Birmingham Children’s Hospital NHS Foundation Trust provides a comprehensive service to children, young people and their families. We are one of the leading paediatric teaching centers in the country with international research and development in areas such as liver disease, childhood cancer studies, infection inflammation and immunity and many more.

The main hospital site is on Steelhouse Lane. There is a second owned site located at Parkview in Moseley, which hosts one of the largest Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in the country, including an Acute Assessment Unit. We also provide services from a range of accommodation in the community owned by Primary Care Trusts (PCTS).
THE NHS BACKGROUND

Employs approximately 1.3 million staff

Compromises around 450 separate organisations (usually known as “Trusts”) Each an employer in its own right

Nearly half of the NHS staff have degree-level /professional qualifications

The NHS spends around £4 billion per year on higher level education and training leading to professional registration

Centralised process for some graduate opportunities (but not all)

Invests in part-time study for staff - up to degree, diploma and professional level

The NHS is not only the largest employer in the UK, it is the largest in Europe and fourth largest in the world

The NHS employs approximately 1.4 million people

A Competitive salary. For example, the starting salary for a qualified physiotherapist would be over £20,000 a year

In England 1 in every 40 people works for the NHS. On average that, that means that almost one person in every class is likely to work for the NHS in the future?

Could that person be YOU?

Most people think about the NHS as being their local hospital and the doctors and nurses that work there.

But the NHS is much more than that. NHS staff also work in local clinics and health centres, GP practices and even in patients’ homes

The NHS does not just employ nurses and doctors, but offers over 350 different careers. 62% of the workforce are not doctors, dentists or nurses

Every single NHS employee is part of a team that makes a difference to people’s lives every single day. You’ll be amazed at the range of career opportunities the NHS offers.

You can become a doctor or nurse of course, but the choice extends to a range of roles that includes; speech therapy, art therapy, lab staff, engineering, finance, human resources, even gardening
CAREER CASE STUDIES
BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

STAFF NURSE

Name: Katie Herbert

Responsibilities: To deliver comprehensive care to patients, both pre and post operatively, and assist in their rehabilitation, using the best evidence available.

What do I like most about my job: The satisfaction of caring for patients and their families and assisting in small and big ways in their rehabilitation.

What kind on personality do you need? You need to be positive and approachable with excellent organisation skills. You need to be able to prioritise tasks and work efficiently but also need to remain friendly, caring and compassionate.

Advice for someone considering this as a career: Ask as many questions as you can, there isn’t any that are too silly.

Entry requirements: Good GCSE grades including English and Maths, A levels and then a Degree in Nursing (usually branch specific e.g. child branch)

WARD MANAGER

Name: Alia Murtaza

Responsibilities: Managing the ward, staff and patients to ensure patient safety at all times and to deliver the best care possible.

What do I like most about my job: Working together in a team

What kind on personality do you need? You need to be direct but fair.

Advice for someone considering this as a career
Nursing is not just a job you will gain satisfaction by making a difference.

Entry requirement: Good grades at GCSE and A Levels, and a Bachelor of Science in nursing degree. You will then need to gain nursing experience before working your way up to the role of Ward Manager.
WARD SECRETARY

Name: Millie Brown

Responsibilities
To provide a comprehensive administrative and secretarial Service to the clinical ward team.

What do I like most about my job
My hours, the staff I work with, when parents and patient are happy with the care and service received from staff.

What kind on personality do you need?
Friendly, approachable

Advice for someone considering this as a career
Be neat tidy clean in appearance because you are the first person they meet when parent and patient enters the ward. Because of so many different departments coming on to the ward you need to be able to work as part of team. You need to be able to use own initiative, deal with the unpredictable and work under pressure and multi-task

Entry requirement
Good standard of secondary education including GCE/GCSE English or equivalent and good IT skills. Maths, A levels and then a Degree in Nursing (usually branch specific e.g. child branch)

SENIOR PHYSIO THERAPIST

Name: Hannah O'Brien

Responsibilities: Rotational physiotherapist within the Children's Hospital. Responsible for the assessment and treatment of a variety of different patients, with differing ages, conditions and presentations. I assist with their discharge home, return to school and liaise with community teams or local hospitals for continued physiotherapy provision.

What do you like most about your job: Interaction with young people and being able to influence a young person’s life for the better.

What kind of personality do you need: Caring, motivated and innovative personality, good interpersonal skills are essential.

Advice for someone considering this as a career: Try and get as much work experience as possible, even the odd day if that’s all you can manage, this will ensure you are prepared for interview and have a good background understanding of all the different areas of physiotherapy.

Entry requirements: Good GCSE grades, 3 A levels (AAB/ABB) with an A in biology - typically all universities require Biology at A level to allow you to study physiotherapy
OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNIVERSITY ENTRANTS

Audiology
Biomedical science
Clinical perfusion
Dental hygiene
Dental technology
Dental therapy
Dentistry**
Dietetics
Healthcare science
Medicine**
Midwifery

Nursing
Occupational therapy
Orthoptics
Operating department practice
Paramedic science
Physiotherapy
Physiological science
Podiatry/chiropody
Prosthetics and orthotics
Radiography – therapeutic &

Tuition Fees paid in full and bursary payable
NHS Support Part-Way through course

GRADUATE MANAGEMENT TRAINING SCHEME

The graduate management training scheme (any degree discipline). Has been approx 240 places a year. These are offered in

- Financial management stream
- General management stream
- Human resource management stream
- Informatics management

Other “non-scheme” opportunities e.g.:
- Health informatics (e.g. librarians, statisticians)
- Operational management
- Engineering etc

Scientific Careers
Increasingly opportunities at various levels including:
Healthcare science assistant (work towards vocational qualifications)
Healthcare science associate (work towards FDeg)
Healthcare science practitioner (via Practitioner Training Programme undergraduate entry)
Healthcare scientist (via Scientist Training Programme – graduate entry)
Senior healthcare scientist
Consultant healthcare scientist
NURSING CAREERS

If you are able to study full time, you could register for a full-time nursing degree. The entry requirements or each degree courses vary depending on the university.

