



## **CAREER OF THE WEEK: Nursing Associate**

### **What does a nursing associate do?**

A nursing associate is a vital member of the healthcare team, working alongside registered nurses and other professionals to provide hands-on care for patients. The role bridges the gap between healthcare support workers and registered nurses, making sure patients receive safe, compassionate support.

Day to day, nursing associates help people with personal care, check vital signs like blood pressure and temperature, support patients' mental wellbeing, and keep accurate records. They also assist with clinical tasks, for example dressing wounds, carrying out observations, and supporting families to understand care plans. Nursing associates work in many settings – hospitals, GP surgeries, care homes, hospices, and community services. It's a people-focused role where no two days are ever the same.

### **What can I expect to earn as a nursing associate?**

As a trainee nursing associate in the NHS, you'll usually start on band 3 of the [Agenda for Change \(AFC\) pay scale](#) (currently £24,937). Once qualified and registered, you will typically move to band 4, currently starting at £27,485.

### **What subjects should I study to become a nursing associate?**

At school or college, subjects like biology, health and social care, psychology, English, and maths will all help prepare you. Science and healthcare-related subjects give you a good grounding in how the body works, while English and maths are important for clear communication and accurate record-keeping. Teamwork, problem-solving, and empathy are just as valuable as your exam results – the role is about caring as much as clinical skill.

### **How can I start my career as a nursing associate?**

To become a nursing associate, you'll usually apply for a nursing associate training programme through the NHS. This is a paid, two-year course that combines practical, on-the-job training with academic study at a university. You'll need GCSEs (or equivalent) in English and maths and often some experience in health or social care can be useful, though voluntary work can count.

Once you've completed the training, you'll register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and can start working as a qualified nursing associate. From there, you might choose to stay in the role or take further training to become a registered nurse through an apprenticeship or shortened degree.

**In summary:** Nursing associates are caring professionals who make a real difference to people's lives every single day. The role offers solid pay, structured training, and clear opportunities to progress. If you're compassionate, enjoy working with people, and want a career where you'll be valued, becoming a nursing associate could be the perfect step for you.

To research local education and training opportunities that could lead to a career as a nursing associate, visit our partner website [www.logonmoveon.co.uk](http://www.logonmoveon.co.uk)

### **Other useful websites to find out more about a career as a nursing associate:**

NHS Health Careers – Nursing Associate <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/nursing-associate>

Health Education England – Nursing Associate <https://nursing-associates.hee.nhs.uk/>

National Careers Service – Nursing Associate <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/nursing-associate>

Find approved nursing associate programmes <https://www.nmc.org.uk/education/approved-programmes/>



You can find us at

