



The University of
Nottingham

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Mature students' guide for nursing

www.nottingham.ac.uk/healthsciences



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Front cover image:
A student nurse learning with
their mentor.



A student nurse in the
Clinical Skills Centre.

Welcome

There are few careers as rewarding, exciting and dynamic as nursing and we are delighted that you are looking to enter this ever-changing profession. For many mature students – aged 21 or over – the path to becoming a qualified, Registered Nurse can seem a little daunting. Don't be deterred.

The University of Nottingham warmly welcomes and actively encourages applications from mature students from a wide variety of backgrounds. We recognise the unique and valuable life experiences mature students bring to university, and many of the interpersonal skills that more mature students already have are important qualities to have in nursing.

This guide is designed to introduce you to exciting nursing career opportunities, as well as all the academic and personal support available to help you reach your goal.

A world of opportunity

Nursing is undergoing a radical transformation.

A new generation of nurses is emerging that will have a broad range of higher level skills and experiences to meet the demands of a changing healthcare system and ageing population. Nurses today have greater responsibilities and decision-making powers than ever before, providing sophisticated levels of care in a range of fascinating settings.

As diseases and conditions become more complex, the opportunities for nurses to work in specialist areas are growing all the time. Nurses specialise in areas such as cancer, spinal injuries and neurodegenerative diseases; they become managers

of wards, health centres and even hospitals; they branch out into areas of research, contributing to the body of knowledge that shapes healthcare policy and practice; and they become clinical directors, practice partners and departmental leaders. The possibilities that lie ahead are diverse.

Visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/healthsciences to hear from mature students and nurses about their personal journeys.

Did you know?

Nursing students don't have to pay course fees, making training more affordable.

The perfect learning environment

The University of Nottingham is a pioneer in nursing education. Innovative courses informed by research, delivered by high-quality teaching staff, in an inspiring environment, have led us to become one of the largest nursing schools in the UK.

We recognise the significant investment people make in their futures when they study with us, so we are committed to helping people from all walks of life achieve their ambitions. Independent assessments show that our teaching is of the highest standard, while our nursing courses have been specially designed to blend knowledge with practical skills.

The University of Nottingham is the most targeted university by Britain's leading graduate employers.* We are proud of our track record in producing nurses who have all the tools they need to make an immediate, positive

impact in their profession and go on to challenging and rewarding careers.

Nottingham is in the top 10 for nursing in *The Guardian University Guide 2015* and *The Complete University Guide 2015*.

The University also has an impressive worldwide reputation for academic excellence. Not only are we part of the Russell Group of 20 leading UK universities, but we are also placed in the top 1% of global universities, according to the Times Higher World Rankings.

In the Government's latest Research Assessment Exercise, Nottingham ranked 5th for nursing in the UK in terms of research power. This in turn informs our teaching, which is independently classed as excellent.

* *The Graduate Market in 2014* – High Fliers Research.

Our innovative courses

Because of the changing demands of healthcare, from 2016 all Registered Nurses entering the profession must be educated to degree level. For some students, studying for a degree may seem out of reach, but it's really not as scary as you may think.

If it's been a while since you studied, talk to us. Your qualifications and experience could meet our criteria and, if not, we will help you find the right foundation courses – such as the Access to Nursing course. This type of programme will build your skills and knowledge, preparing you to take the next step. In fact, many of those who complete the Access to Nursing course do very well once they join us.

We will be happy to discuss any concerns you might have about studying at this level, explaining what you can expect and the support you will get.

Progressive learning that builds confidence

Our nursing courses have been carefully designed to gradually develop students' skills and knowledge, helping you blossom into a more confident, independent learner. Throughout the course you are supported both academically and personally at all times.

Practical experience

Around 50% of your degree course will involve working in practice, developing vital hands-on skills in a variety of healthcare settings.

Our courses

We offer the following nursing courses:

- BSc (Hons) Nursing
- MSc Graduate Entry Nursing (GEN)

Find out more about these courses on the next few pages.

