Nursing Careers in Wales

#TrainWorkLive

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This is Wales.
This is Wales.
Find the work-life balance you’ve been looking for as a nurse in Wales.

Whether you’re a newly qualified nurse or you’ve been in nursing for years, a move to Wales can help you get more from your career. As a newly qualified nurse you can choose the clinical setting you would like to start your nursing career in - with specialist tertiary services such as burns, and cardiac surgery, to skilled community teams or in a GP practice - the choices are truly inspirational. There are opportunities to learn on the job in a highly supportive environment with continuing professional development that will support you to meet your revalidation requirements. And as a nurse who has already qualified, we’ll support your career to gain the experience, knowledge and skills to practice at an expert level and progress your career clinically as an advanced practitioner or consultant nurse. Above all you’ll get the chance to shape your career while enjoying favourable working conditions in friendly locations in a country that truly values the contribution that nurses make.
When it comes to your career, finding extra fulfilment away from work can be vital in giving you the energy and motivation you need to challenge yourself and open new doors. Blessed with a friendly sense of community, affordable housing, stunning surroundings and the potential for lots of relaxation and adventure, Wales offers you the opportunity to choose the lifestyle you want and discover an amazing work-life balance – whatever your personal responsibilities and stage of life.
This is Training.
By training in Wales, you can unlock many exciting career opportunities with support from experienced nurses at every stage of your development.

By practicing in Wales you can take advantage of our excellent education and training facilities.
A lifetime of learning opportunities

The NHS in Wales is committed to providing you with lifelong learning opportunities. This means we’ll support your continued professional development across a wide range of routes that cover everything from workplace-based training to specialist post registration courses. In other words, Wales is a place where the learning never stops, where skills and knowledge are shared openly, innovation is embraced and your contribution is valued.

NHS Wales Bursary Scheme

The Welsh Government has maintained the NHS bursary for nurse and allied health professional education. This package of support is based upon you committing to work in Wales for two years after you qualify.

Higher education that ticks all the boxes

There are several higher education institutions in Wales, approved to provide pre and post registration training. This means that by choosing to train in Wales, you can access every field of nursing, or train to be a practice nurse, health visitor or school nurse. And because we embrace diversity, you’ll discover a learning environment that’s vibrant, friendly and inclusive.

Graduate training you can count on

Wales was the first UK country to educate all its nurses and midwives to graduate level so it means you can be absolutely certain that nowhere takes your professional development as seriously as us.

“I did my nurse advanced practitioner training at Bangor University and worked in a hospital in north Wales for fifteen years. I feel very lucky to have received amazing support across the courses I chose.”

Arniel Hernando
A clear route to advanced practice

Wales has a career framework to provide you with a clear route to the post-graduate qualifications needed to become an advanced nurse practitioner. The framework is based around four core areas – (1) clinical practice (2) education (3) leadership & management (4) research & innovation. The framework is designed to support your development.

Excellent education and training facilities

You’ll have access to a range of excellent conference and library facilities managed by a dedicated team of experienced staff.

Advance your career with leading-edge research

The Welsh Government funds the Research Capacity Building Collaboration (RCBC), established to develop research capacity within the nursing and allied health professional workforce. The initiative provides both new and experienced researchers in nursing with the opportunity to obtain funding for a range of research projects designed to shape the future of the profession.
This is Working.

As a nurse in Wales, you’ll get chance to continue the traditions of the NHS in the country of its birth, and influence the future of nursing.
“I’ve worked in different parts of Wales, and there’s always been this unique sense of community and belonging.”
Olwen Morgan

Uphold the past & shape the future
When Aneurin Bevan founded the NHS in 1948, he did so on the principles of equality of access and the service being based on need, not on the ability to pay. By developing your nursing career in Wales, you’ll be able to continue these traditions and help shape the future of the profession.

Benefit from better staffing levels
Wales is the first nation in Europe to bring in legislation that protects nursing staffing levels – ensuring that nurses will have the time to care sensitively for patients. This means working in Wales provides you with the opportunity to be part of a breakthrough system which values the professional judgment of nurses and empowers you to make the decisions needed to deliver high quality care.

“The single best thing about being a nurse where I work is having the time to provide the kind of quality care that originally attracted me to nursing.” Emma McGowan

One career, many paths
A nursing career in Wales is full of possibilities. Nurses can progress to clinical nurse specialist roles, advanced nurse practitioner roles and consultant nurse roles. You can also follow leadership pathways, from ward and team leadership roles to senior nurse positions.

