

Prior Pursglove College Careers Service



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

Nursing

Nurses assess, plan and care for patients. There are four branches, choose ONE of: Adult, Child, Mental Health and Learning Disability. Check out the Nursing and Midwifery Council: www.nmc-uk.org

Entry: Nursing degrees require C / grade 4 Maths and English GCSE. Many also ask for a C / grade 4 GCSE Science. At A Level, Universities often require two (of three) subjects from Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Health and Social Care. Check requirements carefully. Foundation years are available at: Birmingham City, Bristol (UWE), Coventry Uni at Scarborough, Keele, Manchester Met and Salford (between 64-88 pts).

Work Experience: essential. Placements and ongoing volunteering at James Cook is available to apply for—see Diane for forms. Or Care homes, GP surgeries, home carer experience is fine too.

Bettering application: Be know how your branch differs from the others, look up the NHS Constitution, know the NHS Values, 75% of statement needs to be on work experience and what you learnt, read Nursing journals and watch the news , compare different nursing approaches with different patient groups. Interviews: full or half day session with a group of students (6-8), introductory talk, tour of campus, numeracy and literacy tests, group interview and/or individual interview. Look out for the 'Prepare for your Nursing interview' session which runs in the Autumn term each year and attend this.

Midwifery

Midwifery is about supporting the woman and her partner with the birth of their baby. It is not just about babies! Check out the Royal College of Midwives: www.rcm.org.uk for more info. Know about likely duties of a Midwife in three areas: pre-Birth (e.g. health eating, birthing plans) Labour (Pain relief) and post-natal (breastfeeding, bathing, temperature control).

To qualify as a registered midwife, the quickest route is to complete a degree in midwifery. To get onto this, you need 5 GCSEs (must include C's in Maths, English AND Science) plus A Levels of around ABB—BBB (128-120 points). Most Universities specify that you take Biology. Closest Universities offering Midwifery are: Teesside, Northumbria, Leeds, York. Foundation years: For students who are concerned they will not make the grades for Midwifery, or for students who have not taken Biology at A Level, they may want to consider a Foundation year:

Birmingham City—96 pts/CCC

Central Lancashire—64 pts

Coventry – Health and Social Care (L592) Foundation Year: 40points

Keele – Health Foundation Year: CCD

London South Bank: Extended Midwifery—48-64pts

Occupational Therapy

OT's assess and treat using activity to promote independence. College of Occupational Therapists www.cot.co.uk

Entry: 3 year degree (BSc in Occupational Therapy). A science subject at A Level usually required (Biology), but check with each University, some accept Health and Social Care or Psychology. Alternatively, 2 year graduate entry for graduates of a Health or science degree.

Work Experience: Ideally 2 days of work shadowing an Occupational Therapist. James Cook offer a 3 day placement, see Diane for forms.

Bettering application: understand how an OT's role is different to others roles, reflect on visits to OT departments in your statement—describe the visit in full and what you learned, understand the difference between OT's working in different environments—in social services as opposed to mental health.

Physiotherapy

Maximise range of movement and promote health and wellbeing. Website: Chartered Society of Physiotherapists: www.csp.org.uk

Entry: A science subject at A Level required (Biology or PE). You need a 3 year degree (BSc in Physiotherapy). Alternatively, there are 2 year graduate entry schemes for graduates of a Health/Biology degree.

Work Experience: Essential, ideally in an NHS setting, but within the community is also acceptable, gyms, GP surgeries, sports clubs. You can apply to James Cook University Hospital for a **2 day placement**, see Diane for forms.

Bettering application: Be knowledgeable about the role of a Physio: look at the CSP website. Visits to Physio departments in your personal statement—describe the visit in full and what you learned. Understand the difference between different environments—in the community as opposed to in a hospital. Keep up to date with the latest news, using the CSP website.

Radiography

Using radiation, such as x-rays, radioisotopes, ultrasound and magnetic resonance to help diagnose or treat patients who are ill or injured. There are two types of radiography: Diagnostic – diagnose injury or disease. Therapeutic – (sometimes called Oncology) the treatment of cancers.

Good websites: Society of Radiographers: www.sor.org and Radiography Careers: www.radiographycareers.co.uk.

Entry: A degree in Radiography— one Science A Level (Biology preferred). Alternatively, a degree in a Health/Science followed by a 1 year postgraduate course (PGDip or MSc) in Radiography.

Work Experience: one day in an Imaging Department. You can apply to JCUH for a placement in Neuroradiology. Please note: Some Unis (eg Liverpool, Salford, Cumbria) require a 'Clinical Visit' form completed by a health professional.

Bettering application: Be knowledgeable about the role of an Radiographer. Reflect on any visits to Radiography/Imaging departments in your personal statement— describe the visit in full and what you learned. Understand the vital nature of teamwork as a Radiographer—understand what is meant by 'multi-disciplinary team'.

Know what skills are the most necessary for the role, namely: confidence with IT/ technology, ability to understand the emotional needs of patients who are ill, accuracy and attention to detail to 'read' scans, and excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Know about the SOR's Code of conduct and ethics which all radiographers should work to. Keep up to date with the latest news affecting the sector, using the SOR website.

Speech Therapy

Assess and support people with communication problems and help people who have difficulties with eating, drinking and swallowing. Entry: a 3 year degree in Speech Therapy. You usually need one Science A Level to get onto this (usually Biology).

Good website: www.rcslt.org

Work Experience: Volunteering in a special needs school is a good idea—often children there have speech therapists coming in. James Cook Hospital runs a one day training session delivered by speech therapists. Also, Therapeutic care volunteering at James Cook is beneficial.

How to better your application: Reflect on how inability to communicate can affect people emotionally. Name some actual speech disorders. Name methods you have seen to help people with speech difficulties e.g. Makaton, PEC's. Practical support/aids to help.



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