

"People in the UK really love their nurses. I feel it personally. It has been an honour working as a nurse for the NHS for the last 15 years."

Meet Pooja who shares her experience as an international nurse.

Pooja Poddar

Sister

Pooja moved to the UK from India over 19 years ago and since joining the NHS, she has steadily progressed in her career and been supported all along the way.



What is it like working as a nurse for the NHS?

People in the UK really love their nurses. I feel it personally. It has been an honour working as a nurse for the NHS for the last 15 years. I feel very privileged to be so involved in patient care and my role has given me more self-confidence.

What makes the NHS unique?

The healthcare system in the UK is different from other countries. Here, you can turn up and get medical help. It doesn't matter whether you are a CEO or a cleaner – everyone is treated equally.

What additional training have you received?

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As a nurse, you have to do revalidation to renew your registration with the [NMC](#) ^[1] every three years, so that's how you keep your skills and knowledge up to date. Every nursing specialty has its own requirements. I've taken leadership and management courses, and I've also learned about legislation and regulations around patient care. I've also had a lot of training and completed a secondment for a Band 6 role, which has given me more insight into management positions.

How has your career developed?

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My career has dramatically improved since I joined the NHS. I have been given many opportunities to grow my career and I've been supported and guided along the way.

- **How has working for the NHS built your confidence?**

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I've had a huge amount of support from my manager and the trust I work for. If there's an issue, support is available and I know who I can speak with right away.

How is living in England?

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England is a beautiful place to live with a good quality of life. I've really enjoyed living in England – I've been here for 19 years and I feel more welcomed as each day goes on.

What is life like outside of work?

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We live in Bristol, which is a small county with a large Indian population. I've become part of the Indian community here – It's like my home away from home. We celebrate festivals such as Independence Day and Republican Day, plus there are a lot of functions and family gatherings.

Find out more

Sign up to receive more information to support you on your journey to nursing in England

Start your journey ^[2]

Source URL:<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/we-are-the-nhs/nursing-careers/international-recruitment/international-nurses-share-their-stories/pooja>

Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#NMC> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/we-are-the-nhs/nursing-careers/international-recruitment/we-are-nurses-we-are-nhs/start-your-journey-new-life-england/start-your-journey-new-life>