“My career has criss-crossed between two specialties. My health board has made it really easy for me to change direction when I’ve wanted to.” Olwen Morgan

Flexible working to suit your family
By working in Wales, you can take advantage of a range of innovative working arrangements designed to help you fit your work around your family life. These include flexible working hours, childcare voucher schemes, work-life balance initiatives and on-site crèche facilities.
Get recognised for great work
All health boards in Wales run staff achievement awards to acknowledge nurses who make exceptional contributions to the running and improvement of services. The annual Chief Nursing Officer Conference, the NHS Wales Awards and the Royal College of Nursing Wales Nurse of the Year Awards all offer opportunities for you to get recognised for your dedication and innovation.

Get support when you relocate
If you want to come to Wales to work from a different country, our health boards and trusts can offer you a range of relocation packages to help you and your family settle in as smoothly as possible.

Help to return-to-practice
We welcome nurses, health visitors and midwives who want to come back into the profession. A £1,000 bursary is available for nurses, health visitors and specialist community public health nurses, and £1,500 for midwives who undertake a return to practice course in Wales.
This is Living.

Benefitting from a strong sense of community, affordable housing, great schools and loads of ways to relax and have fun, Wales is a great place to work, live either on your own, or with your family.
A country of compelling contrasts

Compact but diverse, Wales is a country where picturesque communities, unspoilt coastline, stunning countryside and vibrant cities combine to offer you all the relaxation and adventure you need.

Urban living

Fast emerging as one of Europe’s most energetic capitals, Cardiff offers world-class shopping, stylish dining, beautifully kept parks and all the other advantages you’d expect from modern urban living. Newport is a city rejuvenated by investment, Swansea appeals with its beach suburbs and the market town of Wrexham offers a more traditional way of life.

The great outdoors

There are three National Parks in Wales. But wherever you go, nature is all around you. From luscious mountains to dramatic river valleys, deserted beaches to rugged cliff tops, the natural landscape offers a stunning backdrop whether you’re in the mood for adventure, looking to unwind or simply following your daily routine.

Beach life

From the world-renowned Gower coast in the south, to the beautiful Llŷn Peninsula on the edge of Snowdonia National Park in the north, Wales is home to many of the UK’s best beaches – all accessible along a continuous 870-mile coastal path that reveals coves, headland and bays overflowing with wildlife.

Castles & legends

Castles define the Welsh landscape just as much as our hills and valleys. There are 641 in total – imposing, fairy-tale and tumbledown – each offering a glimpse into the past and the chance for you to explore the legends within their walls. Going back even further, there are also dozens of pre-historic sites to see, including some of the best-preserved Neolithic wonders in the UK.
Wales is packed full of possibilities. From heart-racing adventure to simple family pleasures, and everything in between, there’s no end to the ways you can fill your spare time.

**Adventure on your doorstep**
If you love that feeling of the wind in your hair, Wales is the perfect playground. From rock pooling to pony trekking, mountain picnics to canoeing expeditions, our mountains, hills, rivers and beaches are waiting to provide you and your family with as much adventure as you can handle.

**Your entertainment capital**
With its high-end designer stores, high-street favourites and charming Victorian arcades, it’s easy to see why Cardiff is on the map as a destination for world-class shopping. Throw in laid-back live music venues, an ultra-modern waterfront, family-friendly museums and open-air theatre in the shadows of the castle and you won’t be able to stay away.

**Dining to suit all tastes**
From Michelin-starred restaurants to farmers’ markets, cosy neighbourhood cafes to award-winning country pubs, Wales is a place where you can enjoy delicious food whoever you’re with, whatever your budget and whatever you like to eat.

**Family fun with a difference**
Sometimes, kids crave something a bit different. If you like to arrange family days out with a twist, Wales is home to the fastest zip line in the world plus an underground trampoline that’s suspended 180 feet in the air.
“It’s really easy to escape to beautiful countryside when I feel the need to unwind. As a nurse, that can make a big difference.”
Charlotte Pritchard

“I love living in Wales, it’s so easy for me to go mountain climbing and sailing in my spare time.”
Arniel Hernando

“The Brecon Beacons are on my doorstep. It’s great to bring up the children in an area that offers such a great work-life balance.”
Emma McGowan