

NURSING APPRENTICESHIPS

September 2025

Nursing Associate Apprenticeship:

The Nursing Associate course in the UK typically takes two years to complete and leads to a Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care Practice, approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

- **Programme Duration:** Minimum of 2 years full-time.
- **Structure:** A mix of academic learning, placement days (usually 2 days/week) and work-based learning (the remaining days).
- **Employment:** the Student Nursing Associate (SNA) will be employed in a healthcare setting (e.g., General Practice, UTC, GP Federation, PCNs) while training.
- **Entry Requirements:** GCSEs grade 9–4 (A–C) in English and Maths, or Functional Skills Level 2.
- **Registration:** Upon completion, the SNA will be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and receive a PIN number.
- **Funding:** The SNA is typically funded through the employer's apprenticeship levy; ensuring apprentices are not liable for tuition fees and promoting equitable access to career progression.
- **Progression:** There is the option to pursue a shortened nursing degree through the Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship (RNDA) to become a Registered Nurse – this typically takes 18 to 24 months to complete.

Universities that currently offer the Nursing Associate Apprenticeship:

- [Nursing Associate, Foundation Degree \(Higher Apprenticeship\) - Canterbury Christ Church University](#)
- [Nursing Associate Higher Apprenticeship | Open University](#)
- [Nursing Associate Higher Apprenticeship | University of Greenwich, London](#)
- [Nursing Associate Higher Apprenticeship | Brunel University of London](#)
- [Nursing Associate Apprenticeship - BPP](#)

Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship (RNDA) Top-Up:

The RNDA Top-Up is an accelerated, work-based route designed for qualified Nursing Associates or Assistant Practitioners. It enables individuals to build upon their existing academic and clinical experience, leading to a Level 6 nursing degree and professional registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as a Registered Nurse.

- **Programme Duration:** Typically 18 to 24 months, depending on prior completion of a foundation degree.
- **Structure:** A mix of academic learning, placements (usually block placements) and work-based learning (the remaining days).
- **Employment:** the RNDA will be employed in a healthcare setting (e.g., General Practice, UTC, GP Federation, PCNs) while training.
- **Registration:** Upon completion, the RNDA will be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and receive a PIN number.
- **Funding:** The RNDA Top-Up is typically funded through the employer's apprenticeship levy; ensuring apprentices are not liable for tuition fees and promoting equitable access to career progression.
- **Fields of Specialisation:** Apprentices may specialise in Adult Nursing, Children's Nursing, Learning Disabilities Nursing, or Mental Health Nursing.

Universities that currently offer the Registered Nursing Degree Apprenticeship Top-Up:

- [Registered Nurse \(Degree\) Apprenticeship - Canterbury Christ Church University](#)
- [Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship | Open University](#)
- [Adult Nursing, BSc \(Degree Apprenticeship\) | University of Greenwich, London](#)
- [Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship | Brunel University of London](#)
- [Registered Nurse Apprenticeship - BPP](#)

