

LEARNING DISABILITY NURSING



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

'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. ^[5]



3,244

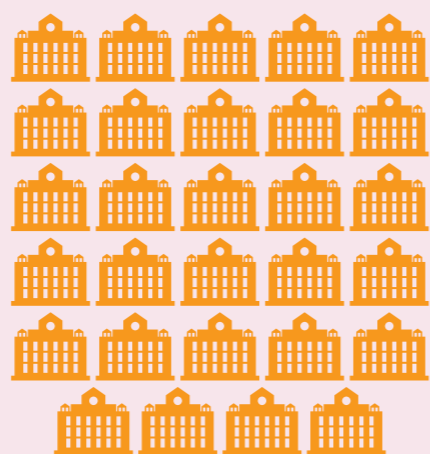
learning disability nurses work in the NHS. ^[3]

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 **4 years**. ^[2]



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



29 universities

across the UK run degree courses in learning disability nursing. ^[6]



One university

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



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]

Facts and figures taken from; [1] www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/AfC [2] www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/studying-nursing [3] <https://files.digital.nhs.uk/56/C50BAD/NHS%20Workforce%20Statistics%2C%20February%202019%20Staff%20Group%2C%20Care%20Setting%20and%20Level.xlsx> [4] www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/learning-disability-nurse/real-life-story-sarah-trute [5] www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/EXPLORE-ROLES/nursing/studying-nursing [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/courses> [7] www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/learning-disability-nurse/personal-characteristics-and-skills-required-learning-disability-nursing