



A new pathway into nursing

The government have announced the creation of a new role within the NHS – the Nursing Associate. It will provide a new route into becoming a fully qualified Nurse; one that hasn't been available to many people since nursing became a graduate career in 2013.

At the moment, in order to become a fully qualified Nurse, you need to study for an accredited degree in nursing. However, as a Nursing Associate, you will gain the knowledge and experience you need by working alongside Care Assistants, under the instruction of a qualified Nurse. You will also study in order to gain a Healthcare based Foundation Degree, which will then lead onto a shortened Nursing degree.

You will work in hospitals, looking after people who are ill or injured. This will include giving medicines and injections to patients, cleaning and dressing wounds, and helping to monitor the patient's vital signs.

You will be able to specialise as either a:

- Adult Nursing Associate
- Children's Nursing Associate
- Mental Health Nursing Associate.

The role is expected to be paid according to the NHS salary band 4, which currently stands at £19,217 – £22,458.

Over 1000 Nursing Associates began training in late 2016 – and this will be followed by a second wave of a further 1000 places, following a huge amount of interest

Eleven sites or 'Lead Partners' have been chosen to deliver the first wave of training that started in December 2016 and will run over a two year period. The eleven lead partners are:

South

- Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust

This new role provides a fantastic hands-on opportunity for many people, who do not have the necessary qualifications to go down the traditional nursing degree route. It will also give people the chance to earn as they learn, opening up the world of nursing to a whole new cohort.