

School Students Everything I Need To Know

Registered Nurses

Registered nurses provide care for patients in a variety of healthcare settings. These include public and private hospitals, community and home-based services, nursing homes and industry. As a registered nurse you can:

- provide care for patients undergoing and recovering from surgical procedures;
- deliver and evaluate preventative medical procedures;
- assist with the provision and assessment of a range of rehabilitative activities and;
- provide community health services.

You need a nursing qualification and a licence from the Queensland Nursing Council (QNC) to practise nursing in Queensland. Once you have completed your nursing degree you will need to apply to the QNC for registration and a current licence to practice.

For more information on nursing registration and regulation in Queensland go to:
<http://www.qnc.qld.gov.au>

School Students Everything I Need To Know

Registered Nurses

SHIFT WORK

Shift work is not always bad for your social life! While you may be required to work nights and weekends, you'll also be able to enjoy days off when the rest of the world is working, or sleep in after a big night out! You will also receive financial benefits for working shift work.

As a registered nurse, you may be required to work a rotating, seven-day shift roster. This means you will work day, afternoon and night shifts as well as weekends and public holidays.

You will also receive penalty payments for afternoon, night, weekend and public holiday shifts. An example of a typical nursing roster is as follows:

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
R1	E	E	E	DO	DO	L	L	N	N	N	DO	DO	ADO	L
R2	E	L	E	E	DO	DO	L	L	L	E	E	E	DO	DO

Legend (as an example only)

R1 - Roster 1

R2 - Roster 2

E - Early shift - 7.00am - 3.30pm

L - Late shift - 3.00pm - 11.00pm

N - Night shift - 11.00pm - 7.00am

DO - Day off

ADO - Accrued day off

School Students Everything I Need To Know

Registered Nurses

WHAT YOU WILL EARN

In the Queensland public sector, the yearly base rate for a registered nurse, Nursing Officer 1 (NO1) - year 2 (graduate starting level), is: \$40,050.

If you work a roster that includes shift work, this figure could increase to over \$45,000! At the top end of the Queensland public sector nursing award a nurses annual salary could be over \$98,000. If you work shift work, on top of your base rate of pay, you receive the following shift allowances:

- 12.5 per cent for Afternoon shifts
- 15 per cent for Night shifts
- 50 per cent for Saturdays
- 75 per cent for Sundays
- 150 per cent for Special Public Holidays - Easter Saturday, Labor Day and Show Day.
- All other Public Holidays are 50 per cent extra penalty

Nurses working shift work receive six weeks annual leave to compensate for working weekends and public holidays.

School Students Everything I Need To Know

Registered Nurses

EDUCATIONAL PREREQUISITES

To become a registered nurse you must complete a degree in nursing. Entry generally requires completion of Year 12 with passes in English and Biology. A first aid certificate may also be required at some universities.

Alternative entry may be available for mature aged students or enrolled nurses allowing the formal prerequisites to be waived. You may also be able to study externally through distance education. As subjects and entry requirements can vary between institutions, you should contact your chosen university for full details.

School Students Everything I Need To Know

Registered Nurses

WHERE TO STUDY

To enter university to study to become a registered nurse, you will generally need to have fulfilled the prerequisites in the previous section Educational Prerequisites. The following universities offer degrees to enable you to become a registered nurse:

Australian Catholic University - McAuley Campus (Brisbane):

Bachelor of Nursing, 3 years full time or part time equivalent

Central Queensland University - Bundaberg, Mackay and Rockhampton Campuses:

Bachelor of Health (Nursing), 3 years full time or part-time equivalent

Griffith University - Gold Coast, Logan and Nathan (Brisbane) Campuses:

Bachelor of Nursing (Pre-registration), 3 years full time or part-time equivalent

James Cook University - Townsville, Cairns and Mt Isa Campuses:

Bachelor of Nursing Science (Pre-registration), 3 years full time or part-time equivalent

Queensland University of Technology - Kelvin Grove Campus (Brisbane):

Bachelor of Nursing, 3 years full time

University of Queensland - Ipswich and Saint Lucia Campuses:

Bachelor of Nursing (Pre-registration), 3 years full time or part-time equivalent

University of Southern Queensland - Toowoomba:

Bachelor of Nursing (Pre-registration), 3 years full time or part time equivalent

School Students Everything I Need To Know

Registered Nurses

HECS

Most Australian students must contribute to the cost of their higher education through the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS). Fees can either be paid up front (with a 25 per cent discount), or you can defer all or part of your repayments until your income reaches a certain level and then begin repaying through the taxation system.