BSc (Hons) Nursing

This is an innovative three-year course. It provides a blend of core and specialist modules reflecting the health field you would like to work in, whether that's caring for adults, children, people with mental health problems or those with learning disabilities.

Entry requirements

The following are some of the qualifications we accept. We also take into account previous experience. Please get in touch to discuss your qualifications and your possible routes into nursing.

- Five GCSEs at A-C including English, maths and a science subject

Plus one of the following:

- Three A levels: at grades BBB. General Studies will not be accepted.

- BTEC Extended Diploma in Health Studies: overall grade DDM
- CACHE Diploma: overall grade B
- International Baccalaureate Diploma: minimum score of 30 points
- Scottish Advanced Highers: BBB
- Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBBB
- European Baccalaureate: Diploma with an overall score of 75%

Or:

- Access to HE: 45 credits at level three, with 30 at merit or above (15 from science, social science or psychology units). Must include maths in a nursing context at level two. Plus GCSE English and maths.

MSc Graduate Entry Nursing (GEN)

This is a two-year full-time course for those who already have an honours degree and are looking to become qualified, Registered Nurses.

Entry requirements

An honours degree (2:2 or higher) in a subject relevant to nursing or other subjects where your degree has transferable skills that support you in becoming a nurse, plus five GCSEs at A-C including English, maths and a science subject.

Supporting you every step of the way

The University of Nottingham prides itself on providing all students with high levels of academic and personal support.

Before you apply

Our support starts even before you join us. If you're concerned that you might not be suitable or have the right qualifications for applying for one of our degree courses – talk to us. We'll be happy to talk through your options and point you in the right direction.

Academic support

All students have a personal tutor who works with them throughout their course. Regular one-to-one meetings with tutors are common, giving you the opportunity to discuss academic progress and assessment feedback, or seek confidential help and advice. You also get plenty of support during your time working in practice, ensuring you always feel supervised and well looked after. The University's Student

Services Centre runs a wide range of support services, from financial help to counselling, all designed to complement the advice and help you get from the academic school.

Disability support

Lots of support is available for those with learning difficulties and disabilities. This ranges from screenings for dyslexia and access to psychologists' assessments, to alternative arrangements for exams and note-taking in class. Please contact our Student Services Centre as early as you can in the application process to discuss your requirements. Visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/student-services

Child care

Our nursery provides day care for children aged six months to five years. We also run school holiday play schemes and out-of-school clubs. Find out more at www.nottingham.ac.uk/child-care

Financial support

Our nursing courses are unlike most other courses in that you don't have to pay course fees. You may also be entitled to a bursary. Even so, you should still carefully consider the amount of money you'll need to support yourself. Our friendly Financial Support Team is here to discuss your individual circumstances. Visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport

The NHS also has details of bursaries at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students

Students' Union

The Students' Union isn't all about games and club nights, it's also an excellent way to meet like-minded people through a huge range of clubs and societies. In particular, you may be interested in the Mature Students' Network – a student-run group that organises various events, provides welfare services and campaigns on a number of issues.

Accommodation

All full-time undergraduates are guaranteed a room in catered halls at University Park or self-catering accommodation at Broadgate Park, Raleigh Park or St Peter's Court halls of residence. Some students can choose to study at our other locations, where they will be offered self-catering accommodation. Visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/accommodation

Click for more

Details of the huge range of support services available to students can be found at www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentsservices

Find out more

NHS

The NHS website www.nhs Careers.nhs.uk/nursing has a wealth of information and stories about becoming a nurse.

School website

Here you can find further information on our courses, teaching and nursing careers – as well as download our detailed nursing brochure. You can also watch interviews with our students and graduates. Visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/healthsciences

Open days

University and nursing open days are an excellent opportunity to explore the place where you'll be studying and to meet lecturers and current students. Find out more: www.nottingham.ac.uk/healthsciences/open-days

Get in touch

We're here to help, so if you have any queries please get in touch.

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The University of Nottingham has made every effort to ensure that the information in this brochure 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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