

Nurse - Adult

Registered nurses (adult) care for sick patients aged 16 and over in hospital or the community. They assess patients' physical and emotional needs, and provide the care and support required.

The Work

You could be:

- working out care plans for patients
- recording patients' temperature, blood pressure and respiration rate
- giving injections, cleaning and dressing wounds, fixing drips and blood transfusion equipment, carrying out specific procedures such as cervical smear tests
- assisting at operations and inserting and removing stitches
- doing routine work on the ward, such as making beds
- discussing patients' progress with doctors and with relatives
- keeping records of patients' treatment and progress
- monitoring patients in intensive care and adjusting, when necessary, the machinery which supports them
- carrying out emergency work, such as resuscitation.

Pay

On the NHS Agenda for Change pay scales a newly qualified nurse is on Band 5, £24,670 to £30,742 a year. A senior (charge nurse) or specialist nurse is on Band 6, £30,401 to £38,046 a year.

The current pay scales are from April 2019.

Conditions

- You would work in a hospital, a health centre or a doctors' surgery.
- You might have to work shifts, including evenings, nights, weekends and public holidays.
- You would wear a uniform and sometimes protective clothing.
- There would be some heavy lifting of patients.
- You would have to be able to deal with unpleasant sights and smells.
- You might be able to work part time.

Getting In

- To become a registered nurse you need to take a 3-4 year degree in nursing. Entry requirements 3-4 Highers plus one or more subjects at National 5, preferably including English and a science subject.
- An Access to nursing course may also give entry. However, always check that the course is accepted by the college or university you want to go to before you apply.
- You will require a satisfactory criminal record check from Disclosure Scotland to show that you are suitable for this type of work. Contact Disclosure Scotland for details on the type you would need.
- You should have a good level of physical fitness. You will undergo health screening.

- When you complete your training you must register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).
- Previous experience in a paid or voluntary role in a health care setting would be an advantage.

Most registered nurses work for the National Health Service (NHS). You could also work with a nursing agency, hospice, in a private hospital or nursing home, with the armed services or in a prison. You can find NHS job vacancies in Scotland by visiting [NHS Scotland Recruitment](#).

What Does It Take

You should be:

- able to communicate with people from a wide range of backgrounds
- very observant and able to act on your own initiative
- patient and tactful
- willing to take responsibility
- able to assess what is best for the patient
- flexible to multitask
- a good teamworker
- confident to make decisions
- able to remain calm in stressful situations.

Training

- Once you have gained your NMC registration, training is on the job.
- During your first year as a qualified midwife you would get extra support and guidance through the [Flying Start Programme](#).
- To continue working as a nurse you must renew your registration with the NMC every three years.

Getting On

- With further learning and experience you could progress to senior, advanced or consultant level.
- To renew your NMC registration you must keep your skills and knowledge up to date, by undertaking at least 35 hours of relevant study and 450 of practice hours every three years. This is known as Continuing Professional Development (CPD).
- You could take further courses in a wide range of specialisms, such as orthopaedics, cancer or coronary care, which would lead to more responsible jobs in hospital.
- You could take courses such as health visiting or district nursing, which would lead to more responsible jobs in the community.
- Of all the branches of nursing, adult nursing offers the best chances of employment and so you could work abroad.

More Information

The Scottish Government runs the One Year Job Guarantee (OYJG) Scheme for newly qualified nurses and midwives to help improve their chances of finding work as well as developing their skills. The positions are one-year fixed term contracts at 22.5 hours a week, set at grade 5 on the NHS Agenda for Change pay scale. For

further details contact [NHS Education for Scotland](#).

Contacts

Disclosure Scotland

Tel: 03000 2000 40

Email: info@disclosurescotland.gov.scot

Website: www.mygov.scot/organisations/disclosure-scotland

Twitter: @DisclosureScot

NHS Scotland Careers

Website: www.careers.nhs.scot

Website (2): jobs.scot.nhs.uk

Twitter: @NHSScotCareers

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NHSScotlandCareers

Nursing and Midwifery Council

Tel: 020 7637 7181

Email: UKenquiries@nmc-uk.org

Website: www.nmc.org.uk

Twitter: @nmcnews

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nmcuk

Royal College of Nursing Scotland

Website: www.rcn.org.uk/scotland

Twitter: @RCNScot

Facebook: www.facebook.com/royalcollegeofnursing

Skills for Health

Tel: 0207 388 8800

Email: contactus@skillsforhealth.org.uk

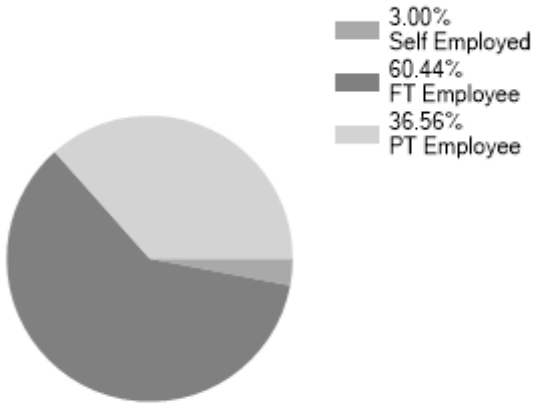
Website: www.skillsforhealth.org.uk

Twitter: @Skillsforhealth

Facebook: www.facebook.com/skillsforhealth1

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

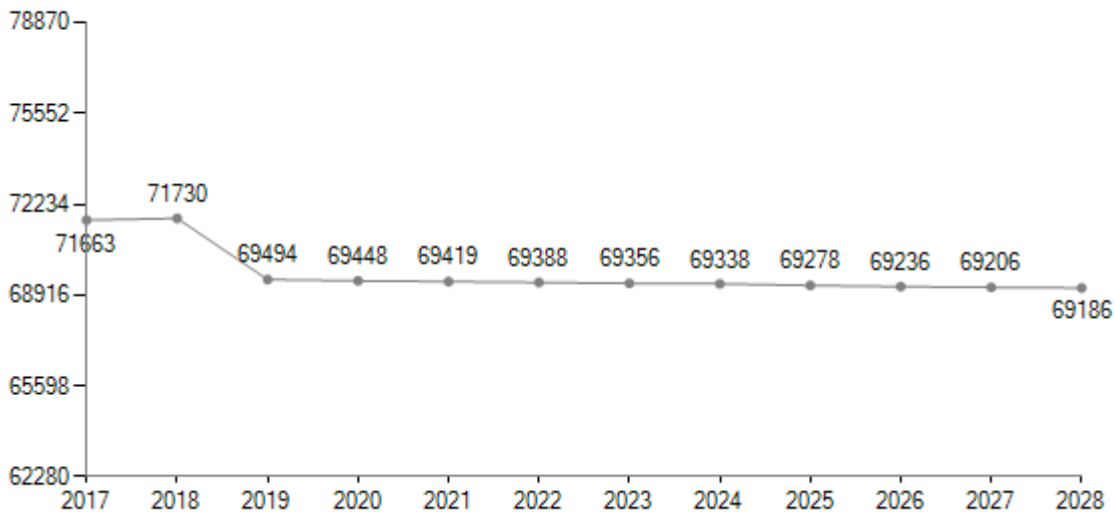


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No statistics available for Scotland.

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [EMSI UK](#)