LEARNING DISABILITY NURSING

Starting salary for learning disability nurses in the NHS is Agenda for Change band 5 £24,214 outside London. [1]

Starting Pay
£24,214
AFTER TRAINING

£

‘What they say’

“The focus is not on ‘making people better’. It’s about enabling each person to reach their full potential, increase their independence and enjoy an improved quality of life.” [4]
Sarah Trute, (community behaviour specialist)

94%

94% of nursing students get a job within six months of finishing their course. [3]

One university runs a dual field course where you can combine learning disability nursing with child nursing. [6]

Standard working week in the NHS is 37.5 hours [6]

29 universities across the UK run degree courses in learning disability nursing.[1]

Entry requirements
To become a learning disability nurse, you’ll need to study for a degree level qualification in nursing through either a full-time course or a nursing degree apprenticeship. You’ll typically need a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4-9/C or above plus two or three A-levels or equivalent qualifications at level 3. [2]

3,244
learning disability nurses work in the NHS. [3]

94%

94% of nursing students get a job within six months of finishing their course. [3]

Length of training
Training through a full-time university course usually takes three years. However, if you already have a degree in a relevant subject, you can often get recognition for this, enabling you to do the course in two years. A nursing degree apprenticeship usually takes four years. [2]

Skills and qualities needed
Patience, self-awareness and highly-developed, flexible communication skills are essential. 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. [7]


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