



Edge Hill University
CAREERS CENTRE

Nursing Abroad

CC 5

Inclusive Learning

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Edge Hill Careers Centre
Contact Details: Tel: 01695 584866

Website; www.edgehill.ac.uk/careers

Opening hours:

Term-time: Monday – Thursday 9.00 am – 4.45 pm
Friday 9.00 am – 4.00 pm

Vacation periods: Mon – Fri 9.00 am – 4.00 pm
(closed for lunch 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm)

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**Updated by
Mike Cox, Careers Adviser
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A recent survey showed that 10% of nurses work abroad at some time in their career and 20% consider it at some time. Many newly qualified nurses think about it but, in practice, often a couple of year post qualification experience is needed. Obviously there are a lot of things to consider, such as when is the right time to go, for how long, where etc. there are numerous books and agencies which can help you with this decision.

The amount of information included here is brief and only looks at the most popular destinations but included are suggestions of other reference material to take your enquiries further.

WEST EUROPE

In theory there is freedom of movement of professionals within all of the member states of the EU, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

If you wish to have your qualification recognised in another member state you can contact the appropriate designated authority in that country.

You can obtain details of these authorities in a book called "Health Professionals Abroad" which is in the library at the Aintree site. You could also contact the regional health authority for the area in which you are interested. It may also be possible via the web to access the newspapers of some of the overseas countries. See under websites at the end of this fact sheet.

Language ability is an important factor when considering working in any of the European countries. You need to be able to speak and understand the language well enough to operate at the same level as you do in your own country.

EASTERN EUROPE

A large number of voluntary and aid organisations are involved in providing health services in Eastern Europe. Addresses of the most well-known are included in "Health Professionals Abroad".

AUSTRALIA

Nurses need to be registered with the appropriate regulatory authority in the state in which you wish to practise. You will also need the relevant visa/work permit entitling you to work. You need to organise your visa and registration before making definite plans to travel.

Registered midwives without nursing qualifications will not be able to practise in most states as midwifery is a post graduate level qualification in Australia, so all registered midwives train as nurses first.

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) assesses the qualifications of all nurses trained outside Australia. Visit their website for relevant application forms and more details information.

Working holiday visas are also a popular short-term way of spending some time nursing in Australia. It is only open to those between ages 18 and 25 (although in exceptional cases people up to 30 may be considered). It enables these persons to have a working holiday in Australia for a period of up to twelve months. It is recommended that you have your nursing qualification assessed prior to traveling over with this intention.

A list of public hospitals can be obtained from Australia House in London. Access to Australian newspapers can be gained via some of the web sites at the end of this fact sheet. Other information would be available from the State and territory health departments.

NEW ZEALAND

Nurses and midwives who have gained registration in countries other than New Zealand must apply to the Nursing Council of New Zealand for admission to the roll before being able to practise in New Zealand.

New Zealand has a mixture of private and public health care.

Once you find employment in New Zealand you will as a UK citizen, need a work permit. This would be granted for the period of the job contract or a maximum of three years unless you apply for permanent residence.

The New Zealand Health Employment Gazette is a fortnightly publication which includes vacancies. The addresses are in "Health Professionals

Abroad". Several agencies are also involved in placing staff in New Zealand. Nursing and midwifery positions are also advertised in the daily newspapers and Kai Takil Nursing New Zealand (the monthly publication of the New Zealand Nurses Association) and the New Zealand Health Gazette (from New Zealand Nurses Organisations office).

The Working Holiday Visa Scheme (mentioned above under Australia) is also available in New Zealand.

See also CC 06 A Guide to Working as a Nurse in New Zealand and CC 07 A Guide to Working as a Midwife in New Zealand.

<http://www.edgehill.ac.uk/careers/student/resources/Materials.htm>

CANADA

As Canada is a bilingual country, English and French are useful depending on where you want to work. To work professionally in Quebec, you would need to speak French, both French and English are equally acceptable in Ontario and New Brunswick. In all of the other provinces, English is the dominant language.

At present there is a large shortage of nurses in Canada and therefore there are many positions available for anyone wishing to nurse in the country.

Anyone wishing to work must have a relevant visa. Various forms of visa and work permits are available depending on your length of stay and personal credentials.

Each province or territory has its own licensing and registration procedures for nurses. The Canadian Nursing Association can provide a list of the appropriate registering and licensing authorities. A mandatory part of the registration is that you pass the Canadian Nurse Association examination. This examination is only held in Canada and is run four times a year. Further details and guidelines concerning the exam are available on www.can-nurses.ca

It may be possible to obtain a nursing post on a temporary licence until you pass the CNATS exam. In other cases a temporary licence will only be issued after the exam has been taken.

Useful directories if trying to make speculative applications are The Canadian Almanac and Directory. The Canadian Hospital Association also has a large directory with lists of health related institutions.

USA

The immigration procedures to get into the US to work are quite complicated but despite this the USA remains a very popular destination for nurses wishing to work abroad.

There are two main requirements to gaining employment as a nurse in the USA.

1. Sitting your CGFNS (Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools)
2. Sit the NCLEX-RN exam in a chosen State of the USA. Joining a recruitment agency that sponsors nurses to fly to the USA to sit this exam is a good way of gaining this qualification.

