



Learning disabilities

Unlock your potential and the potential of others

The University of Nottingham is a leader in nursing education. We offer an innovative BSc (Hons) Nursing course, which provides a qualification of the highest quality with a sharp focus on practical nursing skills at its core.

Learning disability nursing is guided by person centred, holistic approaches to the care of individuals. Our aim is to care for all aspects of the person in a supportive and empowering way.

This includes support with physical health care, a huge priority as people with learning disabilities have higher health needs than the general population. Also, mental health care is important as people with learning disabilities are more likely to experience difficulties in this area. Although our main focus is the health needs of this group, we also work to ensure that we attend to social needs either by working closely with social care professionals or by managing packages of care.





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Learning disability nursing

As a student nurse, studying with The University of Nottingham, you will develop your practice skills in a range of care environments where people with learning disabilities live, work or receive specialist care. For some this will mean experiencing how people live their lives as part of their communities, or being part of an individual's life after they are admitted to in-patient services in an acute hospital, or those being detained under the mental health act or living in a secure setting.

Placement opportunities

You will experience a range of placements, working with those with complex and multiple disabilities, challenging behaviours and forensic needs. These will be community based and in-patient services, including a National high-secure service in our locality. Additionally there is an opportunity for an overseas placement with the University College Cork in Ireland. This arrangement has been in place for a number of years and enables you to explore provision for people with intellectual disabilities in another country. It is the intent to develop these exchange opportunities through the provision of both virtual and physical exchanges with students from across the UK and Ireland.

Career opportunities

Once qualified there is an exciting range of career pathways available to you in both adult and children's services for statutory, voluntary and charitable providers:

- Clinical nurse specialist: epilepsy; complex behaviour; mental health; autism
- Staff nurse acute services
- Community assessment and treatment team nurse
- Specialist community nurse
- Nurse in a forensic environment
- Health facilitator
- Health liaison nurse
- Prison liaison nurse
- Day services coordinator
- Residential care team leader
- Hospice nurse
- Special school nurse
- Children's hospice

Why learning disability nursing at Nottingham?

The course is led by lecturers that have international profiles, who have presented at international conferences and with a wide range of publications. They have a varied range of experiences across the range of roles learning disability nurses fulfil and they share this with you.

Leadership skills

The University of Nottingham is the leader in a UK Department's of Health initiative to promote leadership skills within the learning disabilities nursing workforce. This provides opportunities for both students and qualified nurses to engage in a specially provided leadership programme drawing on selected candidates from universities and services.

Positive Choices

The University of Nottingham is the founder partner of the Positive Choices Network. This is a thriving network/information exchange/social forum/support mechanism and conference. For the last nine years it has brought together student nurses (from across the five nations; England, Eire, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) academics, people with learning disability, movers and shakers in the learning disability world, to a 500 place, free to access, two day conference - we have made a difference!

Entry requirements

To study on our BSc (Hons) Nursing course to become a learning disabilities nurse you will need to have three A levels at grade B and five GCSEs at grade C or above including English Language, Maths and a Science. We will also accept a number of alternative qualifications including Access and BTEC Extended Diploma. See our website for more details.

Find out more

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about the course, please contact us:

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The University of Nottingham has made every effort to ensure that the information in this flyer was accurate when published. Please note, however, that the nature of the content means that it is subject to change from time to time, and you should therefore consider the information to be guiding rather than definitive.

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