For more information on HECS, go to: <http://www.goingtouni.gov.au>

School Students Everything I Need To Know

Registered Nurses

YOUTH ALLOWANCE AND AUSTUDY

If you are studying and are 16 -24 years old, you may be eligible to receive a youth allowance. This allowance is income support for students studying an approved course, full-time at an approved institution.

For more information on the youth allowance go to:

http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/youth_allow.htm

You may be eligible for Austudy payments if you are 25 years old or over, studying an approved course, full-time at an approved institution.

For more information on Austudy, go to:

<http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/austudy.htm>

School Students Everything I Need To Know

Registered Nurses

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

After demonstrating your competence as a registered nurse, there are a number of specialist areas available for you to move into.

A selection of these includes:

- academic nurse
- anaesthetics / recovery room
- coronary care
- critical care
- day surgery
- drug & alcohol
- emergency
- geriatric
- infectious diseases
- Indigenous health
- mental health
- midwifery
- neonatal intensive care
- neuroscience
- nurse educator
- nurse manager
- occupational health
- oncology
- orthopaedics
- paediatric / child and family health
- perioperative
- rehabilitation
- renal
- sexual health
- transplantation

School Students Everything I Need To Know

Registered Nurses

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Studying to become a registered nurse involves a mix of practical and clinical experience.

You will cover areas such as biology, pharmacology, personal and professional issues, community living, nursing the child and nursing the aged.

Other subjects may include clinical assessment, acute nursing, wound and pain management, pathophysiology, health law and health promotion.

School Students Everything I Need To Know

Registered Nurses

CAREER AND INFORMATION DAYS

There are a number of ways you can find out more about a career in nursing, including attending one of the Careers Days held by the universities each year.

School Students Everything I Need To Know

Registered Nurses

QUEENSLAND TERTIARY ADMISSION CENTRE (QTAC)

To apply for entry to a nursing degree, or to find out any other details regarding course entry, you need to contact the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC).

QTAC will also be able to give you the cut-off dates for applications, as well as letting you know when you'll find out if you've been successful!

For information on how to apply for entry to a nursing degree, go to:
<http://www.qtac.edu.au>

School Students Everything I Need To Know

Registered Nurses

UNIVERSITY LINKS

The following links will take you directly to each university's nursing / health web page:

Australian Catholic University

http://www.acu.edu.au/faculties-schools/health_sciences/courses

Central Queensland University

<http://fseh.cqu.edu.au>

Griffith University

<http://www.gu.edu.au/school/nrs>

James Cook University

<http://www.jcu.edu.au/school/ns/>

Queensland University of Technology

<http://www.hlth.qut.edu.au/nrs>

University of Queensland

<http://www.nursing.uq.edu.au>

University of Southern Queensland

<http://www.usq.edu.au/sciences/nursing/default.htm>

School Students Everything I Need To Know

Registered Nurses

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Most Queensland Universities offer scholarships to both undergraduate (studying your first degree) and post-graduate nursing students. For more information on university scholarships and grants, contact the university directly. Click here to go to the university links.

Queensland Health offers 15 rural nursing scholarships to students at the end of their first year of university. The scholarships provide financial assistance of \$12,200 per year for the second and third years of university. Scholarship holders are then bonded to work for Queensland Health for two years after they graduate in a rural hospital.

For more information on the Queensland Health Rural Scholarship Scheme go to: <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/orh/scholarships/qhrss/rural.asp>

The Commonwealth Government offers Undergraduate Remote and Rural Nursing Scholarships. These scholarships are for students from a remote or rural area and provide financial assistance of \$10,000 each year to a maximum of \$30,000 per applicant. The scholarships are managed by the Royal College of Nursing Australia.

For more information go to: <http://www.rcna.org.au/site/scholarships.php>