

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.

Learning disability nurse [1]

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.

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

Learning disability nurses in the NHS will usually work standard hours of 37.5 per week and will start at band 5 of Agenda for Change with opportunities to progress. Some learning disability nurses will work shifts, especially within in-patient departments. Terms and conditions can vary for employers outside of the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

Learning disability nurses focus on managing their clients' needs over a longer time, often having to be creative to achieve results. You'll need patience and have highly-developed, flexible communication skills. The job can be stressful and demanding so self-awareness helps. You'll sometimes need to be assertive to ensure people with a learning disability do not suffer discrimination. Sensitive human interaction is also a core skill.

Prospects

Some nurses decide to do into service management or clinical academic research. You could specialise in a sensory disability, such as autism or a specific setting such as education. You may also want to consider areas outside of nursing such as a psychological well-being practitioner or high-intensity therapist.

Related roles

- Mental health nurse [2]
- High intensity therapist [3]
- Children's nurse [4]
- Health visitor [5]

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Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/learning-disability-nurse>

[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/mental-health-nurse>

[3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/roles/high-intensity-therapist>

[4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/childrens-nurse>

[5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/health-visitor>