

Prior Pursglove College Careers Service



**Maximise your chances of success in...
Nursing**

Nurses... assess, plan and care for patients. Your role as a nurse very much depends upon the branch you choose to enter. There are four branches and you must choose 1 at the point of applying - these branches are Adult, Child, Mental Health and Learning Disability. New - De Montford University offer dual registration Nursing degrees (e.g. Adult and Child registration)

Relevant websites to use for researching the job role

NHS Careers - www.nhs.uk/nhs-careers

Nursing and Midwifery Council - www.nmc-uk.org

NHS Choices (particularly for NHS Values) - www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx

Qualifications needed/routes in

All Nurses need to be degree qualified. All Nursing degrees will require you to have a C or above in Maths and English at GCSE. Many will also ask for a C at GCSE Science, so check carefully with each Uni you're interested in.

At A Level, Universities are asking for between 112 - 128 points (BBC - ABB)

Alternatives might include - first degree in health or social science area followed by a conversion to Nursing afterwards, this usually takes 2 years. It's available at 15 universities, the closest being Huddersfield and York.

Worried can't make the grades for degrees? Foundation years:

Birmingham City: Adult/MH Nursing Foundation Year - progress to Adult or Mental Health Nursing only – 88 points, must include 1 science (applied accepted) or Psychology.

Bristol (UWE): Health Professions Foundation year – progress to Nursing (all branches), Midwifery, Physio, OT or Radiography. Applications assessed on an individual basis.

CUSU (Scarborough): Health and Social Care Foundation year: 40 points and 5 GCSEs, including Maths and English.

Keele: Health Foundation Year: grades vary (check website) but around 64 points. Plus C's in Maths and English GCSE. Progress to: Nursing, Midwifery, Pharmacy, Physio.

Manchester Met: Integrated health and social care – progress to Adult or MH Nursing only. 72 - 80 points.

Salford: MH Nursing Foundation year, 64 points (CC). GCSEs at C in Maths, English and Science. Automatic progression to chosen nursing route if passed.

Work Experience

Work experience is essential for entry onto Nursing degrees. Contact your progress tutor or faculty manager to discuss your options.

James Cook University Hospital take students on placement. They are also taking on volunteers - you must do a 2 day induction first before you will get any shifts on the wards and commit to 2 hours a week for a minimum of 6 months. Care Homes are another good place to volunteer to demonstrate caring and compassion. First aid courses or experience with St John Ambulance or British Red Cross shows your interest, team working and organisational skills. You will need to understand the nursing profession and the particular strand of nursing you wish to pursue. Obviously it would be advisable to do some work experience in the area you are wanting to specialise in whether it be Adult/Child/Mental Health or Learning Disabilities.

See the James Cook placements website for info about possibilities and the application form.

Competition per place and how to better your application

Nursing is notoriously competitive. Each year we have students rejected for all 5 of their Nursing choices. Mostly this is down to one of 3 things: poor predicted grades, a lack of work experience or a poor personal statement. To better your application:

- Be knowledgeable about the role of a Nurse and the branch you wish to enter, and how that branch differs from the others
- Look up the NHS Constitution 2013 on Google, and refer to each of the NHS Values listed on page 5 into your personal statement. Especially important for Teesside Nursing applicants, as Teesside 'score' your statement against each NHS value
- Do your work experience well in advance of applying to UCAS and make sure you reflect well on it in your personal statement
- Read Nursing journals and watch the news in order to be aware of new treatments
- Compare different nursing approaches with different patient groups.

Interview structure and interview preparation

The structure does vary between Universities but on the whole a Nursing interview consists of a full or half day session with a group of students (6 - 8), introductory bits (talk, tour of campus etc), numeracy and literacy tests, group interview and/or individual interview.

PPC Careers department has a PowerPoint presentation 'Preparing for your nursing interview', which goes through this, including some useful websites to use for research prior to the interview.

Look out for the 'Prepare for your Nursing interview' session which runs in the Autumn term each year and attend this.

Typical Interview Questions –

1. Why did you want to be a Nurse?
2. Why this branch of Nursing?
3. What do you think makes a good nurse?
4. How would you communicate with someone who doesn't speak English?
5. What experiences have you had to prepare you for being a good nurse?
6. What do you understand by 'equal opportunities'?
7. What is the Nurse's role in the community?
8. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time, or post registration?
9. What do you think are the most pressing issues in the NHS currently?

Finance

Nursing students now have to pay tuition fees just like any other student—and take out maintenance loans to fund their way through university.

Related Careers

Ambulance paramedic, Care Assistant, Childminder, Dental Nurse, Family Support Worker, Health Visitor, Operating Department Practitioner, Physiotherapist, Play Therapist, Social Worker, Speech Therapist.



Expanding opportunities

Enhancing futures

Working as part of



Prior Pursglove College,
Church Walk,
Guisborough,
TS14 6BU
(01287) 280 800

www.pursglove.ac.uk

ppc.enquiries@pursglove.ac.uk

[f /priorpursglovecollege](https://www.facebook.com/priorpursglovecollege)

[@PriorPursglove](https://twitter.com/PriorPursglove)

[@PriorPursglove](https://www.instagram.com/PriorPursglove)

The information contained in this leaflet is to the best of our knowledge, correct at the time of printing but all or any details may change.