In the USA there is only one category of first-level nurse, this being the Registered Nurse (RN). An RN is the equivalent to the UK's RGN qualification. Only a RGN is eligible to apply for nurse registration in the USA. Each State has its own board of nursing, and its own regulations for foreign-trained nurses. Do not assume that the requirements in one State will be the same as another.

CGFNS

Nearly all the States require that you have passed the CGFNS exam before you can apply for the NCLEX-RN "State Board" exam. The CGNS is designed for first-level general nurses educated and licensed outside the U.S. who wish to assess their chances of passing the U.S. registered nurse licensing exam NCLEX-RN and attaining licensure as a registered nurse within the U.S. The exam can be taken in London. For more details visit the CGNS website at www.cgfns.org

NCLEX-RN

This is the most important qualification to get if you want to work in the USA. You will not be able to practise without first getting this qualification.

If you want to take this exam you must travel to your chosen State and take the exam and then leave the USA to wait on the result. You cannot take this exam in the UK. At present the majority of recruitment is done through an agency as the number of posts available for UK nurses is limited. If you pass the NCLEX-RN exam, the agency (or prospective employer) may then apply for a visa to enable you to return to the USA to work. Only a U.S. employer can apply for an employment visa on your behalf.

For further information on NCLEX-RN visit the website www.ncsbn.org

For midwives wishing to practise in the USA, the profession is known as nurse-midwifery. Overseas applicants will need to complete a pre-certification programme in order to be able to practise. Full details of the requirements are available from the American College of Nurse Midwives.

THE MIDDLE EAST

There are fewer opportunities than there used to be but there are still more opportunities for work in Saudi Arabia than in any of the other countries. The Middle East and particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is/are very different countries from the UK. The language, religion and culture can come as quite a shock if you have not done some research into the area and the way of life. Hospitals will often run classes in Arabic for nurses interested in learning the language, but in most cases you will not speak the language of your patients but interpreters are readily available.

You will normally require at least two years experience but this will depend on the posts available and the type of work. A lot of opportunities are for high calibre staff with proven specialist skills.

Salaries are generally higher and are tax free for people who spend in excess of 1 year. Accommodation is often free of charge. Hours may be longer but vacation time is longer, usually six to eight weeks per year.

Work permits if needed can be obtained by the employer for the nurse but you would be unlikely then to change jobs whilst there.

SOUTH AFRICA

The South African Nursing Council controls the practise of Nursing in South Africa. Contact them to check that your nursing qualifications are acceptable for you to be able to practise. Nursing agencies can help to locate work for you.

UK Jobs with possible placings abroad

This could include employment within the armed forces. At Edge Hill we have termly visits from the recruitment advisers for the Army, RAF and Royal Navy. Anyone interested in discussing opportunities for a Nursing Careers with the Armed Forces should check with the Careers Centre as to when the representative will be next in.

Currently the situation is as follows:-

Queen Alexandra's Royal Navy Nursing Service (QARNNS)

You would need at least two years post registration experience to apply for Officer level. It is possible to enter at staff nurse level.

Further details available at:

- QARNNS Recruiting Room 045, Victory Building, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth
- www.royal-navy.mod.uk

Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service (PMRAFNS)

To join at Officer level you will need at least two years post registration experience and preferably another second professional qualification as well as leadership qualities. Positions are also available at Staff Nurse level. For further information contact the Nursing Services Liaison Team at:

nslo@raf.mod.uk

or Tel: 01400 261201 Ext. 6782

Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC)

Depending on your previous full time experience, you would enter either as a Lieutenant or Captain. Promotion is based on experience and ability and nursing officers have the potential to reach the rank of Colonel. Rnurse (adults) and RMN's are eligible to apply. For further information:

www.army.mod.uk/qaranc/careers.htm

or Tel: 01276 412742 / 412741 / 412740

Nursing on Ships

Some opportunities exist with shipping companies, cruise liners etc. the majority of these would need some post-registration experience. In addition to this, other experience such as accident and emergency or intensive care is much valued. It is also worth considering that **you may be the only person** who is medically qualified with all the attendant responsibilities. It is best to check with individual companies on their requirements. Two books are useful for shipping addresses; "Jobs Afloat" and "Working on Cruise Ships" (vacation work publications).

Voluntary Work Abroad

Work on a voluntary basis is usually in developing countries and because of the nature of the work and the fact that you might find yourself also responsible for the training of others, the organisations involved usually prefer people to have had at least a couple of years experience. Extra qualifications in health visiting, midwifery or teaching are also valuable.

There are many development organisations which send nurses overseas. There are two main areas in which agencies operate:

- emergency support/relief
- long-term development

Emergency Support/relief

This can include famine relief, emergency refugee camps and medical assistance. As the work is highly specialised, organisations tend to recruit experienced and competent individuals who can work under pressure. Assignments can be short, 3-12 months. There is an increasing trend to train local health workers to carry out these emergency tasks and the number of foreign workers is likely to decline.