You will also need to decide which of the four specialisms of nursing you would like to study - adults, children, learning disability or mental health.

If you’re not in a position to study full time, an alternative is to apply to join the NHS first. You may be supported to study nursing part time while you work. Some options worth considering:

1. **Join the NHS as a healthcare assistant.**
   After gaining the necessary experience, and if you have the appropriate qualifications, your employer may support you to gain your pre-registration nursing qualification part time.

2. **Join the NHS as an apprentice.**
   Apprentices aim towards a work-based qualification like an NVQ 2 or NVQ 3+. Apprenticeships can last between one and four years. On finishing, you can apply for a permanent NHS role, from where you may be supported to gain your pre-registration nursing qualification part time. Parts of some NVQ courses can sometimes count towards a degree course.

**Examples of Careers in Nursing and Midwifery**

- Community nurse
- District nurse
- General/adult nurse
- Health visitor
- Learning disability nurse
- Mental health nurse
- Midwife
- Occupational health nurse
- Paediatric (children’s) nurse
- Practice nurse
- Prison nurse
- School nurse

For more information

[http://nursing.nhscareers.nhs.uk](http://nursing.nhscareers.nhs.uk)
WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?

Apprenticeships provide routes into a variety of careers, including many in the NHS, and offer the opportunity to earn, learn and achieve nationally recognised qualifications at the same time.

They are for people looking for a job that enables them to carry on learning, and for those already in employment who want to gain further qualifications.

There are three levels of apprenticeships available

**Intermediate Apprenticeships - Level 2 (equivalent to five good GCSE passes)**

Apprentices work towards a work-based learning qualification such as an QCF/NVQ Level 2, Key Skills and in some cases a relevant technical certificate. These provide the skills you need for your chosen career and allow entry to advanced apprenticeships.

**Advanced Apprenticeships - Level 3 + (equivalent to two A level passes or more)**

Advanced apprentices work towards a work-based learning qualification such as a QCF/NVQ Level 3+, Key skills and in some cases a relevant technical certificate. To start this programme you should ideally have five GCSEs (grade c or above) or have completed an apprenticeship.

**Higher Apprenticeships - Level 4 + (equivalent to a higher national certificate)**

Higher apprentices work towards work-based learning qualification such as QCF/NVQ Level 4 and, in some cases, a knowledge-based qualifications such as a foundation degree.

**Apprenticeships offered @ BCH include**

- Business and Administration
- Cleaning and Support Services
- Clinical Support Worker: Apprenticeship in Health Level 2 in Support Services
- Team Leading
- Management
- Customer services

For more information on apprenticeships please visit [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)
USEFUL WEBSITES?

An information service for careers in the NHS in England
www.nhscareers.co.uk

Birmingham Children’s Hospital Charities website. Find out how to fundraise for the hospital
www.bch.org.uk

The Midlands Health Academy Skills Escalator. This site aims to assist you in achieving your potential by suggesting career development opportunities
www.midlandshealthacademy.org.uk/

National Career website containing all the information you need for a career as a Nurse
http://nursing.nhscareers.nhs.uk/

NHS Student Grant Website. Use the online calculator to see how much you may be entitled to.
www.nhsstudentgrants.co.uk/

NHS Jobs has vacancies from all National Health Service employers across England and Wales. Sign up to Jobs by Email to receive new vacancies to suit your job search every day.
www.jobs.nhs.uk

Education Home page of Birmingham Children’s Hospital.
www.bch.nhs.uk/departments/education.htm

Short careers videos
www.careersbox.co.uk

Website offers specialized help and guidance for university applications
www.universities.co.uk

Website to guide you through your options for choosing a future career as a doctor
www.medicalcareers.nhs.uk

The NHS presents a wide ranging of opportunities for graduates who want to build a career in NHS
www.nhsgraduates.co.uk

Students can complete the career mapper quiz to help them discover what NHS careers match their interest
www.stepintothenh.nhs.uk

Website for anyone who would like to explore what jobs and careers they are in the health and social care sector
www.dayinthelife.org.uk

What can I do with my degree? – is the careers site for undergraduates and graduates who want to build a career in the NHS
www.whatcanidowithmydegree.nhs.uk

“BUILDING OUR SERVICES AROUND YOU”

Did you know?

OVER 120 NEWLY RECRUITED APPRENTICES IN THE ORGANISATION

15 NEWLY RECRUITED CADETS IN THE ORGANISATION

409 FINAL YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT EXAMINATIONS

23 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ELECTIVE ATTACHMENTS FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

202 MEDICAL STUDENTS ON 5 WEEK PLACEMENTS

ONE MILLION INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION FOR BANDS 1-4

270 STAFF ACCESSED THE NEW IAG SERVICE

For more information on NHS Careers email iag@bch.nhs.uk