

Notes from the United Kingdom

Nurses and nurse training

Nurses form the largest sector of the NHS workforce and are a vital part of the healthcare team. Nurses in the UK must hold a degree in pre-registration nursing. This leads to registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), enabling them to practice. Nurse training comprises 50% theory (delivered at a university) and 50% practice, covering 4 broad areas of competence:

- professional values
- communication and interpersonal skills
- nursing practice and decision making
- leadership, management and team working.

Student nurses must decide at the outset which programme they wish to follow from adult, children, mental health or learning disability nursing. Their training is funded by the NHS so they do not pay university fees.