

# Healthcare Science Career of the Week



## Neonatal Nurse

Area of HCS: Neonatal Care

Pay Scale: £22k - £36k

### AMAZING FACT

- New-born babies cannot produce tears, they cry but their tear ducts only produce enough to protect their eyes. You can expect a baby to start full-blown, red-faced and water-works crying after 1-3 months.

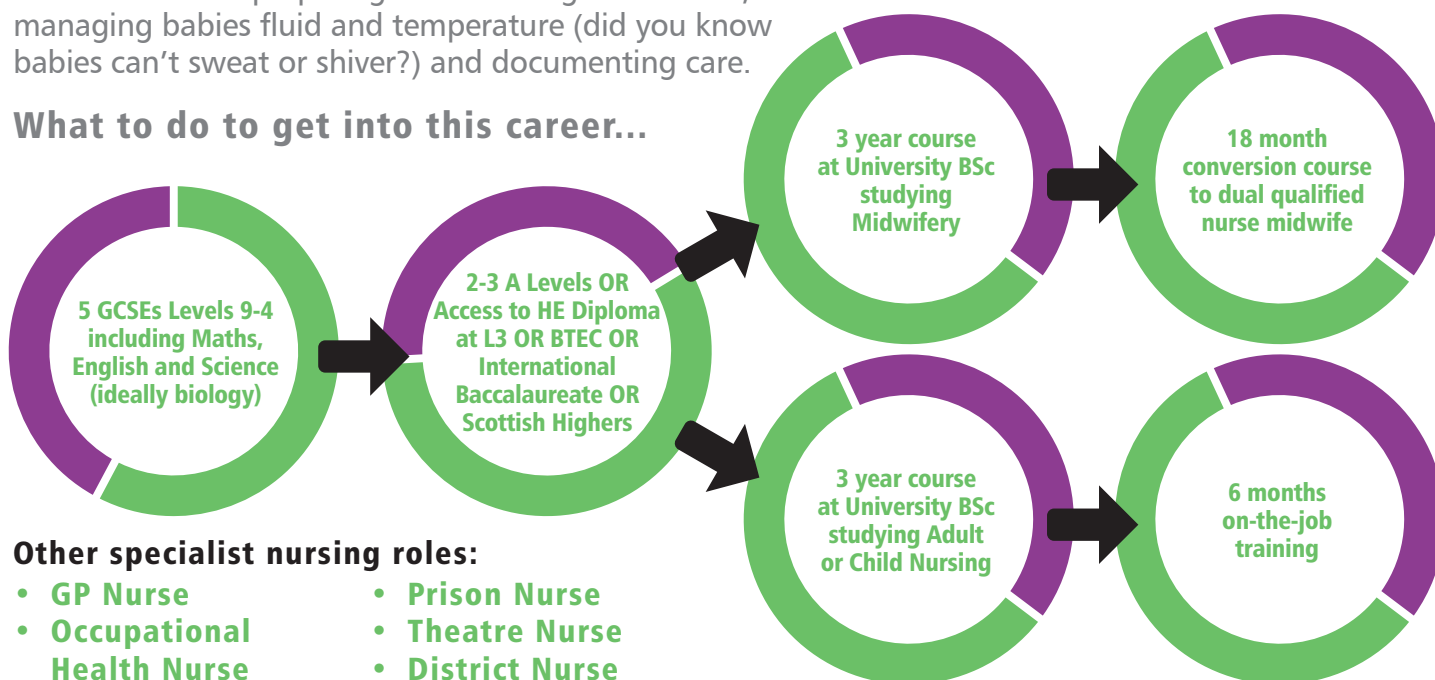
As a neonatal nurse you will provide care for babies who are born premature or with birth defects, infections or cardiac malfunctions. Babies are born at any time of day or night and poorly babies require around-the-clock-care, so this is a 24 hour role. You'll work rotating shifts in the intensive, high dependency and special care units. A neonatal nurse is directly involved in a babies care shortly after birth but you could be helping children up to 2 years of age if they have longer term health problems.

New-born babies often suffer from respiratory difficulties or nutritional needs, sometimes requiring resuscitation. You'll be part of the team that helps to save young babies lives! You'll also support parents through an anxious, worrying and stressful time for them, facilitating and actively encouraging them to care for their baby. Day-to-day tasks will involve preparing and checking medication, managing babies fluid and temperature (did you know babies can't sweat or shiver?) and documenting care.

### AMAZING FACT 2:

- 696,271 live births were recorded in 2016, that's 1907 babies per day or 79.5 babies per hour or 1.3 babies per minute. That's a lot of babies to look after so we need a lot of neonatal nurses!

### What to do to get into this career...



### Other specialist nursing roles:

- GP Nurse
- Occupational Health Nurse
- Prison Nurse
- Theatre Nurse
- District Nurse



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### READ THIS:

'A day in the life of a neonatal nurse' from North Bristol NHS Trust <https://www.nbt.nhs.uk/our-services/a-z-services/neonatal-intensive-care-unit/a-day-life-a-neonatal-nurse>