Kingdom

## Foundation degree in nursing associate practice

Open University

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

- Study mode
  - Distance learning/online
- Duration of the course
  - 2 - 4 years
- Leading to a career in
  - Nursing associate
- Contact details
  - [www.open.ac.uk/contact/new](http://www.open.ac.uk/contact/new) <sup>[10]</sup>
  - 0300 3035303
- Region
  - South East

## Nursing associate foundation degree

Coventry University

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

- Study mode
  - Full-time
- Duration of the course
  - 2 years
- Leading to a career in
  - Nursing associate
- Contact details
  - [admissions.hls@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:admissions.hls@coventry.ac.uk) <sup>[12]</sup>

+44 (0) 24 7765 5959

- Region  
West Midlands

## Nursing associate FdSc

Edge Hill University

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

- Study mode  
Full-time  
Duration of the course  
2 years  
Leading to a career in  
Nursing associate
- Contact details  
[www.edgehill.ac.uk/study/enquire/](http://www.edgehill.ac.uk/study/enquire/) <sup>[14]</sup>  
01695 657000
- Region  
North West  
Admissions address  
Edge Hill University  
St Helens Road  
Lancashire  
Ormskirk  
L39 4QP
- Load more Load more results <sup>[15]</sup>

### • Live vacancies

## Find a vacancy

Enter your location or postcode

Show results within

Search

- **Student Nursing Associates (SNA)**

Reading, RG1 5AN

Salary:

£24937.00 to £26598.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Student Nursing Associates \(SNA\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate**

Middleton St George, DL2 1BY

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Middleton and Dinsdale Medical Practice

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

- **Nursing Associate**

Swadlincote, DE11 0HU

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Newhall Surgery

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

- **Nursing Associate**

Lincoln, LN6 3QX

Salary:

£13.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Heart of Lincoln Medical Group (HLMG)

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

- **Nursing Associate**

Eltham, SE9 5AB

Salary:

£31081.00 to £33665.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Nursing Associate**

Kent-wide, TN25 4AZ

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Nursing Associate**

North Shields, NE29 0SF

NORTH SHIELDS, NE29 0SF

North Shields, NE29 0DZ

North Shields, NE29 8EA

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Collingwood Health Group

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

- **Nursing Associate**

Rotherham, S60 2SW

Salary:

£25873.00 to £31623.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Rotherham Hospice

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

- **Nursing Associate**

Walton-on-thames, KT12 3LD

Staines-upon-Thames, TW181XD

Salary:

£28860.00 to £31671.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CSH Surrey

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

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) [25]

- **Nursing Associate**

Manchester, M23 9LT

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Nursing Associate**

Bromsgrove, B61 0BB

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [27]

- **Nursing Associate**

Frimley, GU16 7UJ

Salary:

£27857.00 to £30570.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Nursing Associate - Community**

Oldham, OL4 1DE

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **BANK Nursing Associate**

Chelmsford, CM2 6JT

Salary:

£14.43 to £14.43

Type:

Bank

Employer:

HCRG Care Group

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

- **Nursing Associate - District Nursing**

Manchester, M16 0LW

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Nursing Associate - District Nursing**

Salford, M28 3JE

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Band 4 Nursing Associate**

Birmingham, B18 7EE

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS FT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 4 Nursing Associate job \(opens in a new window\)](#)  
<sup>[33]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate - Band 4**

Plymouth, PL9 9XA

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

St Luke's Hospice Plymouth

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate - Band 4 job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[34]</sup>

- **HCA or Nursing Associate**

Leicester, LE2 1XD

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Victoria Park Health Centre

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

- **Nursing Associate HMP Woodhill**

Milton Keynes, MK4 4DA

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate HMP Woodhill job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[36]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate - HMYOI Feltham**

Feltham, Middlesex, TW13 4NP

Salary:

£32199.00 to £34876.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate - HMYOI Feltham job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[37]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate - Heart Failure Team**

Salford, M6 8HD

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate - Heart Failure Team job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[38]</sup>

- **Nursing Associate - Pre Admission Screening**

Davyhulme, M41 5SL

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate - Pre Admission Screening job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[39]</sup>

- **Childrens Nursing Associate-Childrens ED and Observation Unit**

Aylesbury, HP21 8AL

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Childrens Nursing Associate-Childrens ED and Observation Unit job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[40]</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>[41]</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>[42]</sup>

You can apply through the [NMC website](#) <sup>[43]</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>[44]</sup>

## Other roles that may interest you

- [Healthcare assistant](#) [45]
- [Adult nurse](#) [46]
- [Assistant practitioner](#) [47]
- [Knowledge and library services](#) [48]

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### 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.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/nursing-associate/> [7] <https://courses.hud.ac.uk/full-time/undergraduate/foundation-degree-nursing-associate> [8] [mailto: hhsadmissionsinfo@hud.ac.uk](mailto:hhsadmissionsinfo@hud.ac.uk) [9] <https://www.open.ac.uk/courses/nursing-healthcare/diplomas/foundation-degree-in-nursing-associate-practice-x20> [10] [mailto: www.open.ac.uk/contact/new](mailto:www.open.ac.uk/contact/new) [11] <https://www.coventry.ac.uk/course-structure/ug/diploma/nursing-associate-foundation-degree/> [12] [mailto: admissions.hls@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:admissions.hls@coventry.ac.uk) [13] <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/courses/nursing-associate/> [14] [mailto: www.edgehill.ac.uk/study/enquire](mailto:www.edgehill.ac.uk/study/enquire) [15] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/3471?career=nursing-guide&field\\_field\\_role=3839&page=3](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/3471?career=nursing-guide&field_field_role=3839&page=3) [16] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9193-25-0588> [17] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/A1503-25-0002> [18] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/A5049-25-0007> [19] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/A0720-25-0012> [20] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9277-25-0847> [21] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9846-25-0490> [22] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/A3676-25-0010> [23] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/B0109-25-0005> [24] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/B9074-25-0014-4> [25] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/A3179-25-0022> [26] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9349-25-2278> [27] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9798-1529> [28] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9151-25-0829> [29] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9236-25-1252> [30] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0279-25-1258> [31] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9349-25-2200> [32] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9236-25-1269> [33] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9820-25-0589> [34] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/B0259-25-0013> [35] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/A2936-25-0007> [36] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9333-25-0907> [37] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9333-25-0883> [38] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9236-25-1226> [39] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9349-25-2268> [40] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9434-25-0746> [41] <https://www.nmc.org.uk/contact-us/> [42] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Objective\\_structured\\_clinical\\_examination\\_OSCE](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Objective_structured_clinical_examination_OSCE) [43] <https://www.nmc.org.uk/registration/joining-the-register/toc/na-toc-2021/> [44] [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\\_](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_)

[45] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/healthcare-assistant> [46] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/adult-nurse> [47] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/assistant-practitioner> [48] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/knowledge-and-library-services>