

Healthcare Science Career of the Week



Theatre Nurse

Area of HCS: Operating Theatre Team
Pay Scale: £20k - £36k

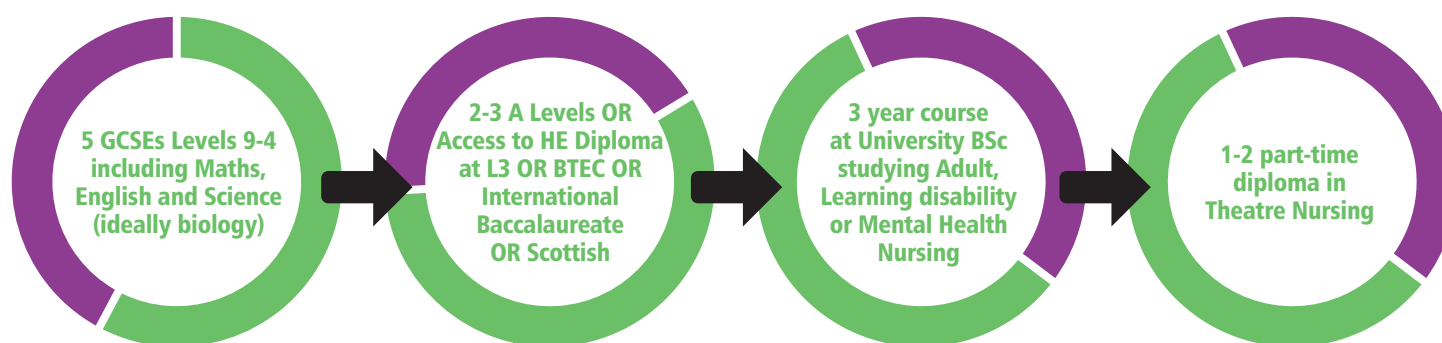
AMAZING FACT

- The first known nurse is said to have been Phoebe, a deaconess (someone who provided care in the protestant church) sent to Rome by St Paul in the first century AD and mentioned in the Christian New Testament Bible.

You will get to work as part of the surgical team and get to go into surgery!! A theatre nurse will meet patients of all ages, and is responsible for all parts of the perioperative care (that's care before or after the operation). This is split into 4 phases:

- 1. Preoperative** – your role will be to fully inform the patient about the risks and benefits of the operations they are about to have. You will also make sure the patient is in good health and provide information to ease any fears or worries.
- 2. Anaesthetic** – during this time you will support the anaesthetist by preparing any equipment, devices or drugs they require, including anaesthetic machines (this bit is super duper important).
- 3. Surgical phase** – you will 'scrub in', and participate in procedures as part of the operating team. You'll work under sterile conditions and prepare all equipment that's needed including microscopes, lasers and endoscopes. You will work directly with the surgeon to hand over instruments, needles and swabs.
- 4. Recovery phase** – Coming round from anaesthetic is normally the worst experience of the whole operation, your patient will need your care and attention!

What to do to get into this career...



Top Tip

- From a senior nurse working in operating theatres "if you're going to faint make sure you faint away from the patient"!

Other specialist nursing roles:

- GP Nurse
- Neonatal Nurse
- Occupation Health Nurse
- Prison Nurse
- District Nurse



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AMAZING FACT 2:

- The oldest person in the world to have a hip replacement was a 101-year-old lady who was treated at Good Hope Hospital in Sutton Coldfield.