Long term

This work involves assisting in poorer and less advantaged members of society to improve health care. The most well known scheme is VSO

(Voluntary Service Overseas) and the length of service required is a minimum stay of one or two years. You will get an allowance to cover your living expenses, free accommodation and live amongst the local community.

The International Health Exchange (IHE) acts as a clearing house for vacancies in developing countries rather than directly recruiting. IHE are particularly looking to attract individuals with skills in HIV/AIDS, Health and Hygiene promotion, Food & Nutrition and Health Co-ordination. Other organisations to contact include Christian Abroad.

USEFUL BOOKS

Linda Nazarko (1998) Careers in Nursing and Related Professions (Kogan Page) chapter on Working Abroad

Victoria Pybus (2002) The International Directory of Voluntary Work (Vacation Work Publications)

Jonathan Packer (1997) The Directory of Jobs and Careers Abroad (Vacation Work Publications)

Joby Milner (1997) The Directory of Work and Study in Developing Countries (Vacation Work Publications)

Tim Ryder (2000) Health Professionals Abroad (Vacation Work Publications)

Sandra Bow (2005) Working on Cruise Ships (Vacation Work Publications)

How to Live and Work In(How to books) - a series of books on living and working in specific countries. Large range of titles available.

Useful Addresses and Websites

www.rcn.org.uk

RCN International Section, Cavendish Square, London, W1M 0AB – they provide an advisory service for members wishing to work abroad. Some RCN members also agree to be listed on an open register of members living and working abroad. By contacting them you would be able to find out about the country from first hand experience.

www.internationalmidwives.org

International confederation of Midwives - this organisation is willing to give midwives contacts for local associations overseas.

www.rcm.org.uk

Royal College of Midwives, International Section, 15 Mansfield Street, London, W19 9NH – are willing to advise members wishing to practise midwifery overseas.

Canadian High Commission, Macdonald House, 1 Grosvenor Square, London W1X 4AB. Tel: 020 7258 6600 Fax: 020 7258 6333

www.cha.ca/contact.htm

Canadian Healthcare Association, 17 York Street, Suite 100, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 9J6

www.usembassy.org.uk

United States Embassy, 5 Upper Grosvenor Street, London, W1A 2JB
Tel: 020 7894 0925

www.nursingworld.org

American Nurses Association Inc, 600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Suite 100, Washington DC

www.midwife.org

American College of Nurse-Midwives, 818 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 900, Washing DC 20006

www.cgfns.org

Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS), 3600 Market Street, Suite 400, Philadelphia, PA19104

www.ncsbn.org

National Council of State Boards of Nursing, 676 N St Clair Street, Suite 550, Chicago, Illinois 60611

www.aha.org

American Hospital Association, One North Franklin, Chicago, Illinois 60606

Australian Consulate, First Floor, Century House, 11 St Peters Square, Manchester

www.australia.org.uk

Australian High Commission, Australia House, Strand, London, WC2B 4LU

www.rcna.org.au

Royal College of Nursing, PO Box 219, Deakin West ACT 2600

www.anf.org.au

Australian Nursing Federation, Unit 3, 28 Eyre Street, Kingston, ACT 2604, Australia.

www.anmc.org.au Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council

www.anzcmhn.org/

Australia and New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses

www.nzembassy.com

New Zealand High Commission, New Zealand House, Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TQ

www.nzno.org.nz

New Zealand Nurses Association, PO Box 2128, Wellington, New Zealand.

www.midwife.org.nz

New Zealand College of Midwives, PO Box 21106, 326 Manchester Street, Christchurch, New Zealand.

www.nursingcouncil.org.nz

Nursing Council of New Zealand, Level 4, Olympic House, 97-99 Courtenay Place, PO Box 9644, Wellington, New Zealand.

www.southafricahouse.com

South African High Commission, Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 5DP
Tel: 020 7451 7299

www.denosa.org.za

Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa, PO Box 1280, Pretoria, 0001. South Africa

National Association of Private Hospital, PO Box 539, Randburg 2125, South Africa

www.sanc.co.za

South African Nursing Council, PO Box 1123, Pretoria 0001. South Africa

www.cabroad.org.uk

Christians Abroad, 233 Bon March Centre, 241-251 Ferndale Road, London, SW9 8BJ

www.wse.org.uk

World Service Enquiry – same address as Christians Abroad – see above.

www.ihe.org.uk

International Health Exchange, 1 Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AA

Newspaper Directory Sites with links to International Newspapers

www.mediainfo.com

www.careerpath.com

www.newsclassified.com.au

www.market.fairfax.com.au

www.fish4.co.uk

www.ecola.com

www.internation.moster.com

Job advertisements from Overseas Jobs Express

www.overseasjobs.com

Voluntary Service Overseas

www.vso.org.uk

Mike Cox
Careers Adviser
May 2006



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CUSTOMER VIEWS

Your views are important to us and help us to continually improve the quality of our services.

We would appreciate it if you could complete this form and tell us what you thought of the information we've given you.

Publication title :

Will this publication help you? YES / NO

Did you find the information easy to understand? YES / NO

Was the publication interesting? YES / NO

Did you like the design of the publication? YES / NO

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Please return it to the Careers Centre