

Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship – Frequently Asked Questions



What do Registered Nurse Degree Apprentices do in the NHS?

Nurses work as part of a team and provide direct patient care. They work in a variety of settings, including hospital wards, operating theatres, clinics, doctors' surgeries and patients' homes. Nurse apprentices will work in a main place of work, undertake study and also have a variety of clinical placements during their apprenticeship.

What are the different fields of Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeships?

Dorset is offering two fields of nurse training as an apprenticeship - mental health nursing and adult nursing.

Does the Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship lead to a full degree?

Yes, the nursing degree apprenticeship will enable people to train to become a Graduate Registered Nurse through an apprentice route. This will be exactly the same degree as anyone attending university full time. It is the way that this degree is delivered that is different as apprentices will be based in the work place as well as studying with a university.

Apprentices will be released by their employer to study part-time with a university and will train in a range of practice placement settings. Apprentices will study with a university that is a Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) approved education provider and will be expected to achieve the same standards as any other student nurse.

What qualification is achieved through the Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship?

Depending on the specialism the degree awarded upon successful completion will be either a BSc (Honours) Adult Nursing or BSc (Honours) Mental Health Nursing.

How is the Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship funded?

Registered Nurse Degree Apprentices won't have to pay tuition fees. The cost of the apprenticeship will be paid by employers.

Applications and interviews will be a part of determining who is successful in gaining an apprenticeship within a health organisation in Dorset. It is expected that there will be more applicants than places available and so a full recruitment and selection process will take place across Dorset.



Will a Registered Nurse Degree Apprentice go on placements?

Yes, all apprentices will be based in a main place of work, which could change throughout the apprenticeship programme. In addition to this place of work apprentices will have placements over the four years which will be in a variety of settings. These may be for a day or two a week or blocks over the years of the course. Placements will be in Dorset, however, apprentices will need to travel to these places of work and the length and days of shifts could vary. Successful applicants applying to this apprenticeship programme can request a particular area to be based in however there is no guarantee where apprentices will be based for their main place of work or on placements.

Where will a Registered Nurse Degree Apprentice study?

Those successful in applying for an apprenticeship will study with Solent University (Southampton) or with Bournemouth University. In general, study release will be one day a week.

How many hours will a Registered Nurse Degree Apprentice work?

The apprenticeship is a fulltime role which is 37.5 hours a week in the NHS. During the apprenticeship there will be a requirement to experience essential all round care to meet patient needs. Part of the apprenticeship work in a healthcare role could include a variety of shift patterns and at may include day or night shifts and weekends and bank holidays.

Will Registered Nurse Degree Apprentices wear uniforms?

Yes, in general Nurse Apprentices will wear the uniform linked to where they are studying, however in a few clinical settings uniforms are not worn and nurses wear their own clothes. In the case where a uniform is not worn a dress code will still be in place. The organisation that employs the apprentice will provide the uniform.

How long will the Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship take to complete?

In general, the nurse apprenticeship is four years long, assuming that all areas are successfully completed on time. However, in addition to the degree an apprentice undertakes an End Point Assessment which will take place at the end of the four years. Once the degree has successfully been completed nurses apply to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) for a PIN number in order to be able to practice as a registered nurse.

If someone has some relevant care experience and/or relevant qualifications and wants to apply for the Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship can they get any accreditation for previous experience and studies?

In a few cases there may be some accreditation for previous relevant study which may mean apprentices could be able to complete the nurse apprenticeship in a shorter time. However, this cohort of apprentices is specifically for those who are not in a current clinical role. Any

previous relevant study will be discussed on an individual basis if invited to interview and the University will need to decide if any transfer of study is relevant to the nurse apprenticeship.

Is there an age restriction on training for a Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship?

There is no upper age limit to start a nurse apprenticeship. It is expected that those who are applying straight from school or college would be 18 by the start of the programme in September 2019. Potential applicants with their 18th birthday in September 2019 are still eligible to apply.

What is the salary for a Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship for the September 2019 programme?

At the start of the apprenticeship programme, new apprentices will be paid a Band 2 salary. Upon successfully completing the first year pay will progress to Band 3 salary. A Band 2 starting salary is currently £17,460.

Will Registered Nurse Degree Apprentices be entitled to paid holiday leave?

Yes, full time staff joining the NHS are entitled to 27 paid annual leave days per year and an average of 8 public holidays. All annual leave will need to be agreed through the line manager and taken within specific times of the apprenticeship programme. (for example; not during placement time). There may be requirement to work on some public holidays with leave taken at an alternative time. Any prior booked leave should be discussed if invited to interview.

Will Registered Nurse Degree Apprentices be entitled to other staff benefits?

Yes, there are a number of staff benefits open to NHS employees including; pensions, staff discount at certain outlets, access to some corporate memberships, student discount card for apprentices and many more.

What could a future career look like for a Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship?

Qualified nurses can undertake nursing roles in both primary and secondary care in many areas of work and in many clinical areas. We will expect our apprentices to remain working in Dorset after they have qualified as a nurse for a period of time. With further experience, future careers can include advanced practice nursing, nurse education and mentoring, and healthcare management, such as ward sister or lead nurse.

Can a Registered Nurse Degree Apprentice become a Health Visitor, a District Nurse or a School Nurse?

No, not as a direct route through this apprenticeship, however adult nurses can go on to undertake further study after having experience as a nurse to specialise in one of these areas and mental health nurses can also move into the health visiting in time.



Do Registered Nurse Degree Apprentices work in Learning Disability Services?

We do have specialist learning disability services in Dorset and within many clinical areas apprentices may gain some experience of working with someone with a learning disability.

It is possible apprentices may be placed in a learning disability team at some point over the apprenticeship programme. Learning disability services do employ mental health nurses. If individuals are interested in learning disability nursing please do email us via the website.

How do you apply for the Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship?

Applications will be on line via the "Join Our Dorset" website www.joinourdorset.nhs.uk/rnda

