

How do you become a

DISTRICT NURSE?

There are a number of pathways to become a District Nurse. Follow the steps below to get started.

First steps

First step is to access websites that will provide you with detailed information on the role of the DN:

The QNI: www.qni.org.uk (Transition to Community Nursing Resource); Health Careers: www.health.careers.nhs.uk; Step into The NHS: www.stepintothens.nhs.uk; NMC: www.nmc.org.uk; Apprenticeship: www.findapprenticeshiptraining.apprenticeships.education.gov.uk; Royal College of Nursing: www.rcn.org.uk

Qualifications

What qualifications are required to become a District Nurse?

- Must be a registered nurse on Part 1 of the NMC Register: www.nmc.org.uk/registration/

Top tips

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- Make contact with the local Primary Care Network/ District Nursing Team
- Email, telephone the District Nurse team at your local surgery or contact the Primary Care Trust
- Ask to meet them to discuss the District Nurse role. Ask if it is possible to shadow a DN.

Other sources

Other sources of support and advice

- Contact your local University to find out about the District Nurse Specialist Qualification programme
- Ask to speak and meet the District Nurse academic lead at the University and ask if possible to speak to a District Nurse student when you visit the University

Career

What are the career opportunities?

- Becoming a District Nurse Team Leader
- Become a District Nurse Programme Practice Assessor
- Become an Independent Prescriber
- Work towards a Specialist Role in the Community – such as Palliative Care Lead, Respiratory Care Lead
- Become involved with commissioning of community services
- Work towards becoming a Director of Community Nursing

