

Compare roles in health

Not sure where to start with the hundreds of NHS careers? Use our compare roles section to get bite-size information on the entry requirements and training, pay and conditions, prospects and skills needed of up to three roles. If there is something that you think you could do, then get more in-depth information on the role.

Don't forget, you can also save your role comparisons by registering with us.

- **Adult nurse** ^[1]

Adult nursing is a rewarding career where you have a real chance to make a difference to people's lives. As part of your training, you can expect to learn new skills and procedures that help patients.

Training and qualifications required

Entry requirements for adult nursing degrees and nursing degree apprenticeships are set by the individual universities and employers respectively, but typically you will usually need a minimum of five GCSEs at grade C/4 or above plus two A-levels or equivalent qualifications, such as a T level or BTEC at level 3. Some universities may ask for three A-levels or equivalent.

Expected working hours and salary range

Adult nurses in the NHS will usually work standard hours of 37.5 per week and will start at Agenda for Change band 5 with opportunities to progress. Many adult nurses will work shifts, especially within in-patient departments. Terms and conditions can vary for employers outside of the NHS, such as the police force or prison service.

Desirable skills and values

As you will be responsible for a number of patients, each with different needs, you have to be highly organised, flexible and able to prioritise effectively. On top of this, a good adult nurse is also highly observant, able to assess patients and take responsibility for determining the best course of action for them.

Prospects

You could specialise in areas such as operating theatres, care for the elderly or intensive care. You may want to work in public health, management, teaching or clinical research.

Related roles

- [Children's nurse](#) [2]
- [General practice nurse](#) [3]
- [District nurse](#) [4]
- [Learning disability nurse](#) [5]

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